

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**
HMP Open Estate
October to December 2018**6 Independent
Prison
Monitors****13 Prison
Monitoring
Visits****2 Prisoner
Requests****Key Findings**

- **Lawful and transparent custody:** Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs) monitored the reception process and viewed the holding area and the search cells, which appeared clean, tidy, and afforded privacy.
- **Purposeful activity:** Some prisoners involved in studying for qualifications complained about a lack of internet access to assist their studies. IPMs made enquiries, however senior management confirmed that there were currently no plans to provide access to the internet for prisoners in Scotland. Additional support will be discussed with individuals to see how further support can best be provided.
- **Health and wellbeing:** IPMs were informed that during the reporting period there was an increase in the number of prisoners suspected of being under the influence of unknown substances. This resulted in a number of those prisoners being returned to closed conditions. Staff conducted a review to identify improvements for tackling substance misuse.
- **Health and wellbeing:** IPMs were informed that prisoners may be moved back to closed conditions in order to access appropriate mental health support. IPMs understood that this was appropriate from a risk management perspective, but had concerns generally about the capacity to provide mental healthcare at the prison. NHS Tayside responded to say that mental healthcare provision was being managed in Prison Healthcare contingency meetings/plans.

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, although it was noted that prisoners had at times returned from Home Leave etc. with tobacco products, which was not permitted. After the policy's implementation, a decision was made to repaint all the cells to create a better environment and give a feeling of wellbeing. This was welcomed by IPMs.
- **Health and wellbeing:** NHS Staff were attempting to improve the process by which prisoners going on Home Leave could access their repeat prescriptions.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- **Health and wellbeing:** IPMs will continue to check how improvements to the repeat prescriptions process are progressing.
- **Health and wellbeing:** IPMs will look further at how the prison tackles substance misuse.
- **Health and wellbeing:** IPMs will monitor progress by NHS Tayside in improving mental healthcare provision at the prison.