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HMIPS
HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

NEWS RELEASE
INSPECTION OF COURT CUSTODY PROVISION, LIVINGSTON SHERIFF COURT ON 26 JUNE 2019

Livingston Sheriff Court and the Justice of the Peace Court form part of the West Lothian Civic Centre. Opened in 2009, the Centre houses not only the courts, but also the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, West Lothian Council, West Lothian Social Work Department and Police Scotland Livingston Area Police Station.

The Custody Court Unit (CCU) is a modern purpose built facility with light and airy decor and layout. There was a thankful visible lack of graffiti, which often characterises other CCU inspections. I recognise the benefits of having a new purpose built unit and this CCU is considered by HMIPS to be one of the best we have inspected and will be the benchmark for future inspections.

GEOAmey replaced G4S as the contractor for escorting and court services in January 2019. Inspectors have seen some positive changes in the service provision since then, with language line being introduced and increased monitoring of its usage. Technology has also replaced the previous process of recording attendance on the back of the personal escort record form.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, Wendy Sinclair-Gieben, was appointed in July 2018.
2. This report identifies what was found during the inspection on 26 June 2019.
3. On publication the report can be found at www.prisonsinspectoratescotland.gov.uk
4. For further information please contact Kerry Love, Business Manager, at Kerry.Love@gov.scot or on 07939 980452/0131 244 8482.