

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**  
**HMP Inverness**  
**October to December 2019****8 Independent  
Prison Monitors  
(IPMs)****18 Prison  
Monitoring Visits****3 Prisoner  
Requests****Key Findings**

- **Decency:** The kitchen continues to be a well-run operation. IPMs sampled the food on a few occasions and found it to be of good quality, with a reasonable set of options available to prisoners with varying dietary requirements. IPMs observed prisoners accessing food during lunch. The process appeared to be orderly. Staff and prisoners involved with prepping and serving the food were seen to be complying with recognised food hygiene requirements.
- **Decency:** Hygiene and Health and Safety signage was seen throughout the establishment. All areas observed looked clean and orderly, including cells, halls and outside areas.
- **Personal Safety:** IPMs took time to observe staff conducting regular observations of a vulnerable prisoner in an observation cell. Staff were courteous and clearly focussed on the prisoner's welfare. Observations were seen to be conducted at the correct frequency for the particular prisoner's level of risk (evidenced by paperwork).
- **Purposeful activity:** A greater range of purposeful activity appears to be available to prisoners, as well as the provision of support to prisoners to undertake activities (for example to help improve prisoners' performance). This was a good example of activities inside the prison mirroring life outside of the prison and provides a good learning opportunity.

**Updates and Actions**

- **Staffing and regimes:** IPMs recognise that staffing is a challenge just now, and that in order to ensure safety and good order there can be times where regimes have to be cut back to some extent. The prison is required to provide assurance to SPS HQ that there are no prisoner groups affected more than others.

**Focus in the Next Quarter**

- **Organisational effectiveness:** IPMs will continue to monitor the potential impact that higher prisoner numbers may have on prisoners accessing work, programmes, etc.