

PRISON	HMP CASTLE HUNTLY		YEAR (1 APRIL – 31 MARCH)	2022-2023	
Total number of visits	52	Total number of missed weeks	0	Total number of IPM hours	153
Total number of prisoner requests received	5	Number of IPMs in the team (as at 31 March)	5		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The number of IPMs on the team was low throughout the reporting period and it is to their credit that the statutory duty of a minimum one visit per week was achieved. Although the number of prisoner requests received was comparatively low compared with other IPM teams, the Castle Huntly IPMs ensured that they frequently engaged with prisoners in order to determine their views on their treatment and conditions.

The prison worked well over the year and IPMs made a number of positive observations across the nine standards. The main issues in the year were: (1) low prisoner numbers affecting capacity for prisoners to access external work placements, as they were required to stay on-site to operate essential on-site services such as kitchen, cleaning and laundry. Prisoner numbers improved towards the end of the year; and (2) low staff numbers, although there was minimal disruption as a result of this.

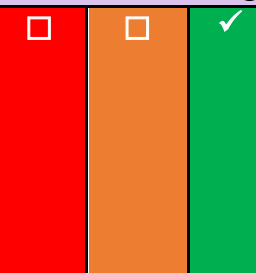
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Standard 1: Lawful and Transparent Custody

IPMs monitored the induction process and concluded that it was informative and well structured.

Prisoners spoke positively to IPMs about the induction process that included being allocated peer mentors. Relatively quick allocation of prison-based work was also appreciated. IPMs felt the induction process at the prison worked well.

Overall RAG rating



<p>Standard 2: Decency</p> <p>There were healthy options on the main meals' menus and prisoners had access to free fruit throughout the day if desired. IPMs discussed food with prisoners who had no complaints. The menu looked to have a reasonable selection. Portions were large and the selection was varied. Prisoners also had the opportunity to shape food choices through engagement with the 'Food Forum' meetings.</p> <p>IPMs discussed prison food with a number of prisoners. As expected, there was a mixed response. However, IPMs tested the food themselves and observed the menus, and did not have any concerns about the food on offer.</p> <p>IPMs spoke to a number of prisoners about their living areas. Prisoners stated that they were content and satisfied with their rooms and the facilities available to them. IPMs also checked the standard and cleanliness of the showers and toilets, noting that they were good.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 3: Personal Safety</p> <p>IPMs did not find any concerns relating to this standard.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 4: Effective, Courteous and Humane Use of Authority</p> <p>IPMs observed Risk Management Team meetings taking place and concluded that decisions were justified and comprehensively evidence based. Decisions were proportionate and unanimous and considered the individual needs and circumstances of each prisoner.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 5: Respect, Autonomy and Protection Against Mistreatment</p> <p>IPMs observed the Prisoner Information and Action Committee (PIAC) process and concluded that it was well-managed and fair. Prisoner reps were listened to and the issues raised were carefully considered, with actions for improvement agreed where appropriate. IPMs also observed some good examples of positive prisoner/staff relationships.</p>	□	□	✓

<p>Standard 6: Purposeful Activity</p> <p>IPMs spoke with lots of prisoners about their work placements and all stated that they were happy with the opportunities available. IPMs saw clear evidence of lots of other purposeful activity taking place as well, including group work and 1-2-1 sessions.</p> <p>IPMs spoke to staff and prisoners in the Education Centre. It appeared to be running well and was popular among the prisoners, with a good range of courses available.</p> <p>IPMs were impressed with arrangements for external physical activity, including prisoners training and playing with a community-based football team.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 7: Transitions from Custody into the Community</p> <p>IPMs observed prisoners returning to the prison e.g. from work placements and home leaves and going through the reception area and concluded the process was efficient, with all the necessary safety checks, paperwork etc. conducted without any complaints from prisoners.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 8: Organisational Effectiveness</p> <p>Low prisoner numbers were a concern at the start of the reporting period but the situation improved with time. Low numbers meant that some prisoners were unable to access external work placements because they were needed to run prison functions including kitchen, laundry, grounds maintenance and cleaning, etc. IPMs were concerned that a lack of community placement experience would adversely affect prisoners' chances of progression including parole. Senior management explained to IPMs that the population numbers were not a concern for them, as it would allow staff time and resource to assess and determine what the right placements should be in future. It was further explained to IPMs that prisoners would still be in receipt of home leaves, which would be seen as a 'test in the community' for Parole Board considerations.</p> <p>Prisoners did however benefit from low numbers in that all prisoners had single cell accommodation.</p> <p>IPMs were informed that there were staffing shortages at every level at the prison, but that this was having a minimal impact on services for prisoners. Although, it was said that when staffing shortages were high one of the first things to be pared back was external work programmes for the protection prisoners, as this required officers to be present.</p>	□	✓	□

Standard 9: Health and Wellbeing IPMs were satisfied that healthcare provision met demand, evidenced by very low waiting times compared to closed prisons and there was very little by way of complaints from prisoners.	□	□	✓
RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status key:	Some serious concerns		Some slight concerns
<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>			

KEY ISSUES	
1.	Low prisoner numbers affecting prisoner access to external work placements was the only key concern identified during the year.

ENCOURAGING OBSERVATIONS
Staff/prisoner relationships were noticeably effective.

CONCLUSION
The prison operated well throughout the year. There were no major concerns regarding the treatment and conditions for prisoners, and the prison responded well to complications arising from low prisoner numbers and low staff numbers.