



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin
HMP Low Moss
January – March 2018



**6 Independent
Prison
Monitors**



**14 Prison
Monitoring
Visits**



**26 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Overall:** Issues raised by prisoners with Monitors have followed the national trend, with health and progression being the most prominent topics.
- **Lawful and Transparent Custody:** Monitors have taken requests from individuals in the Separation and Reintegration Unit (SRU) and noted the needs of some of those in custody in Lomond. Monitors also reported on the challenging nature of the work for the staff in these areas. Some prisoners expressed dissatisfaction with orderly room processes and the removal of privileges. Monitors asked for comment on the management of prisoners within the SRU, and plans for reintegrating those in Lomond back into mainstream.
- **Decency:** All areas of the prison visited this quarter were clean and tidy and in good decorative order. Prisoners told Monitors that facilities were good throughout the prison.
- **Healthcare:** Health centre staff talked Monitors through the current mental health processes. Monitors indicated that some prisoners had said their mental health was not good during discussions with them.
- **Respect, Autonomy and Protection against Mistreatment:** Monitors looked at a dip sample of PCF1 complaints, provided by prison management. Most issues were resolved within 2-3 days and all resolutions seemed appropriate.
- **Purposeful Activity:** Monitors reported that the gym and games halls were well equipped, and that staff were very approachable. Monitors were impressed by programmes devised to meet the needs of the full range of the prison population.

Updates and Actions

- **Healthcare:** Monitors were provided with detailed updates from the Health Centre manager. There is no overall sense that mental health issues were greatly increasing, there were a number of CBT programmes running, but they are poorly attended. Waiting times to see a doctor had not been 10-16 days since the HMIPS Inspection. There were still complaints re clinical decisions and medications, but new staff in pharmacy should improve this. Nurses recently began going into halls to deliver treatment.
- **Personal Safety:** There was an increase in violence this quarter, linked to NPS within the prison. Management acknowledged the difficult role in managing the SRU, with prisoners now staying for longer for a variety of reasons.
- **Decency:** Cell certification and cell checks continued three times per week to ensure all cells and equipment were in decent condition. A prisoner was also released on compassionate grounds in this quarter.
- **Smoke free prisons:** Joint working continues with NHS staff training SPS staff in NRT and smoking cessation.
- **Transitions from custody to the community:** Children and family visits in the new Visitor Centre were proving to be an improvement on the previous arrangements.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- Monitors will continue to attend Orderly Rooms, RMT and ICC meetings to observe processes.

To find out more about Independent Prison Monitoring go to www.prisoninspectoratescotland.gov.uk or email prisonmonitoring@gov.scot. To ask to see an IPM call **0800 056 7476**.