



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin HMP Perth April to June 2019



9 Independent
Prison
IPMs



15 Prison
Monitoring
Visits



41 Prisoner
Requests

Key Findings

- **Lawful and transparent custody:** IPMs visited the SRU on a number of occasions, and observed good working relationships between staff and prisoners. IPMs learned that one prisoner who had been problematic at other prison's SRU facilities had settled well in the HMP Perth unit due to the good working practices of the staff.
- **Progression:** A number of prisoners raised concerns regarding a lack of access to programmes they needed to undertake in order to progress to the National Top End and/or Open Estate. IPMs concluded that the SPS Policy on programme placement had been followed. The prisoners' frustrations are understood, however the issue is a national one, and not something that can be improved from within HMP Perth. IPMs would like to see more national programme places made available in order to improve the progression prospects for prisoners.
- **Healthcare:** IPMs saw clear evidence of prison officers and NHS staff working together to address the healthcare needs of prisoners. This joint working is welcomed.

Updates and Actions

- **Healthcare:** IPMs continue to be concerned about the NHS staffing levels and the impact on waiting times for prisoners. This continues to be further impacted by the increased prisoner numbers, and the subsequent increase in demand for healthcare services.
- **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.

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.