



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin
HMP Low Moss
October - December 2018



**7 Independent
Prison
Monitors**



**16 Prison
Monitoring
Visits**



**18 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Requests:** Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs) continued to take a reasonable number of requests on issues around progression, availability of programmes, the orderly room process and Independent Complaint Committee decisions.
- **Decency:** IPMs were informed that the heating was not working in Clyde 3 for a period of weeks towards the end of this reporting period. This issue was raised with prison management. All areas of the prison visited this quarter were clean and tidy and in good decorative order. Prisoners told IPMs that facilities were good throughout the prison.
- **Lawful and Transparent Custody:** The Separation and Reintegration Unit was visited regularly throughout this reporting period. IPMs noted that it had been very busy and was always close to capacity. Senior management emphasised to IPMs that they had unfettered access in this area of the prison, and would be happy to provide context on some of the challenges in the unit in advance of any visits.
- **Transitions from Custody:** IPMs continued to report positively on throughcare services in HMP Low Moss, with very positive commentary on the work carried out in the links centre and elsewhere, to assist prisoners in their transition back into the community.
- **Purposeful Activity:** IPMs report busy work parties, with a sense of purpose and good allocation of tasks for those involved.

Updates and Actions

- **Personal Safety:** The prevalence and use of psychoactive substances (NPS) continued to be a concern and there had been recent incidents of prisoners becoming seriously ill as a result.
- **Decency:** Prison management advised that the faulty valve causing the breakdown of heating in Clyde 3 had been replaced and that the situation was now resolved.
- **Population:** Population remained high in HMP Low Moss, and various methods were being utilised to minimise impact on the overall regime.
- **Smoke free prisons:** The transition to smoke free prisons appeared to have been implemented successfully so far in HMP Low Moss.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- IPMs will monitor access to the regime for different categories of prisoners in light of population increases.
- IPMs will monitor the prevalence and concerns around NPS.