Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin
HMP Inverness
April to June 2019

7 Independent Prison IPMs (IPMs)

16 Prison Monitoring Visits

3 Prisoner Requests

Key Findings

- **Decency:** Prisoners spoke with IPMs about the food provided and were generally complimentary. IPMs observed that the food being prepared was of a good quality and good quantity. The kitchen was clean, well-organized and well equipped. Staff and prisoners working in the kitchen had a good, positive, productive working relationship. Prisoners working in the kitchen felt that they were both learning to do something useful in terms of food preparation and handling, and they were engaged in something purposeful.

- **Purposeful Activity:** IPMs spoke with a number of prisoners and they felt that their time in the education centre was well spent and many of them were appreciative of the work that the teaching staff do with the prisoners. IPMs have concluded that a greater level and range of work activities would be welcomed. Although a number of prisoners were engaged in working in the laundry, kitchen and around the prison on cleaning and painting duties, IPMs feel these activities only meet the needs of a relatively small number of prisoners, in terms of work prospects after release.

- **Healthcare:** IPMs spoke with both prisoners and staff regarding the provision of healthcare services. No issues or concerns were made. Steps are taken by staff to ensure that prisoners suspected of having taken illegal substances are safe, and that the substance misuse support team engages with the prisoners.

Updates and Actions

- **Population management:** Higher prisoner numbers continue to have a negative impact on prisoners accessing work, programmes, etc, as there may be more demand for limited spaces. High prisoner numbers also continue to pose a challenge for staff (different groups/regimes). The increasing percentage of untried prisoners is a concern. However, staff are attempting to allocate a 'remand only' work party, which is welcomed by IPMs.

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.