



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin

HMP Barlinnie

October - December 2018



**8 Independent
Prison
Monitors**



**21 Prison
Monitoring
Visits**



**27 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Observations/requests:** Monitoring observations produced feedback on most of the HMIPS Standards, though the vast majority of commentary was centred on population, decency, regime (especially for remand prisoners) and personal safety.
- **Lawful and Transparent custody:** The SRU was visited frequently by IPMs. In general, it had been very busy with some spare capacity on some visits. The introduction of the new cell call buttons was noted as good practice.
- **Decency:** Staff and prisoners also made IPMs aware that use of telephones had decreased over the reporting period due to the increasing population.
- **Purposeful Activity:** The visit hall had been reported by several monitors to be conducive to a welcoming family friendly atmosphere, with improved provision for younger and older children alike.
- **Personal Safety:** It was noted by staff and prisoners that the prevalence and impact of psychoactive substances remained an issue affecting staff and prisoners alike.
- **Population/staffing:** IPMs noted the increased population during this reporting period and were concerned that the higher numbers had led to increased pressure on staff and lack of access to a regime for many prisoners.

Updates and Actions

- **Population/staffing:** High prisoner population and high staff sick absence were the key areas of management activity, with the aim of providing a balanced regime. Management were producing a business case for the refurbishment of the reception and admissions area. There were currently around 500 remand prisoners and providing them with a regime was challenging, but they were now accessing more services/classes than previously.
- **NPS:** Prevalence and use of psychoactive substances remained a concern for prison management, but instances appeared to have stabilised.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- IPMs will continue to focus on the impact of the high population at HMP Barlinnie, with a particular focus on the experience of remand prisoners.
- IPMs will also monitor the reception and admission processes.
- IPMs will continue to monitor the impact of staff absence levels on the regime.