

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**  
**HMP Inverness**  
**April to September 2018****6 Independent  
Prison IPMs  
(IPMs)****27 Prison  
Monitoring Visits****8 Prisoner  
Requests****Key Findings**

- **Personal safety:** Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs) were concerned to hear of instances where a failure to keep different categories of prisoners completely separate had led to prisoners receiving abuse and threats. Senior management have assured IPMs that they will ensure staff are aware of the necessary protocols and that staff are empowered to challenge prisoners' negative behaviours.
- **Decency:** Protection prisoners told IPMs that they were always 'last on the list' to receive food and that it was often cold when they received it. Senior management will ensure that the order is rotated, and that food temperature does not diminish between the kitchen and servery. IPMs noted that the Food Focus Group had not met for quite some time.
- **Admissions process:** Prisoners told IPMs that the admissions and induction process at the prison was good. IPMs observed the process and saw staff behaving courteously to prisoners. The process appeared to be efficient. Prisoners stated they felt staff were listening to them.
- **Decency:** IPMs observed that prisoners' bedding was of good quality, and they had access to a range of toiletries (both standard issue and further choice from the canteen list). All areas of the prison were observed to be clean and well maintained.
- **Healthcare:** IPMs saw evidence of change and innovation in the way services were being delivered. NHS staff said they were happy that senior HMP Inverness staff were doing everything possible to facilitate better delivery of health services, and thinking of utilising new ways of accommodating staff to meet the needs of the prisoners.

**Updates and Actions**

- **Healthcare:** IPMs continue to have concerns around the level of healthcare staffing, particularly around mental healthcare provision.
- **Smoke-free prisons:** IPMs have been assured that the prison is on track to implement the new smoke-free prisons policy, and that a range of support mechanisms will be made available to prisoners who smoke, including 'vaping' devices, and support to stop smoking.

**Focus in the Next Quarter**

- **Personal safety:** IPMs will focus on how the prison moves different populations around the prison safely and without receipt of abuse.
- **Smoke-free prisons:** IPMs will monitor the implementation of the Scottish Prison Service's 'Smoke-free prisons' policy.
- **Healthcare:** IPMs will seek an update on NHS staffing levels and mental health provision.
- **General:** IPMs will continue to run focus groups with prisoners in order to identify issues for future monitoring activity.