

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**
HMP Barlinnie
January – March 2019**9 Independent
Prison Monitors****15 Prison
Monitoring Visits****34 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

Overcrowding and impact on regime: Concerns remain around the overcrowding of the whole prison estate, but this is particularly acute at Barlinnie. The IPM Team are pleased with the efforts taken by the prison to ensure everyone has a regime. They will continue to raise our concerns with the Scottish Prison Service.

Reception: The reception area remains a concern. The holding cells are not fit for purpose – this has been raised since at least the HMIPS inspection report of 2003. Again IPMs welcome the efforts the prison are making to minimise the time prisoners are in reception. The team support any attempts by the prison to improve the conditions, and will push for this matter to be brought to the attention of those who have it within their gift to create change.

NPS: NPS remains a concern across the prison estate. Prisoners and staff have raised concerns about the use of NPS, and the impact this has on the regime on offer for the rest of the prisoners when emergency situations need to be dealt with.

Updates and Actions

The IPMs are keen to explore how they can be most effective in their role and not duplicate the internal complaints system. Consideration will be given to this over the next quarter, and the team would welcome the views of prisoners.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

In the next quarter IPMs will continue to focus on:

- Overcrowding/Population,
- Reception area
- Equalities and Diversity.