

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**
HMP Inverness
October to December 2018**6 Independent
Prison IPMs
(IPMs)****14 Prison
Monitoring Visits****4 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Personal safety:** Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs) spoke with a number of prisoners being managed under the SPS Talk to Me Strategy. All prisoners reported that they were being well looked after and IPMs were satisfied the process was implemented effectively.
- **Health and wellbeing:** IPMs concluded that support for prisoners with additional support needs was appropriate, and that prisoners' management plans recognised individuals' needs. Prisoners expressed satisfaction with how their needs were being managed.
- **Purposeful activity:** IPMs observed education staff delivering a very successful poetry workshop, with prisoners being very creative and a good sense of enjoyment and self-confidence was observed.
- **Purposeful activity:** IPMs noted that there appeared to be an insufficient number of telephones for prisoners to use in the prison, with prisoners finding it difficult to get access to one.
- **Organisational effectiveness:** IPMs were made aware that HMP Inverness, and the prison estate in general, were experiencing an increase in prisoner population. Higher prisoner numbers can have a negative impact on prisoners accessing work, programmes, etc, as there may be more demand for limited spaces. This will be monitored closely.

Updates and Actions

- **Smoke-free prisons:** IPMs monitored the recent implementation of the Smoke-free prisons policy and found that a range of support was available to prisoners. To date IPMs had not noted anything adverse arising from the policy's implementation. The majority of prisoners that IPMs spoke with had accepted the policy in a positive manner. This was echoed by staff, who reported that uptake in smoking cessation classes was good, with prisoners fully engaging.

Focus in the Next Quarter

- **General:** IPMs will continue to run focus groups with prisoners in order to identify issues for future monitoring activity.
- **Organisational effectiveness:** IPMs will monitor the potential impact that higher prisoner numbers may have on prisoners accessing work, programmes etc.