



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin
HMP Perth
January to March 2019



**9 Independent
Prison
IPMs**



**14 Prison
Monitoring
Visits**



**17 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Population management:** IPMs have heard that the prison population remains high, and concern remains that there is greater demand for work opportunities, programme places, etc. Staff continue to work hard to do the best they can to ensure an adequate regime continues to operate.
- **Decency:** IPMs observed the food to be of a good standard, with a range of choice, and catering for different dietary/faith-based requirements.
- **Substance misuse:** IPMs were made aware that there had been several instances of 'psychoactive drugs' being used. Staff expressed to IPMs their concern over the difficult issues they face in dealing with prisoners suspected of having taken unknown substances.
- **Effective courteous and humane exercise of authority:** IPMs observed a number of instances where staff reacted calmly in the presence of angry, frustrated and difficult prisoners. This is viewed as a positive way to deal with such situations.
- **Healthcare:** IPMs have concerns about the number of prisoners being held in the SRU with complex needs including mental health issues, and the fact that there is a shortage of mental health staff.

Updates and Actions

- **Healthcare:** IPMs continue to be concerned about the NHS staffing levels and the impact on waiting times for prisoners. This continues to be further impacted by the increased prisoner numbers, and the subsequent increase in demand for healthcare services.

Focus in the Next Quarter

- **Population management:** IPMs will continue to monitor the potential impact that a high prison population may be having on the delivery of various elements of the regimes (for example access to work and programmes).
- **Healthcare:** IPMs will monitor the delivery of healthcare services.
- **Substance misuse:** IPMs will monitor the situation with regards to substance misuse, and how the prison is tackling the issue.