



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin
HMP Perth
October to December 2019



**9 Independent
Prison
IPMs**



**15 Prison
Monitoring
Visits**



**20 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Separation and Reintegration Unit:** Officers were observed interacting with prisoners in the Separation and Reintegration Unit (SRU) with courtesy, despite the SRU being full to capacity and thus being more of a challenge to staff. IPMs visited the SRU a number of times during the reporting period and concluded it is a well-run efficient department. This is welcomed.
- **Prisoner complaints process:** IPMs observed the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) process on a few occasions, and are of the opinion that they are conducted fairly, with due regard for prisoners' requests for evidence. Prisoners were spoken to courteously. Decisions made by the ICC were done so with fair consideration of any available evidence. IPMs observed two occasions where prisoners' appeals were heard and upheld, evidencing that the process itself is fair and balanced.
- **Organisational effectiveness:** IPMs heard that Prisoner Information Action Committee meetings are no longer being run regularly, and are concerned that prisoners may not have the opportunity to help shape the services provided to them.

Updates and Actions

- **Healthcare:** IPMs are pleased to note that NHS Tayside is proactively recruiting across a number of healthcare disciplines within the Health Centre.
- **Population management:** IPMs remain concerned at the high prison population and the impact of greater demand for work opportunities, programme places, etc. Staff continue to work hard to do the best they can to ensure an adequate regime continues to operate. IPMs are pleased to note that there is a recruitment and promotion campaign planned and that HMP Perth is likely to benefit.

Focus in the Next Quarter

- **Population management:** IPMs will continue to monitor the potential impact that a high prison population may be having on the delivery of various elements of the regimes.
- **Healthcare:** IPMs will continue to monitor the delivery of healthcare services, including waiting times etc.