



**HMIPS**

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland  
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

## Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin

**HMP Kilmarnock**

**Oct - Dec 2019**



**6 Independent  
Prison  
Monitors**



**14 Prison  
Monitoring  
Visits**



**18 Prisoner  
Requests**

### Key Findings

- **SRU:** IPMs have noted the professionalism and quality of staff in the SRU unit in dealing with some difficult situations. Management advised that staff will generally be rotated every six months due to the intensity of the environment.
- **Personal Safety:** IPMs commented that the increase in population had led to a notable change in the residential areas which are noisier and busier, especially during association. Monitors enquired whether there had been any noticeable changes in numbers of incidents or levels of personal safety for both prisoners and staff.
- **Progression:** Monitors have continued to take requests relating to progression from prisoners at HMP Kilmarnock. Several prisoners have suggested to Monitors that their various assessments have been held up due to backlogs and delays.

### Updates and Actions

- **Personal safety:** Management expressed sadness at the death in custody during this period and provided information of immediate actions taken to support staff and prisoners. Management emphasised the importance of officer visibility in the house blocks with an increased population, advising that a high proportion of incidents are related to consumption of psychoactive substances.
- **Progression:** IPMs were informed new psychologists have been employed to ensure assessment timescales continue to reduce. In some cases, there is a reliance on submissions from local authorities and community agencies which is outwith the control of HMP Kilmarnock.
- **Population:** Prison management advised there is a high likelihood that the population will increase further. This will present additional challenges in running a comprehensive regime and various options are being considered.

### IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- IPMs will continue to monitor personal safety, purposeful activity and attend forums such as PIACs, ICCs and RMTs.

To find out more about Independent Prison Monitoring go to [www.prisoninspectoratescotland.gov.uk](http://www.prisoninspectoratescotland.gov.uk) or email [prisonmonitoring@gov.scot](mailto:prisonmonitoring@gov.scot). To ask to see an IPM call **0800 056 7476**.