

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY**

**LIAISON VISITS – PRISONS AND COURT CUSTODY UNITS**

**REPORT ON A LIAISON VISIT TO HMP ADDIEWELL**

**WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2020**

Inspecting and Monitoring  
<https://www.prisonsinspectoratescotland.gov.uk/>

**DO NO HARM - STAY SAFE - TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

## Introduction

This report is part of a programme of liaison visits of prisons to be carried out by HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS) during the COVID–19 pandemic emergency and was conducted under HMIPS' new, albeit temporary, [Liaison Visits Framework for Prisons and Court Custody Units published in April 2020](#).

## Background Information

The adapted inspection methodology incorporated into the design of the prison liaison visits, will contribute to the UK's response to its international obligations under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). OPCAT requires that all places of detention are visited regularly by independent bodies; known as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM); which monitor the treatment of and conditions for detention. HMIPS is one of several bodies making up the NPM in the UK.

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland (HMCIPS) assesses the treatment and care of prisoners across the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) estate against a pre-defined set of Standards. These Standards are set out in the document [Standards for Inspecting and Monitoring Prisons in Scotland](#).

## Process

Prior to undertaking a liaison visit, HMIPS will undertake a risk assessment to determine both the selection of the prison to visit but also the priority areas or focus to discuss with the Governor–in-Charge (GIC). As these are one day visits, core elements of each of the nine Standards as set out in HMIPS' [Standards for Inspecting and Monitoring Prisons in Scotland](#) will be reflected in the COVID-19 commentary and are designed to provide information to prisoners, prison staff, and the wider community on the areas that have been looked at during the course of a liaison visit.

These liaison visit reports will also provide assurance to Ministers and the wider public that scrutiny of the treatment and conditions in which prisoners are held has been continued during the pandemic.

The findings of these liaison visits will be reported to the appropriate bodies for information and action and published on our website.



## **REPORT ON A LIAISON VISIT TO HMP ADDIEWELL UNDERTAKEN ON WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2020**

Prior to undertaking the liaison visit, HMIPS undertook a risk assessment to determine both the selection of the prison to visit but also the priority areas or focus to discuss with the Director.

HMP Addiewell was chosen in part due to the prison risk algorithm results over the past few weeks, but primarily because HMP Addiewell was the first Scottish prison to suffer a significant COVID-19 outbreak and HMIPS were keen to understand its impact and assess the action taken in response. On entering HMP Addiewell, HMIPS met with the Director and Deputy Director who gave an informative briefing, highlighting the challenges and successes since the COVID-19 lockdown. The presentation and discussion was both detailed and thorough. The inspectors welcomed this transparent and honest approach.

Prison management, the NHS and staff deserve huge credit for bringing the COVID-19 outbreak under control, reducing the number of positive cases from 14 down to one at the time of our inspection, and bringing a calm order to the prison after a clearly tense and difficult period.

### **Overall findings of visit under Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment, and Legality (PANEL) principles**

**Participation.** In light of COVID-19, and the advice received from Health Protection Scotland (HPS), the prison was running an extremely limited regime. Although purposeful activity had been reduced dramatically, there were still opportunities to take part in distance learning, in-cell learning and obtain Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) in a number of subjects. The establishment was providing a range of in-cell activities supported by the education department. The arrival of in-cell telephony and video visit technology will radically improve participation in family life. Communication with prisoners appeared very good, and it was encouraging to see that wing forums (prisoner information action committees (PIACs)) were still running. Sodexo were supporting contact with families as best they could while following Health Protection Scotland (HPS) and Local NHS Public Health Officer guidelines on management of COVID-19.

**Accountability.** The prison management team and staff were aware of their responsibilities regarding human rights and striving to balance that responsibly with implementing HPS guidelines. The establishment were responding well to the challenges of a changing landscape with regards to guidance and procedures, and in particular to the response to an outbreak of COVID-19 where they locked down a whole area under Rule 40a. The Director and his team have consistently communicated clearly with both staff and prisoners, which was confirmed by both groups during the visit.

**Non-discrimination and equality.** We did not have time to assess this thoroughly, but the prison appeared to be giving due consideration to these issues. Ramadan was being observed during the inspection. Food was being

supplied in flasks to assist with taking meals at times in line with the Muslim religion. Unfortunately the flasks were inadequate at keeping the food stuffs separate, and therefore the end result was a soup like consistency. The time in which the flasks were filled, around 16.30 – 17.00 hours due to the restricted core day, resulted in the food not being at an acceptable temperature when eaten.

In HMP Addiewell, the kiosks for the use of prisoners displayed all general information notices in 23 different languages; and induction booklets were supplied in relevant languages. However, inspectors could not find evidence of COVID-19 specific notices or signage being translated into other languages. HMIPS would urge HMP Addiewell to look at translating the COVID-19 specific information into the most common languages; and look at best practice alternatives from other prisons for Ramadan next year.

**Empowerment.** It is extremely difficult to empower prisoners when having to impose such a restricted regime. However the continued use of prison forums was encouraging.

**Legality.** There is a tension between the rights set out under article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the restrictions having to be imposed when following HPS guidelines. There was nothing to suggest that the prison was acting in anything other than a responsible way, always aiming to provide the maximum opportunities for access to phones and fresh air, etc, for those not in isolation while still respecting HPS guidelines. It was good to see those on Rule 41 offered access to a phone call via a cordless landline. As with other prisons, however, inspectors were concerned that in having to follow the guidance of HPS, those isolated under Rule 41 were not getting any access to fresh air. This sits uncomfortably with human rights legislation.

A full list of Action Points and Good Practice from this report can be found at Annex A; and Annex B lists all acronyms used in this report.



## **COVID-19 commentary**

1. COVID-19 updates: HMIPS seeks to understand any issues, challenges or good practice from the impact of COVID-19 that includes testing and tracing, numbers of prisoners tested positive for COVID-19 and the regime for those shielding, isolating or being isolated.

Prior to the visit, HMIPS has been in discussion with the single point of contact and received significant information from the SPS to inform their discussion with the Director. On entering HMP Addiewell, HMIPS met with the Director and the Deputy Director and their briefing was informative, detailed and thorough. Inspectors found no evidence to contradict their briefing and indeed welcomed the transparent and honest approach.

### **Visit findings**

HMP Addiewell was the first prison in Scotland to be officially classified as having a COVID-19 outbreak. At the height of the outbreak the prison, seeking to contain the virus, managed 64 prisoners in one area under Rule 40a. Out of the 64, 18 were suspected cases, of which eight were later confirmed as having COVID-19. In total HMP Addiewell has had 49 cases where prisoners reported symptoms, 15 have recovered, 23 tested as negative and 10 were not tested. At the time of our visit this had fallen to just one confirmed case.

The Director explained the steps that had been taken to isolate suspected cases and control the outbreak, which had clearly been successful. HMP Addiewell had set up a command room to help manage the incident and formed an effective working relationship with the local NHS Board, with daily discussions while the outbreak was brought under control. Heightened infection control procedures had been introduced and all prisoners have received a hygiene pack. Arrangements for testing had worked well. Both Sodexo and NHS teams are to be commended for the positive and effective way in which they have tackled the outbreak and managed to suppress the virus.

There had been a very serious incident of collective indiscipline just before the lockdown. This and the high number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 had created significant tensions in the prison for two weeks exacerbated by the need to develop an isolation area. It was clear however that HMP Addiewell had made strenuous efforts to communicate with prisoners and this approach had helped to gradually calm things down. At the time of our visit the prison appeared very calm and orderly, with evident good order and control.

It should be noted, however, that as a result of post-outbreak guidance from HPS the prison were still only able to allow prisoners out of their cells in groups of four, which was profoundly limiting the type of regime they can provide for the establishment. Having to manage every activity in small groups adds significantly to the time to complete tasks. Some staff felt it created additional stress and made days feel very intense.

## COVID-19 commentary

2. Staff absence: we will seek to understand the SPS/NHS staff absence numbers and their impact (some of this information is supplied by SPS HQ on a daily basis).

### Visit findings

The Director of HMP Addiewell set out the total number of staff on sick leave and the number of COVID-19 related absences. At the time of our visit 98 staff had been tested for COVID-19 and five staff who had tested positive for COVID-19 were on COVID-19 related leave. During the visit, inspectors were informed that the Public Health Scotland Incident Management Team had arranged, via public health and the local health board, to offer a test to all staff, and by the end of the week over 300 staff who wished to be tested for COVID-19 would get tested. The results were being made available to the prison by the Sunday allowing the prison to support those staff who may indicate a positive test result. The prison was aware of the consequences of testing so many staff, but they had contingencies in place to deal with any loss of staff, including additional payments for those working longer shifts. It was the Director's view that these tests would clarify if there were any staff who were positive but not displaying any symptoms, thus allowing protective action to be immediately taken.

The Director was content that they had more than enough staff to run the current reduced core day regime; the challenge would come in trying to move back to a more normal regime and the management team were aware of the need to plan for that contingency.

The NHS prison health care team were also operating with a slightly reduced capacity, but were coping supported by the reduced core day. .

To ensure staff and prisoners were being protected, the incident response teams are now instructed to put on face masks as well as gloves as they cannot remain outside the two metre social distancing (SD) guideline.

All Sodexo staff have to take 50% of their leave by the end of September, even if sick or shielding, so the management team were not faced with any risk of operational challenges from leave being stockpiled until later in the year.

## **HMIPS Standard 1 - Lawful and Transparent Use of Custody**

The prison complies with administrative and procedural requirements of the law and takes appropriate action in response to the findings and recommendations of official bodies that exercise supervisory jurisdiction over it.

**The prison ensures that all prisoners are lawfully detained. Each prisoner's time in custody is accurately calculated; they are properly classified, allocated and accommodated appropriately. The prison co-operates fully with agencies which have powers to investigate matters in prison.**

### **COVID-19 commentary**

3. Social distancing (SD): We will check how social distancing is being managed in areas such as dining halls, recreation, reception, time in the fresh air, and especially admissions and cell sharing. This will also include looking at preventative measures being enacted, such as screening on admission and liberation. We are particularly interested in the measures to mitigate the detrimental effects of social isolation or quarantine.

### **Visit findings**

Although extremely challenging, SD was being taken very seriously. Clear instructions and visual aids to inform staff on entry to the prison were in abundance. Although most of the areas within HMP Addiewell were wide enough for staff to adhere to SD guidelines, alert notices were in place at pinch points to alert staff when these areas were too narrow to adhere to SD. The need and instruction for SD was widely publicised across the prison and when asked, staff and prisoners were able to inform the inspectors why they had to keep their distance from others. Floors were also marked to indicate the two metre rule.

However, the Director acknowledged that despite constant reminders, publicity campaigns and posters on display on SD, he had still witnessed a lack of SD from both staff and prisoners, which he continually challenged. Inspectors also witnessed times when SD was not adhered to, but this was minimal. Most examples were in the smaller teams such as the Separation and Reintegration Unit (SRU) and the kitchen. Inspectors recognised that it was difficult to keep two metres apart in some occasions. Inspectors witnessed a substantial number of staff wearing masks and in almost all case gloves being worn as a matter of course. Prisoners were also seen to be wearing masks and gloves also.

Prisoners tended to walk or sit close to one another when taking in fresh air. Prisoners informed the inspectors that they believed they were safe due to a lack of exposure from others to COVID-19.

Staff in reception wore full COVID-19 PPE when dealing with prisoners. Whilst there was signage on the walls relating to SD and maximum room occupancy, the holding rooms in reception were not marked for SD, but due to low numbers of movements, prisoners were easily kept separate. Examples were given where prisoners on liberation had been given masks, both for themselves and the person picking them

up. Liberations were taking longer due to only two prisoners liberated at one time to maintain SD, which was commendable.

**Action Point 1:** all efforts should be made to adhere to SD or mask be worn if this is not possible.

**Good Practice:** on liberation prisoners were given masks for themselves and those picking them up.



## **HMIPS Standard 2 - Decency**

The prison supplies the basic requirements of decent life to the prisoners.

**The prison provides to all prisoners the basic physical requirements for a decent life. All buildings, rooms, outdoor spaces and activity areas are of adequate size, well maintained, appropriately furnished, clean and hygienic. Each prisoner has a bed, bedding and suitable clothing, has good access to toilets and washing facilities, is provided with necessary toiletries and cleaning materials and is properly fed. These needs are met in ways that promote each prisoner's sense of personal and cultural identity and self-respect.**

### **COVID-19 commentary**

4. Meals: we will check if meals are of good quality, whether there is an appropriate choice in particular on religious grounds, and that food hygiene standards and dietary needs of prisoners are adhered to.
5. Regimes: we will look to obtain detail of the continuation of daily regimes, including access to showers where there are no in-cell shower facilities, access to time in the fresh air and access to family contact.

### **Visit findings**

During the visit the Inspectors were not able to observe the serving of meals in the residential areas. Kitchen staff informed the Inspectors that due to a restricted work party, reduced from 22 to 10 operatives, some adjustments had been made. The operatives were scheduled to work a six-day week, however should they wish to, they were permitted to work a further shift and were paid appropriately. The essential workers bonus was paid to all kitchen workers. The lunch choices remained the same, but the evening meal options had reduced from four to three. The salad choice had been withdrawn due to preparation issues with handling the ingredients, but the Inspectors were informed that salads would be reintroduced having redesigned the preparation process. The kitchen appeared clean, with all operatives wearing the appropriate clothing. Access to fresh air for kitchen operatives was available during work breaks.

Unfortunately the operative that would have prepared the food for Ramadan had chosen not to work, and this had affected the quality of food for those observing fasting. The manager stated that they were trying their best, but the quality of food wasn't up to the standard of previous years. The container distributed to keep the food hot (until those observing Ramadan were able to eat) was a single canister. Different foods could not be kept separate, i.e. curry and rice. The core day meant that the flask was filled at around 16:30–17:00 hours and did not keep food hot until the time it was eaten. HMIPS suggest that HMP Addiewell contact HMP YOI Grampian and purchase the containers they use, as this was deemed good practice. A food pack was also distributed containing dried food, milk, Naan bread and dates. Inspectors spoke to a Muslim prisoner who confirmed the issues around the poor quality of the food, stating that due to food being mixed together, it turned into a soup like consistency.

HMP Addiewell have showers, sinks and toilets with in the cell.

Prisoners were permitted to access the exercise areas for fresh air in groups of four for 30 minutes. During this time four other prisoners from the same area were allowed onto the wing for 'social and domestics', using the phone, the kiosk and cleaning their cell. This was a rolling programme thorough out the day. Prisoners informed the Inspectors that where there were times when staff would allow them further opportunities to use the phone. Some prisoners complained about the restricted opportunities to contact their families, particularly in the first two weeks of the lockdown, but most understood the reasons why this had occurred. They were pleased by the impending arrival of in-cell telephony to enhance family contact, especially in the evening when they have no opportunity to use a phone, but several were frustrated by the delay in its roll-out.

**Action Point 2:** appropriate flasks should be provide to observe Ramadan both in keeping the food stuffs separate and at the correct temperature.

**Action Point 3:** HMIPS welcomed the fact that the roll out of in-cell telephony and virtual visits had now begun, this must be completed as quickly as possible to ensure improved and supported family contact.



## HMIPS Standard 3 - Personal Safety

The prison takes all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all prisoners.

**All appropriate steps are taken to minimise the levels of harm to which prisoners are exposed. Appropriate steps are taken to protect prisoners from harm from others or themselves. Where violence or accidents do occur, the circumstances are thoroughly investigated and appropriate management action taken.**

### COVID-19 commentary

6. Talk to Me live cases: we will check that there is an appropriate and ongoing process in place for people subject to Talk to Me procedures and prisoners and staff are using referral systems.

7. Rule 41 paperwork: we will check that the revised process for people being detained under Rule 41 due to COVID-19 are being adhered to. We will enquire into processes in place to ensure in-cell activity is available, and a television is available to those who are isolated. We will also be interested in the numbers of people on Rule 41 and the length of time held under this rule.

### Visit findings

Trends on Talk to Me (TTM) appeared stable, with four prisoners on TTM during the visit. Inspectors looked at the documentation for a number of TTM cases and found that paperwork was not always completed. For example signatures and dates of birth were missing, and case conferences attendees not at the required level, and this should be corrected. Inspectors could only speak to one prisoner on TTM, who confirmed that he had been well treated and supported.

The SRU manages all rules involving Rule 41s and the process was robustly managed. Fourteen prisoners had tested positive for COVID-19 with one currently on Rule 41. Although the inspectors were unable to speak to the individual, his paperwork was reviewed. His self-representations were not included in the paperwork and this was addressed immediately. The majority of the remaining Rule 41 prisoners were reviewed and paperwork found to be of a good standard. The length of time on Rule 41 was appropriate in the cases the inspectors reviewed. It was pleasing to note that those on Rule 41 for COVID-19 had access to a cordless landline phone to contact their family and legal representatives. The phone was sanitised before and after use. HMIPS would recommend that the SPS consider implementing this in all prisons if not already in place, to ensure family contact during isolation, until such times as cell telephony is introduced. There was no evidence of prisoners being kept under Rule 41 inappropriately.

**Action Point 4:** all TTM processes and documentation should be at the required standard.

**Good Practice:** those on COVID-19 Rule 41 had access to a cordless phone line to contact family and their legal representative.

## **HMIPS Standard 4 - Effective, Courteous and Humane Exercise of Authority**

The prison performs the duties both to protect the public by detaining prisoners in custody and to respect the individual circumstances of each prisoner by maintaining order effectively, with courtesy and humanity

**The prison ensures that the thorough implementation of security and supervisory duties is balanced by courteous and humane treatment of prisoners and visitors to the prison. Procedures relating to perimeter, entry and exit security, and the personal safety, searching, supervision and escorting of prisoners are implemented effectively. The level of security and supervision is not excessive.**

### **COVID-19 commentary**

8. Rule 95 paperwork: we will check that those under this Rule are treated lawfully and with humanity, and there is a sufficient regime in place and adhered to. The Separation and Reintegration Unit (SRU) is a default check by HMIPS at all times.

### **Visit findings**

The Inspectors visited the SRU and found it to be clean and orderly. At the time it was at 66% capacity with four vacant cells, which the inspectors were informed was unusual as they were normally full. Four prisoners were on Rule 95(11), three were on Rule 95(12) and one prisoner was refusing to return to circulation.

The Inspectors reviewed the daily routine, which had not changed since the core day was in operation other than the removal of access to the gym. Daily assurance checks were carried out to ensure all occupants were given access to a phone call, exercise, shower and kiosk.

PPE was available to staff. It was observed that staff were not always adhering to SD within the team at all times. HMIPS would encourage staff who cannot maintain SD when carrying out their duties to wear the appropriate PPE. **(See Action Point 1).**

The SRU manage all Rule 95s whether they are situated in the SRU or in the halls. At the time there were four prisoners managed on Rule 95 out with the SRU. All paperwork reviewed was lawful and of a good standard.



## **HMIPS Standard 5 - Respect, Autonomy and Protection Against Mistreatment**

A climate of mutual respect exists between staff and prisoners. Prisoners are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and their future. Their rights to statutory protections and complaints processes are respected.

**Throughout the prison, staff and prisoners have a mutual understanding and respect for each other and their responsibilities. They engage with each other positively and constructively. Prisoners are kept well informed about matters which affect them and are treated humanely and with understanding. If they have problems or feel threatened they are offered effective support. Prisoners are encouraged to participate in decision making about their own lives. The prison co-operates positively with agencies which exercise statutory powers of complaints, investigation or supervision.**

### **COVID-19 commentary**

9. Access to families contact: we will look at what access prisoners have to telephones or other measures (for example, email a prisoner, video link, mobile phones, etc) in order to keep in contact with friends and family. Monitoring the implementation and impact of agreed actions such as increased availability of virtual visits or the provision of access to mobile telephones, tablets, and incoming and outgoing mail is a default position for HMIPS.

10. Access to recreation: we will check what type of social interaction takes place, and opportunities for fitness, distraction, and learning.

11. Access to legal representative: we will check that agents and other statutory visits are being facilitated even when prisoners are isolated under medical grounds for COVID-19.

12. Access to information: we will look at the access to books, DVDs, CDs, including reference material. In particular, we will look at the complaints system and the quantity and quality of prisoner information on COVID-19 and the prison's response.

### **Visit findings**

Access to phones had been curtailed at the start of the lockdown for suspected cases held in the isolation wing. This inability to contact families had caused tensions and while understandable that the establishment was operating this restriction under HPS guidance, HMIPS still regard it as sitting uncomfortably with human rights legislation. . However we were pleased to hear that HMP Addiewell had phoned one family member of each prisoner to reassure them that their family member was safe. HMP Addiewell had set up an emailing system to allow for prisoners to send and receive one email per day to a family member. HMP Addiewell had access to technology which was able to provide a limited video visit service. The prison had enabled one prisoner to join their family at a funeral by video link. The SPS were in the process of rolling out virtual visits to all prisons.

There was no access to traditional recreation at this time. Prisoners received 30 minutes for domestic and social activity where four prisoners are out at the one time, limiting social engagement between prisoners in larger groups. There is no doubt that a lack of opportunity to contact family in the evening is not ideal and the introduction of in-cell telephony will be a substantial improvement to the lives of those in prison and their families at this time. **(See Action Point 3).**

Agents' visits were still facilitated and prisoners could access a phone to contact their legal representative.

HMP Addiewell have worked hard to keep prisoners informed on the latest updates through the TV and information sheets. Puzzles were provided for those that wished them and there was a mobile library that attends an area once per week which offers books and DVDs, however this was not witnessed by the Inspectors.

**Good Practice:** HMP Addiewell have set up an e-mailing system to allow for prisoners to send and receive one email per day to family member.



## **HMIPS Standard 6 - Purposeful Activity**

All prisoners are encouraged to use their time in prison constructively. Positive family and community relationships are maintained. Prisoners are consulted in planning the activities offered.

**The prison assists prisoners to use their time purposefully and constructively and provides a broad range of activities, opportunities and services based on the profile of needs of the prisoner population. Prisoners are supported to maintain positive relationships with family and friends in the community. Prisoners have the opportunity to participate in recreational, sporting, religious, and cultural activities. Prisoners' sentences are managed appropriately to prepare them for returning to their community.**

### **COVID-19 commentary**

13. Access to fresh air: we will look at the provision for fresh air for all prisoners and note where access is denied and the authority to do so.

14. Communication: we will look at the communications/information that is in place regarding any changes to the regime, or other functions within the prison, for all relevant parties including prisoners, their families, and other relevant agencies regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that all communications/information is in a format/language people can understand.

15. Access to education: we will look at what access prisoners have to education, and if prisoners are able to continue with their current education or start new ones. Initiatives in education and learning will be documented.

16. Access to religious services: we will look at any initiatives involving religious services including pastoral visits, remote linked services, information loops on in-house media, or religious information pamphlets.

17. Access to gym and fitness: we will look at what the establishment has in place for fitness. In particular, we will inspect any alternative fitness initiatives, for example in-cell fitness activities, circuit training, satellite gyms, etc.

### **Visit findings**

As previously highlighted access to fresh air was offered on a daily basis, with four prisoners attending for a period of 30 minutes. However, this was not the case for those managed under Rule 41 due to COVID-19. Those in isolation are not given the opportunity to access fresh air under the guidelines set out by HPS. Inspectors were aware that this sits uncomfortably with human rights legislation, and efforts to review this should take place.

Evidence was provided on both prisoner and staff communications. A number of mediums were utilised to inform prisoners, including the kiosk system, notices on walls and information delivered directly to each prisoner. This covered SD, changes to the regime, i.e. fresh air access being limited to four prisoners at a time, the future

introduction of in-cell telephony, the Emergency Early Release (EER) scheme, changes to deliveries of mail and the lifting of Rule 40a in Lomond Hall. When asked, prisoners confirmed that they felt they were kept up-to-date and were able to tell the inspectors of changes made and why. HMIPS would encourage HMP Addiewell to translate important information into other languages to meet the needs of those whose English was not their first language.

Unlike publicly run prisons, HMP Addiewell has a Sodexo education provider. Although traditional classroom attendance has been cancelled due to COVID-19, the education team are still available to support the prison with distance learning and self-learning packs being provided. SQA qualifications were still available for painting and food hygiene. The education team are also assisting in putting together recreational packs including crosswords, Sudoku's and other puzzles. However, as a result of COVID-19 guidelines, opportunities for other purposeful activity are down due to restrictions to non-essential work parties. We would encourage the SPS to use their provider to deliver the same support.

Prisoners had good access to religious services, with pastoral visits across the different faiths available on a weekly basis, with religious services being streamed on prison TV on Saturdays and Sundays. Prisoners were able to observe Ramadan, in the normal fashion, other than Friday prayers but the Imam attends on a weekly basis to visit Muslim prisoners. A weekly newsletter was also available to all prisoners.

There is currently no access to any gyms following the guidance set by HPS, but HMP Addiewell provides fitness information sheets to all prisoners to carry out personal fitness regimes within their cell.

**Action Point 5:** SPS HQ and their partners should review the guidance under COVID-19 Rule 41 to allow access to fresh air.

**Action point 6:** SPS HQ should consider using their education provider to provide a remote service.

**Good Practice:** Sodexo continued support for education and in-cell activity.

**Good Practice:** SQA qualifications were still available for painting and food hygiene.



## HMIPS Standard 7 - Transitions from Custody to Life in the Community

Prisoners are prepared for their successful return to the community.

**The prison is active in supporting prisoners for returning to their community at the conclusion of their sentence. The prison works with agencies in the community to ensure that resettlement plans are prepared, including specific plans for employment, training, education, healthcare, housing and financial management.**

### COVID-19 commentary

18. Prisoners on release: we will look at the plans developed with those leaving custody regarding access to services, that is housing, healthcare, welfare services, and opportunities to utilise their time constructively.

### Visit findings

Arrangements for EER were proceeding in an orderly way. While many partner organisations were no longer on site, this did not appear to be presenting major issues with prison staff feeling that contact with these agencies by phone or email was satisfactory. For example, social work and psychology services were off site, but prison staff in charge of release planning were content that they were fulfilling their responsibilities.

The release planning team were co-ordinating with NHS health care teams about arrangements and communication between respective teams appeared positive and constructive. However the inspectors were disappointed to hear that access to some services normally available in the community such as addiction services was much more restricted than usual. Prison staff were concerned about the impact that might have in terms of prospects for a stable and successful reintegration into community life.

Inspectors were not able to adequately triangulate this evidence with the views of any prisoners about to be released or with Third Sector agencies. We will seek to explore this aspect further on our next visit.



## HMIPS Standard 8 - Organisational Effectiveness

The prison's priorities are consistent with the achievement of these Standards and are clearly communicated to all staff. There is a shared commitment by all people working in the prison to co-operate constructively to deliver these priorities.

**Staff understand how their work contributes directly to the achievement of the prison's priorities. The prison management team shows leadership in deploying its resources effectively to achieve improved performance. It ensures that staff have the skills necessary to perform their roles well. All staff work well with others in the prison and with agencies which provide services to prisoners. The prison works collaboratively and professionally with other prisons and other criminal justice organisations.**

### COVID-19 commentary

19. Staffing and regime: we will look to establish if staff understand their roles and what is expected of them. Are staff updated on any changes and are knowledgeable of the present position of the establishment.

### Visit findings

Inspectors interacted with a wide range of staff during the visit who confirmed that they were confident in carrying out their roles and responsibilities. Most staff reported that communication was good and they received regular updates, covering a range of topics including updates in dealing with COVID-19 issues, changes to regime (moving to a core day) and changes to prison policy such as the new Home Detention Curfew approach.

It was recognised that it had been a fast moving situation and everyone was having to adapt quickly to a rapidly changing picture and new guidance; management were doing their best in difficult circumstances to keep staff informed. Some staff reported that the amount of emails they received made it difficult to keep up-to-date, but reported that colleagues would pass on information where it was deemed important to the good running of HMP Addiewell.

Unit managers and the senior management team were perceived to be sufficiently visible in the prison, offering support and leadership. Morale and motivation amongst staff appeared to be good under challenging circumstances, and HMP Addiewell are to be congratulated on that.



## **HMIPS Standard 9 – Health and Wellbeing**

The prison takes all reasonable steps to ensure the health and wellbeing of all prisoners.

**All prisoners receive care and treatment which takes account of all relevant NHS standards, guidelines, and evidence-based treatments. Healthcare professionals play an effective role in preventing harm associated with prison life and in promoting the health and wellbeing of all prisoners.**

### **COVID-19 commentary**

20. Healthcare issues: we will check that there is a daily assessment on wellbeing in a way that maintains the health and safety of all parties, and that there are measures in place to ensure healthcare continues to be managed under the principle of equivalence including health checks on admission, liberation, and transfer and escalation procedures. Checking processes are in place to support people with pre-existing health conditions.

### **Visit findings**

The liaison visit took place without the attendance of Health Improvement Scotland (HIS) Inspectors. The Inspectors met with two health care staff to discuss issues with healthcare due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The current regime which minimised the amount of prisoners seen at a particular time had added significant new challenges for the NHS team with regards to the time it took to carry out particular tasks.

Dispensing medication which would normally take one and half hours, with eight staff working from 4 dispensaries, was now taking three hours. The first two or three days after the COVID-19 outbreak had been particularly challenging for staff with considerable anxiety and angst amongst prisoners. The NHS prison team deserve credit for their role in maintaining essential services and helping to bring the COVID-19 outbreak under control. The NHS team were deploying full PPE kit in the same manner as hospital staff and were not reporting any current shortages of PPE.

Although the numbers on TTM had not risen during COVID-19, the NHS team had noticed an increase in incidents of self-harm, sometimes from patients who would not normally self-harm, and an increase in patients exhibiting symptoms associated with psychosis, which they thought was likely to have arisen from reduced circulation of illegal drugs within the prison and reactions to withdrawal. Non-essential mental health services had been pulled back, however the NHS team were still keeping an eye on those that they knew were most vulnerable.

The NHS team was looking at how to reopen some specialist services. Currently psychology services are available on a daily basis to offer advice but not direct contact with clients but they are looking at face to face contact using PPE. HMP Addiewell also have a Psychiatrist attending twice a week, offering support and advice.

Other important services were currently suspended such as Blood Borne Virus testing and dentistry. BBV is an important element of dealing with a population with significant issues and HMIPS will seek HIS advice on this issue.

Addiction services were only able to deal with emergencies at present, but those liberated were given information about services in the community (which are similarly restricted at present) and all those on Opiate Replacement Therapy are given naloxone and reminded how to use it

The NHS team were also preparing to transfer the first tranche of patients from methadone to Buprenorphine, which in the long run would reduce some medication dispensing issues but in the short term would require careful observation for side effects.

The overall impression was that the NHS team were doing their best in very difficult circumstances, but HIS will be better able to assess that when we next visit HMP Addiewell.



## Conclusion

HMP Addiewell are to be congratulated, along with their NHS partners, on their collective success in controlling the COVID-19 outbreak.

While it was clear that there had been tensions and serious incidents around the time of lockdown, the prison appeared calm and orderly during our liaison visit, which is a credit to staff at all levels of the organisation. Similarly, morale and motivation amongst staff appeared positive throughout the prison at all levels.

Communication with staff and prisoners was good, and we welcome the fact that PIAC forums continue to operate, although we encourage further translation of information into other languages for prisoners whose first language is not English. We also welcomed the continued efforts of the Education team to provide activity and learning remotely.

We urge continued vigilance around maintaining social distancing. We hope that the much anticipated roll-out of in-cell telephony and video visit technology by the SPS now occurs rapidly to avoid tensions within the prison escalating again.

We encourage the SPS and their partners, such as HPS, to review the guidance in relation to access to fresh air for those having to isolate for COVID-19, and the relationship with the rights provided under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Action should be taken to tighten up documentation around TTM processes, and consider ways to improve the provision of hot meals for those fasting when observing Ramadan.

## List of Action Points

**Action Point 1:** all efforts should be made to adhere to SD or a mask to be worn if this is not possible.

**Action Point 2:** appropriate flasks should be provide to observe Ramadan both in keeping the food stuffs separate and at the correct temperature.

**Action Point 3:** HMIPS welcomed the fact that the roll out of in-cell telephony and virtual visits had now begun, this must be completed as quickly as possible to ensure improved and supported family contact..

**Action Point 4:** all TTM processes and documentation should be at the required standard.

**Action Point 5:** SPS HQ and their partners should review the guidance under COVID-19 Rule 41 to allow access to fresh air.

**Action point 6:** SPS HQ should consider using their education provider to provide a remote service

## List of Good Practice

**Good Practice:** on liberation prisoners were given masks for themselves and those picking them up.

**Good Practice:** those on COVID-19 Rule 41 had access to a cordless phone line to contact family and their legal representative.

**Good Practice:** HMP Addiewell have set up an e-mailing system to allow for prisoners to send and receive one email per day to family member.

**Good Practice:** Sodexo continued support for education and in-cell activity.

**Good Practice:** SQA qualifications were still available for painting and food hygiene.

## Annex B

### Acronyms used in this Report

<b>COVID</b>	Coronavirus Disease
<b>EER</b>	Emergency Early Release
<b>HMCIPS</b>	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland
<b>HMIPS</b>	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
<b>HMP</b>	Her Majesty's Prison
<b>HPS</b>	Health Protection Scotland
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>OPCAT</b>	Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
<b>PIAC</b>	Prisoner Information Action Committee
<b>SD</b>	Social distancing
<b>SRU</b>	Separation and Reintegration Unit
<b>SPS</b>	Scottish Prison Service
<b>SPS HQ</b>	Scottish Prison Service Headquarters
<b>SPOC</b>	Single Point of Contact
<b>SVQ</b>	Scottish Vocational Qualification
<b>TTM</b>	Talk to Me