

PRISON	HMP KILMARNOCK		YEAR (1 APRIL – 31 MARCH)	2022 – 2023	
Total number of visits	58	Total number of missed weeks	2	Total number of IPM hours	232
Total number of prisoner requests received	61	Number of IPMs in the team (as at 31 March)	4		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IPMs continue to report on a well-run prison that feels safe and orderly. IPMs were made to feel welcome and assisted by staff in dealing with prisoner requests and in making observations. There was excellent provision of purposeful activity on a daily basis for both convicted and remand prisoners. Basic entitlements were upheld including for those prisoners who were removed from mainstream locations.

The key issues of healthcare provision for prisoners, remains a concern for IPMs who will continue to liaise with prison management and NHS staff in HMP Kilmarnock.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Lawful and Transparent Custody: IPMs monitored reception processes regularly and found the processes to be robust and professional. There was a wide range of information available to all categories of prisoner, including those with protected characteristics. Cell sharing risk assessment procedures were monitored and observed and noted to be thorough, however IPMs noted a high number of prisoners sharing cells during this twelve-month period. The SRU continued to be extremely busy in HMP Kilmarnock with prisoners located in the unit for a variety of reasons. IPMs were concerned that prisoners with mental health issues and extremely challenging behaviours, whilst cared for with compassion, were not in the best location to meet their needs.

Decency: IPMs commented on a clean prison where prisoners were regularly observed receiving all of their basic entitlements such as fresh air, nutritious food, adequate bedding, access to faith services etc. IPMs highlighted that the ‘saloon style’ shower doors on the wings did not afford optimum privacy.

Personal Safety: IPMs commented on good levels of order and personal safety in the prison. On all monitoring visits, it was reported to be a safe and well-run establishment. Management have kept the monitoring team fully apprised of intelligence, partnership working and changes to practice that has reduced the volume of illicit substances in the prison considerably. However, as in other establishments there have been some significant and serious events owing to illicit drug use which prison staff and NHS colleagues have had to deal with. IPMs noted that staff visibility in the residential areas had improved considerably during this reporting period which is very welcome. Where issues relating to prisoners’ safety were raised with staff and / or senior management, HMP Kilmarnock were proactive and solution focused in their response.

Effective, Courteous and Humane Exercise of Authority: IPMs observed cell searches and use of dogs in intelligence operations and these were carried out professionally and humanely. Occasionally, prisoners raised individual issues about decision making processes with IPMs, with no

Overall RAG rating

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<p>dominant theme. Restrictions on property were common for a period throughout the year and security practices were outlined to IPMs. IPMs recognise the delicate balance to be struck between restricting prohibited items while allowing personal belongings from friends and family and will continue to monitor these processes. Where prisoners had been removed from mainstream, IPMs commented that all basic entitlements had been protected. SRU staff readily discussed plans to return prisoners to mainstream with IPMs. IPMs observed route movements on almost all of their visits and reported this as a tight and well-managed process.</p>				
<p>Respect, Autonomy and Protection Against Mistreatment: Generally, IPMs comment on respectful relationships throughout HMP Kilmarnock. Staff across the establishment had a good working knowledge of those in their care and could provide information or assistance where a prisoner or IPM requested it. There were a number of decision-making forums and prisoners were able to complain and appeal if they felt incorrect decisions had been made. IPMs considered there were a sufficient range of checks, balances and assurances operating at all levels of the prison to ensure fair treatments.</p>	☐	☐	✓	
<p>Purposeful Activity: IPMs welcomed the increasing numbers of remand prisoners taking part in the regime. IPMs continued to comment on the very significant numbers of prisoners moving along the route to work and education and commend HMP Kilmarnock on the number and range of opportunities currently on offer. In particular, access to the gym seemed extensive for all prisoner groups with good attendance daily. IPMs welcomed the increase in face-to-face visits following the pandemic. Generally, IPMs reported that visitors were treated with respect and courtesy and made use of the Visitor Centre prior to and after visits. IPMs noted that the visits room was not optimally family friendly in terms of fixtures, fittings etc.</p>	☐	☐	✓	
<p>Transitions from Custody to Life in the Community: IPMs reported positively on Links Centre services. Progression pathways continued to run relatively smoothly at HMP Kilmarnock, with RMTs and transfers to National Top End and Open Estate common occurrences. Throughout this reporting period, IPMs commented on and were informed about variable throughcare services such as addictions, counselling and mental health which may impact prisoners' preparedness for life in the community upon liberation.</p>	☐	✓	☐	
<p>Organisational Effectiveness: IPMs received an update on levels of escort cancellations for prisoners, which remains high, and the impact on prisoners of this, including health delays and progressions issues. The prison continued to facilitate cancelled external appointments where possible. Overall, IPMs commented on a flexible and adaptable workforce who responded proactively to day-to-day challenges, with a willingness to innovate and move forward in a solution-focused way.</p>	☐	✓	☐	
<p>Health and Wellbeing: The IPM Team continued to highlighted concerns around healthcare resources to attend to prisoners / patients in a decent and timely manner. Mental health provision and holistic programmes appeared to have reduced considerably in this reporting year. IPMs were aware of some of the channels these concerns had been escalated through. Throughout the year prisoners had frequently spoken to IPMs about changes in medication from prisons that they had transferred to Kilmarnock from. There was a perception among prisoners that these were decisions that could be arbitrary and / or the reasons not properly communicated. Health care staff had throughout the year shown a willingness to engage with IPMs on these matters and advised of recent improvements noted below, which IPMs will continue to monitor: Health needs assessment carried out across HMP Kilmarnock including prisoner focus groups and questionnaires. Pilot of mental health assistant staff to deliver lower-level interventions including talking therapies. Recruitment of Occupational Health therapist. Improved referral pathways, triage systems and waiting times.</p>	✓	☐	☐	
<p>RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status key:</p>	<p>Some serious concerns</p>		<p>Some slight concerns</p>	<p>No concerns / good practice</p>
<p><i>RAG rating: where IPMs felt each standard would be rated given their experience - not a complete analysis but based on the judgement of the IPM team</i></p>				

KEY ISSUES

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|----|---|
| 1. | Healthcare issues as noted above |
| 2. | Cancellation of external appointments by the prison escort contractor, GEOAmev |
| 3. | Personal safety – while HMP Kilmarnock had thorough processes for maintaining staff and prisoner safety, IPMs acknowledge the ongoing challenge of preventing illicit substances from entering the prison and managing a diverse and complex mix of prisoner populations. |

ENCOURAGING OBSERVATIONS

HMP Kilmarnock is a dynamic, working prison with good relationships with prisoners, staff, the community and an ability to be flexible and innovate to respond to daily challenges.

Basic entitlements were upheld for all prisoners. Where there may have been an unintentional oversight these were resolved quickly.

Prisoners were observed to be treated with respect and compassion in all areas of the prison.

CONCLUSION

IPMs reported extremely positively on their experiences of visiting HMP Kilmarnock. Where they had a query or a prisoner request to progress, they were given assistance from officers and managers alike. Senior management were open and willing to discuss challenges, difficulties and successes in transparent ways with IPMs.