



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin
HMP Perth
July to September 2019



**9 Independent
Prison
Monitors**



**15 Prison
Monitoring
Visits**



**28 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Population management:** IPMs are aware that the prison population remains high, and concern remains that there is a greater demand for work opportunities, programme places, etc. IPMs saw further evidence of how the prison's senior management team is doing what they can to ensure essential services are provided despite of overcrowding.
- **Maintaining family relationships:** A few prisoners expressed concern at having to be moved to other prisons less accessible to their family members. Senior management have explained that this may be necessary at times to maintain order and safety, particularly with a large population. The prison does however seek to consolidate the relationships between prisoners and their families through the provision of family-centred events.
- **Effective courteous and humane exercise of authority:** IPMs continue to be impressed with the patient and courteous manner with which staff speak to prisoners, particularly where prisoners appear angry, frustrated or worried. This approach is welcomed by the IPMs, particularly given the current atmosphere due to overcrowding.
- **Effective courteous and humane exercise of authority:** IPMs spent a considerable amount of time monitoring the Separation and Reintegration Unit SRU, concluding that the facility was well run, and that the needs of prisoners were taken seriously by caring, compassionate and professional staff.

Updates and Actions

- **Healthcare:** IPMs were pleased to hear that, since the return to work of some doctors following a period of absence, the waiting list to see a doctor had fallen from 12 to 6 weeks.
- **Purposeful activity:** IPMs welcome the news that the prison is actively recruiting for three new regimes officers, which will allow for a fuller timetable of opportunities for the various prisoner groups.

Focus in the Next Quarter

- IPMs will monitor the impact that overcrowding is having on the regime for remand prisoners.
- IPMs will also continue to monitor the effect of overcrowding, staff shortages, and medication rounds on work opportunities for convicted prisoners.