

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**  
**HMP Perth**  
**January to March 2018****10**  
**Independent**  
**Prison**  
**Monitors****14 Prison**  
**Monitoring**  
**Visits****13 Prisoner**  
**Requests****Key Findings**

- **Healthcare:** Monitors have found prisoners' access to healthcare services to be fair and equitable with what is delivered in the community. In some cases prisoners have received specialist services (for example mental health / psychiatry appointments) quicker than what might be expected in the community.
- **Decency:** Monitors sampled the food and found it to be satisfactory, however some prisoners were of the view that the range of choice was limited and the food could at times arrive less hot than desired. Monitors have suggested that more could be done to engage with prisoners around the issue of food range and quality.
- **Purposeful activity:** Monitors visited the families area to monitor the evening meal and 'playtime' allocated to prisoners and their families, and found it impressive, with the families there appearing to enjoy it. Monitors are of the view that the facility helps in keeping families in touch and closer together.

**Updates and Actions**

- **Healthcare:** The main issue in a majority of the healthcare related cases that Monitors looked at centred on communication between healthcare staff and prisoners. Monitors are aware from discussions with Health Centre management that this is an area that is being addressed.
- **Purposeful activity / Healthcare:** Monitors heard that the high volume of prisoners requiring the medication during daily dispensing rounds is having a negative effect on prisoners attending work on time. Monitors have been told that SPS and NHS staff are working hard in partnership to seek to improve the situation.
- **Protection Regime:** Monitors previously raised concerns that protection prisoners did not benefit from as wide and varied a regime as mainstream prisoners. This seems to have improved in this reporting period. Monitors observed protection prisoners taking part in gym sessions, something they felt they had missed out on previously. Monitors are however aware that the number of prisoners requiring protection is increasing, bringing further challenges.

**Focus in the Next Quarter**

- Further work on monitoring the accessibility, range and quality of opportunities afforded to protection prisoners will be carried out in forthcoming months.
- Monitors will also look further at how daily dispensation of medication is affecting prisoners getting to work.