



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

NEWS RELEASE
INSPECTION OF HMP PERTH - 14-25 May 2018

This inspection was undertaken whilst my predecessor, David Strang, was HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland.

HMP Perth was an establishment that did many things to a high standard and should be commended.

HMP Perth is unusual within the Scottish prison estate, in that parts of the establishment date back to the 19th century, whilst others were rebuilt as little as ten years ago. Whilst the buildings were well maintained, the fabric of the older buildings reflected their age and, in some cases, did not provide fit for purpose facilities.

There were two areas where the age and design of the building raised concerns; the small cells in A and B hall that housed two prisoners in cramped conditions; a concern previously raised in 2014 when HMIPS last inspected the establishment; and the 'safer cells' in the same halls, designed for use by individuals in crisis, that were bare, stark and unwelcoming.

There were serious concerns regarding aspects of the healthcare provision, which were immediately escalated to both the local Scottish Prison Service (SPS) management and the external management structures of NHS Tayside. HMIPS, supported by colleagues from HIS, will return to HMP Perth before the end of 2018, and again in late 2019 to undertake further inspections of the healthcare to ensure progress. HMIPS was reassured to note that the SPS and NHS Tayside were taking appropriate remedial actions in response to the concerns raised.

The work of the Throughcare Support Officers was impressive, and their dedication and professionalism was infectious. However, it was evident from the cases they managed in the community, that all parts of the system need to co-ordinate their services more effectively, to ensure that the support they offer is available when it is required.

The recent introduction of 'Andy's Man Club' is observed as good practice. The Club meets every Thursday afternoon, in a confidential setting, where the men can talk openly about health and wellbeing issues. The most impressive aspect was that the referral process was by word of mouth, and through this informal means of communication, it had quickly established itself as a popular and purposeful opportunity.

Despite the issues with medications and some of the healthcare provision, HMP Perth was an establishment that did many things to a high standard. The case management process was delivered to a high standard, and impressively to all sentenced prisoners, including those that were serving short sentences.

Relationships throughout the prison were positive and respectful and contributed to the sense of safety and good order that was evident during the inspection.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. HM CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PRISONS – WENDY SINCLAIR-GIEBEN was appointed to the post of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland in July 2018.
2. This report identifies what we found during our inspection from 14-25 May 2018.
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 0131 244 8484.

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