

HM CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PRISONS FOR SCOTLAND

REPORT FOR 2001-2002





SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland

Report for 2001-2002

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Role/Charter of HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland

Section 7 of the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989, as amended by the Scotland Act 1998, provides the statutory basis for the Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, and in particular the requirement to submit an Annual Report to the Scottish Ministers. This is laid before the Scottish Parliament and published.

It is the duty of the Chief Inspector to inspect or arrange for the inspection of prisons in Scotland and to report to the Scottish Ministers on them. Each of Scotland's 16 penal establishments currently receives a full formal inspection, on a cyclical basis, every 3½-4 years. Full inspections take between a week and a fortnight depending on the size and complexity of the establishment, during which all aspects of the establishment are examined from the point of view of safety, decency, and the establishment's contribution to crime prevention. Security, discipline, control and efficiency are also examined. The Inspectorate also takes account of requirements, policies and concepts applying to the Scottish Prison Service.

Inspection reports aim to give a balanced account of conditions in the establishment, reflecting good practice and areas for improvement, as they are found.

When completed, the reports are sent directly to Scottish Ministers and are not subject to negotiation with Governors or the Scottish Prison Service. In due course, a Ministerial response is normally published along with the report. The Chief Inspector has no executive powers but is able to draw Ministers' attention to any aspects of a penal establishment which call for comment, whilst the publicity which the Chief Inspector's reports attract can be an instrument for change.

Full inspection reports are followed up in subsequent years by intermediate inspections, and these are sent to the Governor and to the Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service. The Inspectorate also undertakes occasional studies on a theme common to all or several penal establishments.

The Chief Inspector receives professional support from 2 senior Governors from the Scottish Prison Service who are seconded to the posts of Deputy Chief Inspector and Inspector. A Scottish Executive civil servant completes the main Inspectorate team. A number of lay consultants and researchers also contribute to the inspection process.

The Inspectorate is also responsible for inspecting legalised police cells which are used to hold prisoners awaiting trial locally in isolated areas or, following conviction, pending transfer to a main prison. Inspections are carried out every 3 years, with reports being submitted to the Scottish Ministers sent to all Chief Constables concerned and published. It is also intended that the Inspectorate will become responsible for the inspection of prisoner escorting arrangements in due course.

The Chief Inspector is not an Ombudsman and cannot deal with individual complaints by prisoners or staff. But groups of prisoners and groups of staff are interviewed during each formal inspection, their general views are recorded, and may form a basis for recommendations or suggestions for improvement.

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To the Scottish Ministers

I have the honour to submit my fourth Annual Report to the Scottish Parliament.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C B Fairweather', written in a cursive style.

C B FAIRWEATHER OBE

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland

7 June 2002

Report for 2001-2002



Foreword by the Minister for Justice

I am pleased to present Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons Annual Report for 2001-2002.

As is brought out in this report and in the Scottish Prison Service's Annual Report for this year, which I laid before the Parliament last month, 2001-2002 was a good one for the SPS. The Agency achieved or bettered 9 of the targets which I set it. When set against record prisoner numbers this was no mean feat and I congratulate SPS staff at all levels and their partner organisations for their efforts. I was delighted to honour publicly at a ceremony in Edinburgh Castle in October 2001, the achievement of prison staff, an event I hope to repeat in future years.

Key additions to the targets I set last year focussed on the vision of correctional excellence. These included the delivery and completion of programmes, which received full accreditation, as well as those for hours that prisoners spent learning. The achievements are good progress towards Ministers' objective of a prison service that not only holds prisoners in secure custody but works to rehabilitate them to stop them re-offending when they are released.

I welcome the comments in the Report about remand prisoners having access to decent conditions. The Parliament endorsed this objective in its debate on the 18th April, and it will be a key consideration as we decide how to take forward modernisation of the prison estate.

I also note that the Chief Inspector welcomes the introduction of new Drug Services and that this innovative project has the potential to have a positive effect on recidivism levels.

I wish to end on a personal note, by thanking Clive Fairweather for his eight years of diligent and dedicated work as the Chief Inspector of Prisons. He has never flinched from being critical when he believed there was just cause, but equally has been quick to commend where things are working well. He has received, and deserves, much praise for the way he has gone about his work.

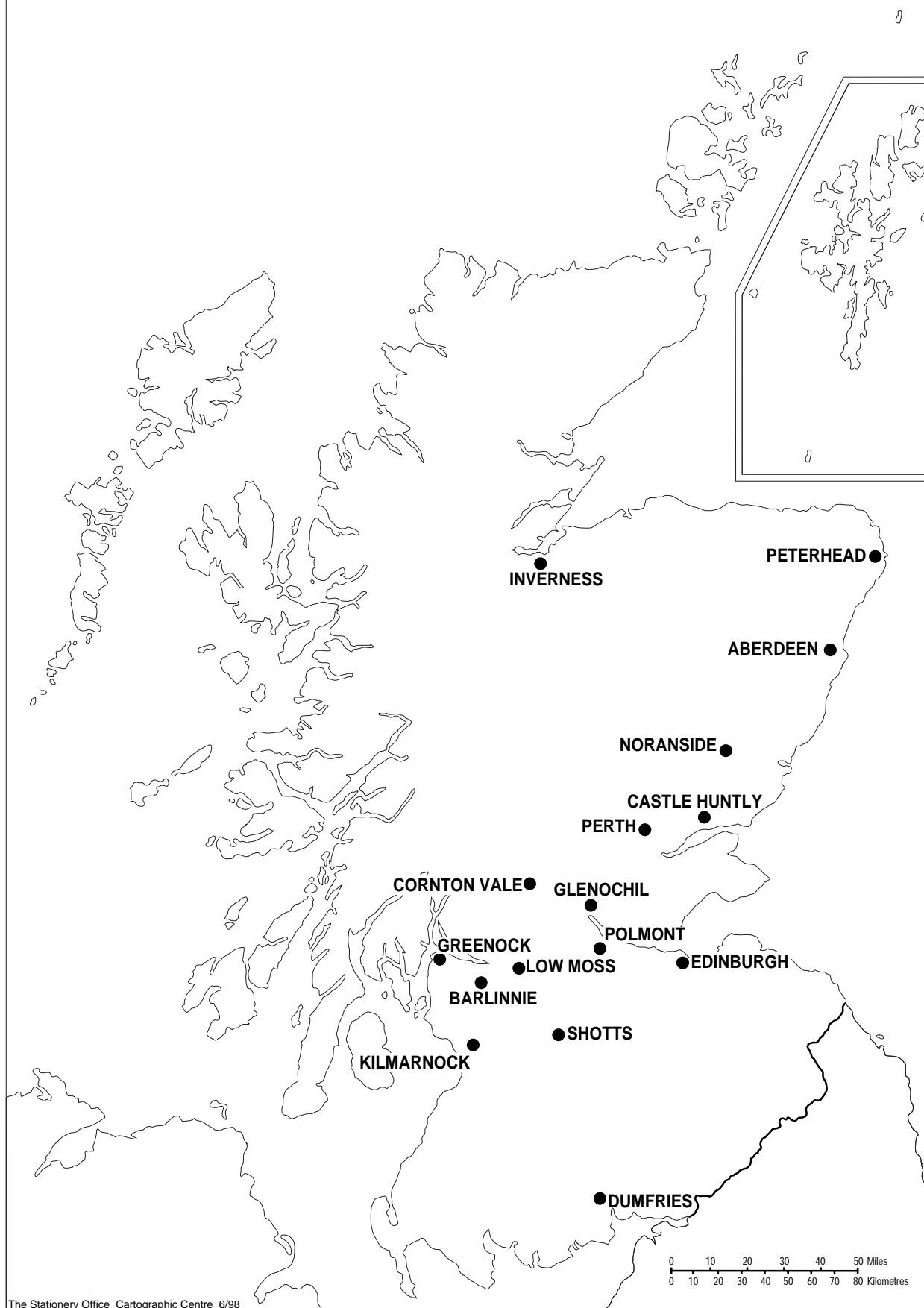
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

JIM WALLACE, QC, MSP

Minister for Justice

20 August 2002

Location of SPS Establishments



The Stationery Office Cartographic Centre 6/98

SPS Establishments and Capacity

North and East

1. HMP Aberdeen Local/remand prison, southern side of Aberdeen. Design capacity 155, including 10 places for female prisoners. 11% overcrowded.
2. HMP Castle Huntly Open prison near Dundee for convicted adult male offenders serving 18 months to life. Design capacity 151.
3. HMP Edinburgh Local/remand and national long-term prison, western outskirts of Edinburgh. Design capacity 643. 25% overcrowded. (65 places out of use).
4. HMP and HMYOI Glenochil Closed establishment, near Tullibody, for adult males serving sentences of 4 years and over and for YOs serving up to 18 months. Design capacity 496 adult and 174 YO (116 YO places out of use).
5. HMP Inverness Local/remand prison, close to City Centre. Design capacity 108, including 6 places for female prisoners. 25% overcrowded.
6. HMP Noranside Open prison west of Forfar for convicted adult males serving 18 months to life and up to 12 sex offenders. Design capacity 135 (14 places out of use).
7. HMP Perth Local/remand and national long-term prison, south of town centre. Design capacity 593 (11 places out of use).
8. HMP Peterhead Closed establishment south of Peterhead for adult male long term prisoners convicted of sex offences. Design capacity 306 (10 places out of use).

South and West

9. HMP Barlinnie Local/remand prison, Riddrie, Glasgow. Design capacity 1,016 (198 places out of use). 36% overcrowded.
10. HMP & YOI Cornton Vale Adult and YO female prisoners and remands, Bridge of Allan. Design capacity 230.
11. HMP and YOI Dumfries Closed Institution on western outskirts of Dumfries for long term YOs and local/remand prisoners. Design capacity 162, including 8 places for female prisoners (40 places out of use). 14% overcrowded.
12. HMP Greenock Local/remand and national long-term prison for adult male prisoners, southern outskirts of Greenock. Design capacity 254. 25% overcrowded.
13. HMP Kilmarnock Local/remand prison and national long-term prison south of Kilmarnock. Design capacity 548.
14. HMP Low Moss Closed prison near Kirkintilloch for medium to low supervision adult males serving short sentences. Design capacity 375. Accommodation mainly in dormitories and a 30 place cellular unit (30 places out of use).
15. HMYOI Polmont Closed Institution south of Falkirk for male Young Offenders serving less than 6 years. Design capacity 422.
16. HMP Shotts Closed prison near village of Shotts for long term adult male prisoners. Design capacity 528 (including National Induction Centre and Shotts Unit) (12 places out of use).
17. HMP Zeist Scottish Prison created in Holland at Zeist to hold prisoners on trial for involvement in the Lockerbie bombing (closed 18 April 2002).

The SPS population and accommodation report identifies the design capacity for the whole of the estate as 6,302. However, with 170 places out of use for policy reasons and a further 326 temporarily out of use for refurbishment, the available capacity was actually 5,806 for a population of 6,201. (Figures as at 29 March 2002).

Introduction

1



The 2000-01 Annual Report referred to the re-shaping of the SPS, when the number of establishments had been reduced from 24 to 17, as the most radical in living memory. The effect of this re-organisation, involving a loss in design capacity together with 375 front line staff, was to pervade the work of SPS throughout the course of the next twelve months. The year was described as “a difficult one for many”.

It would appear that some of the difficulties have persisted and have been compounded by an increase in prisoner numbers, with an average daily population in 2000-01 of 5,883 being followed by an increase to 6,185 during this latest reporting period. This is likely to impose many pressures on staff and prisoners, and therefore a fundamental issue facing the Service is how, in the short term, it will manage to balance the growth in prisoner numbers against a much reduced capacity. A number of new house blocks are expected to come on stream within the next two years, and while this will help, it is now apparent that even more may be needed both to cater for a gradual growth in longer sentences, and to cope with peaks in the number of those being convicted or remanded in custody¹.

At various stages throughout the year, industrial relations were strained; for example, in April 2001, a day of industrial action was mounted across the SPS, an event which was unprecedented in its scale, and also illegal. On the other hand, a positive and far-reaching agreement was later signed by the Trade Union Side and SPS Management, whilst in November new staff attendance patterns were implemented – though previously there had been considerable resistance to their introduction. In fact, at most establishments these new patterns do not appear to have produced all of the problems which many were forecasting. The recruitment freeze on prison officers has also been lifted, though in some establishments a trend for operations and residential officers to leave for other agencies such as the Police is continuing.

There have, however, been encouraging trends including a continuing reduction in the number of suicides, the second successive year that this has occurred. At the same time, following the refurbishment of 'B' Hall in Barlinnie, remand prisoners across Scotland now uniformly enjoy the best of conditions – whereas for many years they had suffered the worst. Following the creation of the Throughcare Centre at Edinburgh, better throughcare arrangements are being introduced at establishments such as Polmont and Greenock. In addition, a large number of drug workers from Cranstoun Drug Services (Scotland) are now beginning to contribute to a more co-ordinated response to drug misuse across the SPS, which should impact on re-offending in both the short and long term.

Finally, on 21 March 2002 the much awaited Estates Review was published almost two and a half years after it was first proposed. It attempts to address, in a fundamental way, the need for more prison places in the longer term, and to create conditions which are fit for purpose in all

¹ At the time of writing this report, numbers had reached a record high of 6,718.

establishments. The public consultation period for this ends on 12 June 2002 (outwith the current reporting period).

This report is laid out as follows:

- Chapter 2 describes major building projects undertaken, planned capital investment, population statistics and deaths in custody.
- Chapter 3 identifies major custody issues and the general assessment for each establishment inspected during 2001-02. Included also is a summary of items of best practice that were observed during inspections.
- Chapter 4 lists the recommendations that were made in 2001-02, together with the SPS responses.
- Chapter 5 provides a summary and conclusions.
- Chapter 6 describes the Prison Inspectorate's year, whilst annexes to the report include staff and management issues and a range of statistical information. For the first time, a comparative statistical chart (Annex 6) covering the performance of all establishments is included. This follows extrapolation of information contained in the year's intermediate reports and is as up to date and accurate as possible (nevertheless, further fine-tuning may become necessary in subsequent years).

CLIVE FAIRWEATHER

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

SPS VISION, PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND KEY MINISTERIAL TARGETS 2001 - 2002

SPS Vision

Correctional Excellence

To be recognised as the leader in prisons' correctional work which helps reduce recidivism and thereby offers value for money for the taxpayer.

Mission Statement

'To keep in custody those committed by the courts; to maintain good order in each prison; to care for prisoners with humanity; and to provide prisoners with a range of opportunities to exercise personal responsibility and to prepare for release.'

MEASURE	TARGET	OUTTURN 2001-2002	OUTTURN 2000-2001
The number of escapes.	(a) No 'A' Category prisoners should escape. (b) The number of escapes by 'B' Category prisoners should be no higher than 3. (c) The number of escapes by 'C' Category prisoners should be no higher than 5.	NIL 1 2	NIL 1 NIL
The number of serious assaults on staff and prisoners.	(a) The number of serious assaults on staff should be no higher than 13. (b) The number of serious assaults on prisoners should < 10 per 1,000 = 56.	12 85	15 69
Basic quality of life for prisoners.	By end March 2002, 78% of available prisoner places will have access to night sanitation.	78%	76%
Prisoner Programmes	Seven hundred prisoners to complete programmes to address offending behaviour, 50% of which programmes to be fully accredited.	871 ² (64% accredited)	773
Education	Number of prisoner learning hours achieved will be 250,000.	307,222	225,000
Drugs	85% of those tested under random MDT procedures will be clear of in prison drug use.	83%	85%
Average annual cost per prisoner place.	To keep costs within £32,600 per prisoner place.	£30,172	£28,240 ³
Injuries reportable to the Health and Safety Executive	The number of injuries reportable should not exceed 100.	173	136

Cost of the Scottish Prison Service:

	2001-2002	2000-2001	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Total funds available	£234 million	£213 million	£215 million	£186 million	£172 million
Staff costs	£122 million	£115 million	£128 million	£120 million	£111 million

² Percentage of programmes to be accredited was not part of the target for the years before 2001-02.

³ Recalculated on a Resource Accounting Basis - cash outturn equivalent to £28,114 reported in last year's Annual Report.

2 Prison Establishments

Review of Estate

2.1 The site at Longriggend which closed on 8 April 2000 has not yet been sold, whilst Dungavel (which closed on 3 July 2000) was sold to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions and re-opened as a Detention Centre for Immigration Detainees in September 2001. The Centre is now run by a private company 'Premier Detention Services'. Immigration is a matter reserved to the Home Office and as such they have responsibility for inspection of the Dungavel Detention Centre.

2.2 Implementation of some of the settled recommendations of the Estates Review commenced with the agreement that houseblocks would be built at Polmont and Edinburgh and construction work for these started in late 2001 and early 2002. More recently, the Estates Review (published 21 March 2002), contains proposals which largely refer to the future of HMPs Barlinnie, Low Moss and Peterhead, and are subject to a public consultation exercise.

Building and Maintenance Programme

2.3 £25.6 million was spent on the maintenance and upgrading of prison buildings during the year. Among the major capital projects completed were:

HMP Aberdeen, the creation of a new Control Room and associated works

HMP Barlinnie, the upgrade of 'B' Hall

HMP Cornton Vale, the re-roofing of the Health Centre

HMP Castle Huntly, the formation of a synthetic football pitch

HMP & YOI Glenochil, the construction of a new lockstore and C & R facility

HMP Inverness, replacement of cell windows

HMP Perth, the refurbishment of 'A' Hall, and the installation of a new access road and control fence

HMP Polmont, the creation of a new Control Room

HMP Shotts, the provision of new staff facilities and Health Centre

In addition, major investment has commenced with the construction of new Houseblocks at HMP Polmont and HMP Edinburgh.

2.4 For 2002-03, the budget for building and maintenance works is £45.2m (£40m in 2001-2002).

Population

2.5 The throughput of prisoners in 2001-2002 is shown below (figures for the previous year in brackets):

Sentenced Receptions	18,774 (18,830)
Remand Receptions	15,798 (14,039)

2.6 The average daily population was 6,185 (5,883) which included 894 (880) remand prisoners, who account for approximately 14% of those held in custody.

2.7 Further details as at the end of March 2002 are shown below:

(i) Sentences being served:

• Less than 1 year	1,341	(1,429)
• 1 year - less than 2 years	589	(573)
• 2 years – less than 4 years	828	(825)
• 4 years – less than 10 years	1,586	(1,512)
• 10 years +	246	(277)
• Life	620	(601)

(ii) Security categories⁴: (convicted prisoners)

• 'A' (maximum security)	3	(4)
• 'B' (secure conditions)	3,043	(2,919)
• 'C' (minimum of restrictions)	1,689	(1,860)
• 'D' (open conditions)	475	(464) (incl limited 'D')

Deaths in Custody

2.8 During the year there were 18 (16) deaths in prison which included 11 (11⁵) apparent suicides.

⁴ Security categories were replaced on 1 April 2002 by supervision levels high, medium and low.

⁵ Following FAI.

3 Major Custody Issues and General Assessments

MAJOR CUSTODY ISSUES

3.1 *Uncertainty.* The last two Annual Reports have referred to an atmosphere of uncertainty amongst staff and prisoners across the SPS, much of which has related to delays in the announcement of the review of the prison estate. The Estates Review had been forecast to be available for consultation during the earlier parts of the reporting year, but final publication was again delayed until March 2002. Prior to this, some unannounced inspections had noted pockets of improved morale – for example at Barlinnie where the refurbishment of 'B' Hall (and proposed refurbishment of 'C' Hall) appeared to have raised staff spirits. A more positive note was also found in those establishments which were known to have a more certain future, such as Shotts, Glenochil and Perth. Overall, however, many members of staff continued to state that they felt undervalued by the organisation. It was also announced that plans were being put in place to privatise the prisoner escort service.



3.2 *Drugs.* This major problem, whose origins lie in the changing nature of communities throughout Scotland, continues to impact on every prison regime. However, in recent years there has been increasing management focus on the issue and we are satisfied with the central direction and most local plans to address the problem. During the year there have been some signs of local problems in the distribution chain for illegal drugs, which may stem from international events, but whether this has had other impacts e.g. on levels of violence, cannot yet be determined. There have been encouraging changes to support for SPS staff in the area of drugs following the introduction to establishments of Cranstoun Drug Services (Scotland) addiction case workers.

3.3 *Suicide.* In the previous reporting year the number of suicides fell from 17 to 11. There were 11 in this current reporting year. This gives rise for some cautious optimism.

3.4 *Violence.* Previous reports have referred to high levels of prisoner-on-prisoner violence being gradually reduced, but this year serious assaults amongst prisoners have risen, most notably at HMPs Edinburgh and Kilmarnock and very disappointingly, given its relatively small population, at HMP Aberdeen. In addition there have been more examples than usual of concerted indiscipline, with incident command teams (specialists who are required to negotiate the end of siege, or similar events) having been called out four times in as many months.

3.5 *Overcrowding.* Our report for 1999-2000 had reported that only two establishments were overcrowded. However, by the following year, when the prison estate had started to operate to a

planned reduced capacity, 5 establishments were seriously overcrowded, and this has continued, though by a much larger percentage in 2001-02. Generally, this results from greater numbers being sent to prison by the Courts, and a gradual 'silting up' amongst LTPs as a result of longer sentences being passed.

GENERAL ASSESSMENTS

These are shown below in the order of local/remand prisons, young offenders institutions, long term and open prisons. The Chapter concludes with a report on the inspection of the ten Legalised Police Cell sites in Scotland.

LOCAL/REMAND PRISONS

HMP Aberdeen

Unannounced visit as at July 2001 (previous formal inspection November 1997)



HMP Aberdeen

An unannounced visit was carried out on 12/13 July 2001 following concerns which had emerged during a previous intermediate inspection. The following picture emerged:

- An ongoing failure to provide purposeful activity or a structured regime. The majority of prisoners were not working, except for a few passmen and the laundry/kitchen parties.
- The operation of a day shift on Friday had effectively extended the weekend regime to three days.
- There were staffing concerns in relation to the implementation of ACT.
- Staff training had been suspended.
- MDT and drug support team activities had also been suspended.
- There were difficulties in providing discipline staff cover for specialist clinics – e.g. psychiatry. Outpatient clinics were also being cancelled due to a lack of staff escorts.
- There were difficulties in the delivery of education.

This worrying situation appears to have come as a direct result of staff shortages, high prisoner numbers – and possibly some inefficiencies in staff deployment. Summer “double turns” had not helped either, whilst staff sickness levels were high (whereas only a relatively short time ago these had been described as amongst the best in the SPS).

The one positive note was that an extended PE programme was in operation, and was helping to bridge some of the serious gaps in the regime.

Note:

Subsequently we were told that the regime had been somewhat re-invigorated by the introduction of emergency payments to staff. When these ended (on 31 December 2001) management had managed to provide a slightly better regime, which was confirmed during a further visit on 18/19 February 2002. Nevertheless, by the end of the reporting year, the establishment had one of the worst levels of serious violence in any Scottish prison, – whereas in this respect it had been one of the safest at the time of the previous formal inspection. Further inspections are therefore planned (commencing July 2002).

HMP Edinburgh

(Intermediate inspection November 2001 (previous formal inspection September 2000))

HMP Edinburgh



At the time of the last formal inspection (September 2000) a number of significant changes had been noted – for example the new Reception Area, Segregation Unit and Glenesk Hall for remands, whilst overcrowding had reduced to 17.5%. In addition, a welcome decrease in prisoner on prisoner violence had taken place, whilst more decent standards were now evident in a number of areas. Slopping out, however, was still in operation in ‘A’, ‘B’ and Forth Halls, though a plan to replace these ageing buildings was now in existence but awaited agreement on staffing levels. We were encouraged to find that the prison was much better able to identify and address prisoner needs, challenge offending behaviour and prepare individuals for release. Progress was dependent, however, on the resolution of high staff shortages, which were threatening to undermine so much that was otherwise positive.

There had been a very high turnover of staff, with 61 individuals having left since April, though recent changes to shift patterns had helped to resolve some of the more intractable problems previously associated with court escorts. As a result, workshops were now operating on a far more regular basis. The moratorium on recruitment had also been lifted, and the hope is that the establishment is now over the worst of its staffing difficulties.

Safety

Overcrowding had reduced to a much more manageable figure, whilst the suicide rate continues to be low. We were, however, disappointed to find that there had been a growth in the number of cases of self harm (and were told that this might be due to more accurate reporting of incidents - but we are unable to confirm this).

Over the summer there had been major concerns relating to the Health Centre, which had resulted in two extra visits by members of the Inspectorate (staffing difficulties were threatening the collapse of the Centre). Subsequently, however, SPS HQ and local management had worked to find a number of interim solutions, and hopefully with far less reliance on agency nurses.

We were, however, disappointed to note that prisoner on prisoner violence had increased. To date this year there had been 9 KPI⁶ assaults - more than double the figure for a similar period last year. A number of these had taken place in Forth Hall, which is the facility used to house offenders who have failed a drug test. Separately, there was the suspicion (which we cannot wholly substantiate) that more drugs might be circulating in the prison (the underlying random rate is between 18-23%) and we were told that more prisoners with a drug problem were being admitted to the prison. (It was frustrating to note that staff were only able to carry out random tests and very few suspicion or voluntary tests.)

Finally, we were impressed with the work going on in the new Segregation Unit. The building and the ethos of its well motivated and committed staff is undoubtedly one of the best of its kind anywhere in Scotland.

Decency

We were impressed with overall standards of cleanliness whilst the visit area was particularly clean and tidy. It also had the feeling of being informal and relaxed (rather than cold and institutionalised). The Visitors Centre was as always, quite excellent. Staffing levels for the latest new Hall had now been agreed and we were told that construction work would commence shortly⁷. There had been problems with the prison laundry, but it seems that these had largely been resolved. The system in operation for remand prisons to contact legal agents in Glenesk Hall was particularly innovative.

Preventing Future Crime

The prison is progressing in the right direction, especially in the integrated approach to prisoner management which can be found in its excellent Throughcare Centre⁸. However, we had a number of concerns regarding the regime in 'B' Hall. This hall holds vulnerable, protection, and short term sex offenders and we were told that whilst its staff had been trained (at much the same time as staff from HMP Barlinnie) they had not actually delivered any programmes. The offending behaviour of short term sex offenders was not being addressed, nor are these individuals receiving any induction or risk and needs assessment. Work opportunities and regime including recreation, are also limited and restricted for this group of prisoners and they are not currently the subject of intelligence exchange with the Social Work Unit or risk assessment with the Police prior to their liberation.

It was noted that the work of the Social Work Unit has undergone a considerable period of turbulence, due to matters which were beyond the control of local management.

⁶ Possibly 10 subject to further reclassification, as one further assault was still being assessed.

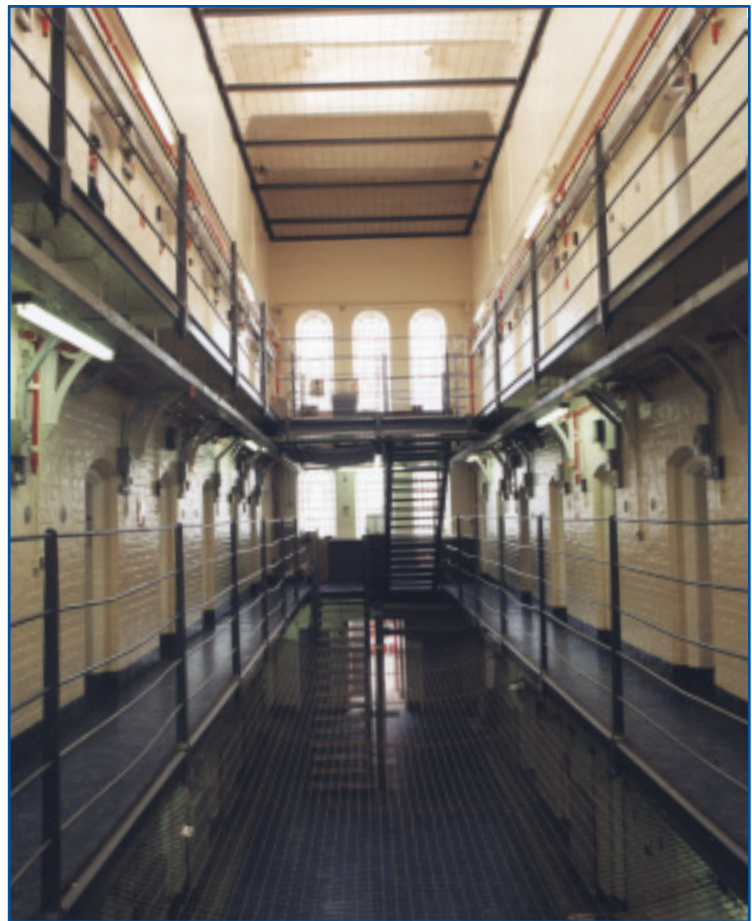
⁷ Started January 2002.

⁸ Now being evaluated.

HMP Inverness

(Intermediate Inspection September 2001 - previous formal inspection March 1999)

HMP Inverness



On the day of inspection, there were 123 prisoners in Inverness, against an available capacity of 101 (with seven cells out of use in 'A' Hall as part of a rolling security upgrading programme).

In his briefing at the start of inspection, the Governor told us there had been recent difficulties over the delivery of programmes. Site accreditation for cognitive skills was still awaited, whilst a shortage of available coaches was expected to result in a shortfall in meeting the KPI target. The sex offender groupwork programme was under review, although individual support was being provided on a weekly basis by the clinical psychologist, in addition to support from the Principal Psychologist at Peterhead. Education was still making a significant contribution to the regime.

The establishment had been operating revised attendance patterns since mid July. There had been a growing shortage of Operations staff to the extent that the establishment was now some 30% under complement. One particularly disappointing consequence of this was that industry staff were being taken off post to cover court escorts, often at short notice, which resulted in only a limited regime being delivered to prisoners. This unfortunate situation was exacerbated by 20% overcrowding.

We found there had been continued progress in developing partnerships with a wide range of community-based agencies. These were aimed at improvements in throughcare and included such issues as employability, mental health and addictions. It was most encouraging to note that funding for the post of Drug Liaison Nurse was now in place for the next three years. This is clearly necessary, given the incidence of drug misuse amongst prisoners - the underlying rate in 1998-99 was 15% and has risen to 20%. We were, therefore, dismayed to find that because of insufficient resources drug

testing had stalled, and admission testing for October was unlikely to proceed as required. It was also reported that the deterrent element of drug testing had been undermined by the suspension of the award of additional days as an Orderly Room punishment.

A new clinical manager had been appointed in the Health Centre and all nursing vacancies, including mental health had been filled. Some nursing support was also being given to HMP Edinburgh, which had acute staffing difficulties. It appeared, however, that new staff were being paid at a higher rate than their predecessors – an anomalous situation which was a cause of discontent.

The number of misconduct reports was low, but it was perceived that the suspension of ADAs could have been a factor in recent damage to cells. Concern was expressed that some accommodation areas did not meet security standards and would require substantial investment.

We spoke with a number of staff who said they were generally dissatisfied with the impact of changes to attendance patterns. Though they had accepted the need for change, they said there had been few, if any benefits for prisoners or staff. As mentioned above, staff shortages due to a high turnover had resulted in limitations to the regime while concerns were expressed that there were insufficient staff to deal with the unexpected.

Staff sickness levels were higher than forecast with long term sickness a particular difficulty. This was impacting on a number of areas, including the staff training and development programme. As a result, the percentage of staff who met core competencies such as control and restraint was lower.

In summary, we were encouraged to note that a number of positive initiatives were being taken forward but were concerned that some worrying trends were also emerging, particularly continuing high prisoner numbers, limitations to the regime due to staff shortages and growing drug misuse at a time of uncertainty and change.

HMP Perth

Formal inspection January 2002 (previous intermediate inspection November 2000)



HMP Perth

While the previous formal inspection of HMP Perth had focused on one establishment, this latest inspection was in effect an examination of two sites as it included what was formerly HMP Friarton.

Located a mile away, Friarton had lost its independent management team as part of the prison reduction and rationalisation exercise conducted in 1999. It now operates as a satellite hall for the main prison, specifically to prepare prisoners for open conditions.

The concluding remarks of the previous formal inspection report had recognised that after many years of neglect, substantial improvements were being made to the accommodation areas in Perth. Nevertheless, the prison was some 50% overcrowded at that time, with the closure of one hall for refurbishment coinciding with an increase in prison numbers. The standard of accommodation was disappointing and in 'C' Hall where there was an unwieldy mix of remand and convicted prisoners, basic conditions were described as "disgraceful". In addition 10 suicides, 2 homicides and 4 other deaths in custody had been recorded in the previous 4 years, whilst the number of prisoner on prisoner assaults was at an all time high. Other incidents were helping to convey a turbulent image and separately there were serious concerns about health care standards.

Following this, robust measures were taken by the Governor to reduce prisoner violence and drug abuse. Improvements were also made to the Health Centre, and within a year, by the time of the first intermediate report, considerable steps forward had been taken. This was further assisted by the reopening of 'B' and 'D' Halls which relieved pressure on overcrowding.

Over subsequent years further improvement has taken place, such that on this latest occasion (with the notable exception of 'C' Hall), it was hard to recognise Perth as the same prison which was inspected in 1997. We were particularly impressed by the professionalism and dedication of the staff throughout the prison. Looking to the future we endorse the Governor's plan for a reconfiguration of the entire layout of the main site, which will include a new industrial complex, health centre, and adjustments to the catering facility and various Halls.

Safety

There were no major concerns, with the Health Centre now operating as an effective unit (though there is a need to re-site the hospital which acts as a 'hub' for all North Eastern prisons). In the past 3 years there has been a reduction in the number of cases of suicide whilst levels of violence are much lower than they were five years ago.

Decency

It was especially pleasing to note that conditions for remand prisoners, who had been moved from 'C' to a refurbished 'A' Hall, were now far more appropriate to their legal status; in addition these prisoners have access to a much more imaginative and structured regime than was previously the case. Though 'C' hall has been redecorated, its old gallery type structure, and lack of integral sanitation and in cell electrical power indicate that fundamental restructuring is long overdue. In addition its mainly short-term occupants are exposed to a very limited regime. The new Segregation Unit is, however, quite excellent.

Crime Prevention

We were largely encouraged by the efforts that management are now devoting to helping reduce future crime, particularly in the areas of sentence management and offending behaviour programmes (though a better balance needs to be struck between the demands of KPIs and the actual needs of prisoners). We also noted that in respect of staffing levels, Perth appears to be properly resourced (though the design of its old buildings tends to place high demands on its workforce). On the other hand, the main workshops are dated and conditions are poor, and therefore do not properly prepare prisoners for release (whereas in Friarton there are 'state of the art' efficiency workshops, following recent investment – see over).

Our main concern largely centres around short term prisoners who are not only housed in poor conditions, but have little opportunity by way of programmes to address their offending behaviour,



(especially drug misuse – for which many have a depressing history long before their arrival in custody). This latter aspect needs to be addressed, and in this respect we would hope that the imminent provision of Cranstoun Drug Service workers will help. More work places need to be found for short-term prisoners as well.

Generally, the regime for those in Friarton Hall preparing for open conditions was found to be satisfactory – though with more focus and clarity of purpose, this could be a quite excellent facility.

HMP Barlinnie

Unannounced visit as at 29 August 2001 (previous formal inspection May 1997)



HMP Barlinnie

During this visit we were, for once, much more encouraged than usual by what was found. In particular the workshops were busy, with staff delivering a generally busy and purposeful regime, against a backdrop of 30% overcrowding and a high demand for escorts. The establishment was also 35 staff under complement.

Whilst there was some grumbling and cynicism amongst staff about revised attendance patterns, others seemed relatively pragmatic about the immediate future. We assessed that the recent refurbishment construction work to 'B' Hall appeared to have rekindled some optimism.

We were also encouraged to note other successful initiatives, more notably the kitchen cleaning party, drug detoxification, time in fresh air, recreation, PT and some limited work opportunities being made available to remands.

There were, however, some fundamental concerns about the establishment, not least of which was the number of LTPs who were subject to a wholly inappropriate regime. The establishment has nothing much to offer these prisoners other than better family contact and they ought to be moved to the properly established long term prisons, as soon as possible.

The prison seemed cleaner than on previous visits, but conditions for the majority of prisoners, and especially for remands were, to say the least, squalid⁹.

Overall, however, we left the establishment in a mood of guarded optimism.

HMP & YOI Cornton Vale

Formal inspection May 2001 (previous intermediate inspection January 2000)



HMP & YOI Cornton Vale

During the previous formal inspection the prison was found to have been seriously affected by the growing number of drug damaged and drug abusing women. This was especially the case in the Health Centre and remand hall, where there had been a spate of tragic suicides. Some basic conditions and opportunities were lacking and in addition there were some concerns about security. The amount and range of work available for female prisoners was held to be wholly inadequate and inappropriate. Education facilities were poor and there were no structured offending behaviour programmes or pre-release arrangements. The combination of a range of difficulties had become overwhelming, to the extent that management and staff were described as "struggling to meet the daily requirements of the prisoners". At that unhappy time the overall conclusion was that the establishment was fulfilling its basic requirements for custody, but little else.

⁹ Conditions for remands were considerably upgraded however when 'B' Hall re-opened in March 2002, and it is expected that 'C' Hall will be refurbished to a similar standard in due course.

Subsequent intermediate inspections had noted a plethora of structural and organisational changes and by 2001 these had resulted in the transformation of almost every area in the prison, with improvements in the remand hall assessed as being quite exceptional.

Safety

There were no major concerns. Developments in the new Health Centre, including the approach taken by staff, encouraged the view that a centre of excellence in the care of women who offend was being established. There had been a dramatic reduction in the number of incidents of self harm – 115 cases in 1999, falling to 72 in 2000 with only 13 recorded this year at the time of this inspection (May 2001)¹⁰. Levels of violence were also very low.

Decency

It was pleasing to note that conditions for remand prisoners were appropriate to their legal status, and were arguably the best conditions for remand prisoners anywhere in the SPS. It is also most encouraging that these previously disadvantaged individuals are now being offered some work opportunities and a more imaginative and structured regime, a situation which, regrettably, is the exception rather than the rule in Scotland. Overcrowding, however, has resulted in restricted access to sanitation facilities for convicted prisoners in Bruce House.

Crime Prevention

Understandably, in recent years the main focus had been on safety and decency. Nevertheless, we consider that the main focus for future improvement needs to be in the area of addressing offending behaviour and we were encouraged to note improvements in the range of activities and programmes now available. The number of outside agencies working to help prisoners prepare for release has also increased. It is now appropriate that priority should be given to reducing the number of future victims of crime and breaking the cycle of repeated offending especially in the short to medium term sentence range, although the throughput of short term prisoners militates against sustained changes in offending behaviour. The range of options for the management of long term women prisoners is constrained by operating on a single site and it was particularly disappointing to find that there are still no open prison places for women offenders.

While much has been achieved, what has not changed is the condition of the women arriving at the prison gates, many of whom have a long history of physical and mental abuse, and problems which are rooted in poverty. If anything, their condition is even worse than in 1996 - and they are getting younger. Additionally, of some 2000 admissions last year, it is depressing to find that around 90% will have taken illegal substances before arrival in prison though it is a tribute to the work of staff and hugely encouraging to note that the positive random mandatory drug testing rate is as low as 11%.

It was also evident that after a relatively short time in Cornton Vale the physical condition of most prisoners begins to improve markedly. Thus, not only is this establishment providing secure custody; it is also acting as a "casualty clearing station", psychiatric ward, and addictions clinic. On top of that staff are having to handle exceptionally high numbers of prisoners. Indeed, at the time of inspection, projections made by the prison indicated that numbers could rise to over 300 by the end of September 2001¹¹.

It is now recognised by many that the problems which some women prisoners face are unlikely to be resolved by imprisonment. The provision of credible and reliable alternatives to custody in communities across Scotland for petty offenders is, therefore, what the prison now needs most. This would relieve much of the pressure and allow staff properly to address the behaviour of the relatively small number of more serious or persistent criminals, for whom imprisonment is the most appropriate punishment.

¹⁰ Tragically, there were 2 suicides on 24 and 29 October 2001.

¹¹ In fact, the figure reached 251 at the end of September.

HMP Greenock

(As at 5 February 2002 - previous formal inspection January 2001)

HMP Greenock



A new Governor, the third in as many years, had been appointed and at the time of inspection had been in post for approximately 6 months. However, as we arrived it was announced that he would shortly be leaving the Scottish Prison Service to take up post in the private sector.

On the day of our visit, the prison held 316 prisoners against an available capacity of 254, which represents overcrowding in the order of 23%. Of these, 129 prisoners were on remand, 59 were serving short term sentences, whilst 128 were long term prisoners. A large number of the latter are mandatory life sentence prisoners, for whom a major current issue is how the application of the Convention Rights (Compliance) (Scotland) Act 2001, which involves the setting of a punishment tariff to their life sentence, is likely to impact on them. However, there was evidence from the Governor's presentation and from discussions with the Lifer Liaison Officer that attempts would be made to provide unambiguous information and support during this potentially unsettling process.

In his briefing at the start of the inspection, the Governor outlined the prison's business priorities for the coming year. We were pleased, for example, to hear that sentence management and increased work opportunities for short term prisoners were planned, these having been the subject of considerable criticism in previous years. Given that 82% of admissions have a serious drug habit, we were further encouraged to hear that there was to be an increase in the number of drug workers in the prison.

Further encouragement was provided by the building of the new £1.7 million Throughcare Centre, whose construction is now well advanced. This will also provide accommodation for the Social Work Unit who have previously been forced to work from cramped portacabins. Additionally the new facility will transform prisoner reception facilities, which have long been held to be inadequate.

General

The first thing which struck us, (as it has on many previous occasions) was the generally good relationships which appear to exist between staff and prisoners. Many of the staff to whom we spoke,

more especially in 'A' Hall, displayed a most positive and enthusiastic attitude. Another example was the MDT officers, who have adopted a flexible approach to their attendance patterns in order that they can apply a rigorous and effective testing system. Likewise, the PT department was creative in providing a wide range of programmes. These not only offered a diverse range of activities for prisoners and staff but also supported other aspects of sentence management and regime development. Meanwhile, most members of staff said they were largely content with the new attendance patterns, which appeared to suit both the operational requirements of the establishment and their personal circumstances. Generally, staff morale seemed better than had been encountered over the last year in other SPS establishments.

Safety

There had been no suicides or attempted suicides during the reporting period, which was hugely encouraging, given the very distressing rate which had built up during previous years. This is despite the fact that there has been little or no change to the impoverished and drug damaged background of individuals from the surrounding community, and improvement could be testimony to the combination of many factors. These include better induction and detoxification arrangements, the role of listeners, and of course, the professionalism of individuals/staff members; in cell TV may also be exerting some positive influence. We were further re-assured to find that mental health nursing expertise had been building up in the Health Centre and that, for once, staffing levels in this area, were relatively stable.

There had been one Category B escape from an escort in the past year¹², and 3 serious prisoner on prisoner assaults against a target of 2. There had, however, been no serious staff assaults to date.

A considerable amount of work concerned with health and safety issues was also ongoing: for example, PT staff were running certificated manual handling courses. Reportable accidents were also being analysed to ascertain probable causes and working practices altered to eliminate or reduce the number of incidents. (6 this year so far, against a target of 4). Separately, we noted that staff sickness levels were lower than in most other prisons.

Decency

Greenock has 100% access to night sanitation and most cells are in reasonable condition, though we continued to find that there were areas where there was dampness (particularly on west facing buildings, though management said they were attempting to find solutions).

Immigration Detainees were no longer being held in large numbers in 'A' Hall, and we were pleased with developments in the regime for prisoners held in this hall, where we detected a generally "good" atmosphere. Prisoners were now being provided with an acceptable standard of regime, and this included electronic power in cells on a 24 hour basis. The opportunity for drug free areas along with its corresponding incentives is also a significant factor in helping to address community drug problems, whilst the four recent Cranstoun Drug Addiction Services (Scotland) appointments are expected to provide further significant enhancements.

We found that family visits were taking place within a relaxed and non-threatening environment. We were, however, told that the crèche facility, having been "outsourced" was only available Friday to Sunday. At the time of our visit, this area had no toys or video to occupy restless children, whereas with a little imagination it should be possible to provide some form of activity. We were told that plans were in place to reinvigorate the role of the FCDO, though we were less certain of actual outcomes at present. Nevertheless, staff in the visits area appeared to be courteous and helpful.

We continue to have some concerns about security surrounding the visiting arrangements, and these have been raised separately with the Governor.

¹² This had led to the dismissal of 2 prison officers.

Crime Prevention

At the time of the last formal inspection, we had concerns that the newly opened Darroch Hall was not properly handling those prisoners who had been returned from the open estate for drug misuse. This was no longer the case. Now, when a prisoner returns, he is required to sign an agreed plan of action aimed at eventual return to open conditions. In addition, determinate sentenced prisoners are now given only two chances to return to open conditions from Darroch Hall, this sending the clear message that recreational drug use will not be tolerated in open (or any) conditions. Comprehensive sentence management folders are also now in place, with regular case conferences being convened.

We saw evidence of improvements in addressing offending behaviour; for example against a target of 28 programmes (14 Cognitive Skills and 14 Anger Management) 20 had already been completed.

In addition, there were ambitious plans to increase the number of outside placements, whilst it was also intended to bid for more prisoner learning hours. Hopefully, the combination of initiatives such as these will help free up more work opportunities amongst the short-term and remand population.

We were, however, concerned to note that some staff had been employed in Chrisswell House for several years, and were hoping to remain there. Nevertheless, we would suggest that there ought to be much more regular staff "ventilation" in this hall, in order to avoid the dangers of stagnation and "conditioning".

Conclusions

The efforts of various Area Directors, and various Governors would appear to have culminated, in 2002, in a much safer prison than was found in 1995; there is room now, for example, for cautious optimism over suicide rates. Conditions for prisoners and staff are uniformly decent, whilst the establishment would appear to be contributing in a far more positive way towards crime reduction. The latter includes better assessment of need and treatment of illegal drug abuse amongst prisoners from the surrounding community. Further improvements can still be expected, but given sound future management, together with good ongoing staff morale, this really would seem to be achievable.

HMP Kilmarnock

Intermediate inspection March 2002 (previous formal inspection March 2000)



HMP Kilmarnock

The previous intermediate inspection had highlighted the need for management to more effectively address the range of regime options available to tackle offending behaviour and, in particular, issues connected with drug misuse. In addition, reference was made to the lack of flexibility arising from a static set of performance measures and indicators, as these appeared to be restricting management from developing new opportunities for prisoners, especially as needs in the wider community changed.

On this latest occasion and as mentioned in all previous inspections, we found that staff attitudes and co-operation with prisoners were quite excellent. Undoubtedly, this is the hallmark of Kilmarnock, and is one of the lessons that some other establishments could more uniformly adopt. A number of significant changes had also taken place since the last intermediate inspection, some of which are shown below.

Changes and Issues since last Intermediate Inspection

- A new temporary Director had been appointed in October 2001, although he was due to be replaced by a former SPS Governor on 1 May 2002.
- There had been a commendable reduction in the rate of staff turnover. The previous inspection had reported a turnover in the order of 32% - three times the rate in other prisons, which had given rise to anxieties about whether a core of staff could be built up, or enough experience gained to properly challenge prisoners. By the time of this latest inspection staff turnover had been reduced to 14%. Reasons given for this included a modest pay increase and steps being taken towards an improvement in working hours

(until recently staff at Kilmarnock had been working an average of 45 hours per week). Hopefully, turnover can be reduced further as currently it is still the highest in the SPS.

- There had been an apparent welcome drop in MDT figures from 23% to 15%.
- Previously, staff had reported that they felt isolated from other SPS establishments. We were pleased, therefore, to find that management and staff were now more positive about the co-operation received from other prisons.
- We were told that weekly earnings for prisoners had been reduced from as much as £45 per week for some to an average of around £18 per week (public sector average = £8). Even so, it was apparent that a large number of orderly room appearances centred around prisoner refusals to work.
- The prison was operating 13 staff under complement at the time of inspection which was adding considerable pressure to an already difficult staffing situation (i.e. previously described by those at Kilmarnock as being “far from generous”¹³).
- In the last report the Health Centre was described as going “from strength to strength”. Regrettably, on this latest occasion, we found that there had been a very high turnover amongst nursing staff and the first appointed Health Centre Manager had left. It appeared to us that existing staff were struggling to deliver what was required.
- As encountered elsewhere in the prison estate, we found that many lifers were uncertain about the impact of the new prisoner supervision system due to be implemented on 1 April 2002. In order to address these concerns, a number of focus groups had been arranged and individuals had been offered the opportunity to speak directly to the LLO or his Deputy. Lifers were also concerned about returning to court to have their “punishment tariff” set following the introduction of the Convention Rights (Compliance) (Scotland) Act 2001. The Chairman of the Parole Board and a member of staff of the Life Sentence Review Division had visited the establishment to address these concerns.

Safety

The number of deaths in custody seemed to be on the increase - possibly at a higher rate than elsewhere. There had been 5 deaths since last March, whereas across all SPS establishments throughout the previous year there had been a total of 16. Equally, we recognise that many prisoners admitted to the establishment, and especially short term prisoners from the local area, will tend to suffer from a wide range of problems on arrival.

Custody officers claimed that staffing levels could at times be dangerously low, especially in ‘A’ wing and at weekends. They said that 2 members of staff had been assaulted over the past year whilst there had also been a large number of less serious incidents. We sensed generally that staff seemed to be even more concerned about safety than they had been a year ago (and being under complement could also have contributed to this). Examples were cited where it was impossible to arrange relief cover for toilet breaks, meaning that prisoners were left unsupervised, except by CCTV, during these periods.

Staff felt that risk assessments should be carried out before officers were re-deployed from residential areas. In particular they felt that ‘A’ Wing should be one of the last areas from which staff were re-deployed to escorts or other duties.

Prisoners also said that they had noted a turnover of staff, particularly in ‘A’ wing. They said that this area was more challenging than any other, and that this was the result of staff leaving the job.

It appeared that in the past 12 months the number of incidents of prisoner on prisoner violence had almost doubled. There had also been 26 fires in the establishment compared with 41 across the rest of the estate.

¹³ We were informed, in June 2002 that the prison had been brought up to complement.

Decency

We found all areas of the prison to be relatively clean, and conditions for prisoners were found to be decent. The standards for remand prisoners compared favourably with the best found elsewhere in the SPS.

This was, however, in direct contrast with the conditions for staff, which left a lot to be desired. Some – if not most – custody officers were having to operate from very cramped conditions, and this is unlikely to change, as these relate to the original design of the establishment. In addition, while staff facilities had been improved since the first inspection, staff seemed to be using them very rarely.

Crime Prevention

Kilmarnock maintains an unblemished record on escapes, and in this respect is fully meeting public expectations.

Much as in previous inspections, the main concerns centred round the lack of quality opportunities available for prisoners to address their offending behaviour. The drug strategy was also found to be somewhat superficial and unco-ordinated. Meanwhile prisoners criticised the sentence management system, claiming that it too was superficial and lacked a proper action plan. We found there was some substance to these views, and also found the Personal Officer scheme was not working effectively, largely due to a lack of continuity in staffing on individual wings. More fundamentally, the requirement to work meant that opportunities to take part in the various programmes were tending to be segmented. In addition, unlike most other establishments – for example Polmont and Peterhead – such programmes were being delivered by psychologists rather than by custody officers. Arrangements such as these may limit further important interaction on offending behaviour between prison officers and prisoners in the residential wings.

Conclusions

Kilmarnock continues to provide secure custody and decent conditions for its prisoners. Nevertheless, there is a danger that its regime development could be restricted, particularly in areas such as sentence management and addressing drug misuse. In this respect Kilmarnock may not be delivering a holistic “correctional programme” as is now being pursued in other prisons in the system. If adjustments are not made to those parts of the contract which could be hindering delivery in these areas, there is a danger that Kilmarnock could fall behind.

It is our intention to mount a full formal inspection within the next 18 months, when hopefully adjustments will have been made to the contract, enabling what was initially an innovative prison to progress.

YOUNG OFFENDERS INSTITUTIONS

HMYOI Glenochil

Intermediate inspection September 2001 (previous formal inspection February 1996)

HMYOI Glenochil



A formal inspection of HMP and YOI Glenochil has been delayed on three occasions to allow for changes in Governor, strategic planning in the light of the rationalisation of the prisons estate (and subsequent estates review) together with changes in staff attendance patterns. Nevertheless, we have maintained contact with the establishment through a series of informal visits, together with an intermediate inspection of the prison and YOI, which took place in January 2001.

We have, however, been concerned that in our inspections of the establishment, the YOI may not have received quite the degree of attention and focus that its population and staff deserve, due to the priority afforded to the adult prison. On this occasion, therefore, we concentrated our focus on conditions and regime opportunities for the 106 young men in the YOI.

A new unit manager had recently been appointed as an interim measure and was clearly coming to grips with addressing the atmosphere of inertia, frustration and anxiety which had been noted at the time of our last visit in January. We found that a structured induction programme was in place but, as yet, there had been little tangible progress in addressing outcomes. We were, however, greatly encouraged to note that plans were being taken forward to deliver a number of relevant programmes to address offending including anger management, cognitive skills, drugs awareness and car crime, with plans to develop parenting skills, citizenship and health awareness.

Analysis of the information gathered during the induction process had identified issues about employment, benefits and accommodation. Contact had been made with a number of agencies to deliver on a regular basis a range of appropriate services in the YOI, including mock job interviews, access to welfare benefits and the Rough Sleepers Initiative.

As already indicated above, the priority for delivery of programmes and activities to address offending at Glenochil has mainly been directed towards adult prisoners. This has, we believe, contributed to a corrosive mixture of apathy, scepticism and frustration among staff in the YOI. We were pleased, therefore, to note growing commitment and momentum in addressing the needs identified at induction and which should contribute to some reduction in future crime on release.

The proportion of young offenders regularly engaged in purposeful activity was significantly higher than had been found elsewhere. A tracking system was in place and this demonstrated during inspection that 90% of the YO population were engaged in purposeful, out of cell activity. (A check of the records showed that this was not an exceptional performance.) It was encouraging also to note that changes to the type of work provided in the Multi-Purpose Party were welcomed both by the YOs and instructors. The Industrial Cleaning party had contributed to a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the establishment, while the work carried out by the Gardens party had created a brighter and more 'optimistic' atmosphere.

Facilities for young offenders however, remained austere compared to those found at HMYOI Polmont - there is no electrical power in cell, for example, and the YO population does not have access to in cell TV. We were told that plans were at an advanced stage to provide a number of hand held computer games in lieu and that YOs would shortly be issued with flasks to allow them to make themselves a hot drink during the periods of lock up. (We welcome these initiatives, but question why it has taken so long to action them.)

The capacity of the YOI had been reduced to reflect the general reduction of YO numbers with two flats in 'B' wing out of use. Following a major disturbance on the evening of the unofficial strike by prison staff in April, two flats in 'C' wing were seriously damaged and were still out of use at the time of this inspection. Consequently, the accommodation in 'B' wing has been re-occupied but it is plain (as it has been for years) that the fabric of this building is not robust enough to provide secure accommodation. Restoration of the two flats to the same standard as before will not in our opinion, wholly ensure the security of prisoners or the safety of staff.

Regrettably, the delay in carrying out repairs, added to the generally limited facilities and lack of access to adequate sanitation, confirming the view of many staff members that the YOI at Glenochil is of a very low priority.

At the time of our last inspection in January, it had been hoped that the planned introduction of process management and revised attendance patterns would reduce the sense of isolation felt by the YOI staff and also promote some optimism about the future. Unfortunately, delays have occurred and major changes in proposed attendance patterns have been required, all of which has stalled progress. Early resolution of these uncertainties is essential, if the establishment is to deliver anything more than 'containment.'

More importantly, what is still required, is the development and implementation of an integrated national policy for the management of young offenders - who amount to 13% of the overall prison population, and over 30% of the remand population.

HMYOI Dumfries

Unannounced visit as at 22 August 2001 (previous formal inspection May 1999)

HMYOI Dumfries



During this unannounced visit it was encouraging to find that there had been further progress in developing the regime. At long last, young offenders were found to be being engaged in extended periods of purposeful activity.

The temporary closure of 'C' Hall had made available about 10 extra staff and these were deployed on a range of tasks including working up elements of a national policy for young offenders (e.g. induction programme etc.) The closure had also resulted in changes in the population mix; on the day of our visit there were 57 long term young offenders out of a total population of 124.

Additionally, we were impressed by the enthusiasm and flexibility of the Activities staff. They were taking forward plans to provide a more purposeful and active regime to meet the needs of local prisoners, as well as planned improvements in throughcare.

Staff morale, which only a year ago had been described as being as low as any we had encountered, had continued to improve. This could be due to a greater degree of certainty about the short to medium term future, though the sustained efforts of the management team must also have been a factor. (Revised attendance patterns were the subject of some grumbling, but we were encouraged by what seemed to be a much more pragmatic approach from the local branch of the POA(S).)

Education services appeared to be making steady progress as were the medical services (we were told, however, that the amount of prescribing had risen markedly).

Following some initial turbulence and disruption, the delivery of new social work service arrangements had also become more settled.

HMYOI Polmont

Intermediate inspection December 2001 (previous formal inspection May 1998)



HMYOI Polmont

In the report of the 1998 formal inspection one of our main findings had been that 25% of the prisoner population was locked up for most of the day, many of them apparently doing nothing. Subsequent inspections in November 1999 and in November 2000 had also noted that a considerable proportion of the population was still not engaged in any purposeful activity. We were told that this was because the regime often had to be restricted in order to meet the conflicting manpower needs for court escorts, some of which could be at extremely short notice. During the course of these inspections some suggestions were provided to help alleviate such difficulties.

Nevertheless, a further unannounced visit in July 2001 found that the regime was still restricted and there was considerable discussion about what might constitute a purposeful and full day. We were assured that following the new staffing attendance structure, regime staff would not need to be redeployed on escort duties. This was expected to lead to a significant improvement.

Further discussions took place at Polmont on 5 September and the latest intermediate inspection was delayed until December, in order to allow new staffing arrangements to 'bed in'. Our main findings are as follows:

Safety

Although dealing with a volatile population, the number of KPI prisoner on prisoner assaults had shown an encouraging reduction and there had been no serious assaults on staff in recent months. The number of reported incidents of self harm had also reduced and the percentage of YOs testing

positive for drugs in random sampling was lower than in many other establishments. In addition, drug free areas were also now well established. Meanwhile the work of the Health Centre had been recognised by the prestigious award of a Charter Mark (as we understand it, the first prison Health Centre to be so recognised in UK).

Decency

We were pleased to find that work had (at last) commenced on the new house-block (which will provide over 200 places) and we were told that completion was due in Spring 2003. Amongst other considerations this will mean an end to the use of porta potties for the current population of Spey and Argyll Blocks.

Crime Prevention

We noted that many initiatives relating to programmes, induction, and addictions work were continuing to improve. The YOI has established a number of excellent partnerships with external agencies and several innovative throughcare initiatives were also in place, with others being developed. The "adapted STOP 2000" programme for sex offenders had also started on 19 November 2001 and was running for a total of ten prisoners each weekday afternoon. Separately, a highly enthusiastic group of Physical Education Instructors were delivering a variety of programmes to a commendable standard. This was helping to alleviate boredom amongst young offenders, whilst their efforts were also reducing the pressures on residential staff.

Nevertheless, we were told that there was insufficient relief cover in the regimes complement to ensure that all the workshops could be open on every weekday. For example, on the morning of our inspection the prisoner population was 452, of which just over half – 247 were engaged in some form of activity. Nor could some of this be described as productive, e.g. the level of external cleanliness would seem to indicate that not all hall passmen were being fully engaged. We were also disappointed to note that the VT painters and VT joiners were closed. Our greatest concern, however, was for the occupants of Lomond Hall which holds YOs under the age of 18. On the day of inspection less than 60% were involved in out of cell activities, with Hall staff expressing major concerns that the regime was neither robust or attractive enough to engage this impressionable group.

As we have said on numerous occasions, everything should be done to fill young offenders' time with activity which might lead to future social responsibility, and above all, to less crime. Consideration must therefore be given to creating activities to prevent any prisoner from lying in his cell watching television or playing computer games during the working day. Better pay differentials for prisoners might also help - at present a wage of around £5.40 is paid to those for whom there is no work, whereas only £6.50 is paid to those who do.

LONG TERM PRISONS

HMP Glenochil

Intermediate inspection March 2002 (previous formal inspection February 1996)



HMP Glenochil

The new Governor, in outlining her vision for the establishment, said that she was currently engaged in a “back to basics approach”. A cohesive strategy for the future would be built from this, much of which would demand ongoing co-operation from staff.

The prison had recently adopted new staff attendance patterns and though there had been some difficulties in the lead up to their introduction, they were no longer seen as problematic. Nevertheless, Glenochil has traditionally suffered from high staff sickness levels, and though some of the long-term absence had been reduced, we found that the establishment still had the third highest level of sick absence in the SPS.

During the course of the inspection the Estates Review was published and presented to staff. The immediate impression gained was that staff felt that Glenochil had a secure future; however they expected further investment in its fabric to make the prison more flexible and adaptable.

We witnessed good staff/prisoner relationships throughout the prison, whilst first-line managers appeared to be a particularly strong group, leading by example and setting high standards for others to follow.

More recently the prison had secured the services of two Cranstoun Drug Services (Scotland) workers and a full-time addictions nurse. The Social Work Unit was also described as being “very focused”.

Safety

From April 2001 until the end of February 2002 there had been one serious assault on a member of staff and eight serious prisoner-on-prisoner assaults. Incidents of self-harm were, however, relatively low, with nine incidents recorded during that period. There had been no suicides within the last year, though two incidents had been recorded as attempted suicide. Adjudications were found to be on a par with Perth and approximately half those recorded at Kilmarnock or Shotts.

Separately, we formed the impression that the Health Centre had been struggling in recent months to deliver the high standards of care which it had previously set itself. Nevertheless, prisoners were still receiving a more than adequate service and staff had a high awareness of and sensitivity towards blood borne diseases.

Decency

The prison records 100% access to night sanitation. Nevertheless, although the standard of internal cleanliness was found to be reasonable, it was disappointing to see rubbish littering areas below the windows of the residential areas. Some re-decoration was taking place at the time of inspection and the newly opened employment centre was due to be re-furnished. It was also pleasing to see that considerable investment had been made in new staff facilities.

Crime Prevention

A relatively low positive mandatory drug rate (19%), was reported, whilst management and staff appeared to be proceeding with a well focused approach to crime prevention through careful sentence management arrangements. These had also been combined with a rigorous approach to induction and needs and risk assessment. The site was accredited for programme delivery and staff were obviously proud of their work in this area. In addition, sentence management records were comprehensive and supported by impressive documentation. We were told, however, that the criteria for the anger management programme were overly prescriptive and prevented many prisoners from being selected. Indeed much staff time was spent assessing prisoners who subsequently failed to be selected. Attendance at the workshop efficiency scheme could restrict prisoners' attendance at education. It was also felt that Vocational Training did not attract investment similar to that given to the workshop efficiency scheme.

We were, however, disappointed at the number of prisoners found "behind their doors" during the working day. We were told that a combination of factors was responsible for this. The wage structure would appear to be in need of review and prisoners seem to be disadvantaged if they attend education or if their security category dictates the work opportunities available to them. A "timetable" approach might help to resolve some of these difficulties but more work needs to be done to address various anomalies; at present there seems little incentive to gain vocational skills and qualifications.

Summary

Following publication of the Estates Review staff felt encouraged that the prison's future was secure and we found that staff/prisoner relationships were sound. The prison is dedicated to crime prevention and new structures are carefully being put in place to support this aim. However, a balance needs to be struck between the different elements of this, including equity of access to education, work and programmes.

HMP Peterhead

Intermediate inspection 25-26 March 2002 (previous formal inspection September 1995)



HMP Peterhead

The previous intermediate inspection (July 2000) had concluded that any major decision about the future of Peterhead should be predicated by its impact on the integrity and effectiveness of the STOP programme and other interventions aimed at reducing the number of future victims of crime. The report also observed that the key question was whether the STOP programme at Peterhead could be successfully transferred elsewhere, and that this should involve wide consultation with organisations concerned with the management of sex offenders, such as the Parole Board of Scotland, Social Work Services Inspectorate, Victim Support Scotland, APEX and SACRO etc. However, over the next 20 months this consultation had not taken place and had been followed three days before this latest inspection by the publication of the Estates Review. This had recommended that consideration might be given to closing the prison and either dispersing the prisoners to establishments throughout Scotland, or transferring them to an existing Central Belt prison (but subject to further consultation).

On this latest occasion we were encouraged to find that despite the recent announcement, staff were in remarkably good heart and were, commendably, determined to continue with as professional an approach as possible: indeed it would be hard, currently, to find as resolute a group of prison officers anywhere in Scotland. Though the closure of the prison could affect many of these individuals personally, in the various exchanges we had, staff raised instead the issue of what would be lost to public safety if prisoners were to be transferred. This underscores the holistic approach to offending behaviour which has, in more recent years, gradually become a hallmark of this prison. We were not surprised to find that the prison had recently been awarded BEACON site status, as part of the 'Modernising Government Initiative'.

Even more remarkably, despite being 29.4 staff under complement, so far as were able to determine, the prison was still managing to operate in a cohesive way.

As confirmed by a wide variety of sources, it was apparent that the prison enjoyed high levels of community support.

Safety

In the years following the formal inspection of 1995 there had been a total of four deaths, two of which had occurred in hospital. Suicide is rare, the last having occurred in August 1999 (following many years without serious incident). Generally, we found that healthcare arrangements were being focused on the ailments of an increasingly ageing population.

There were relatively few incidents of violence and the prison felt safe – with both staff and prisoners confirming this. Bullying is not a feature either (whereas the levels of bullying encountered when this type of prisoner was last dispersed throughout Scotland could be severe, as were restrictions on the type of regime that could be run).

New fire escapes had recently been installed in the residential areas.

Decency

The prison was very clean and tidy, whilst its buildings had been assessed by a specialist as being in good condition. However the lack of access to night sanitation means that the prison is currently unfit for purpose; we entirely agree that reliance on porta potties is not acceptable for very much longer. Whereas it has been suggested previously that the installation of electronic locking might be a possible solution, on further investigation, we assess that the accompanying expense of having to divide halls into discrete flats might be too expensive and time consuming. Nevertheless, on this latest occasion a novel solution was suggested to us by staff. This would involve a redeployment of officers so that prisoners would be able to gain access to lavatories through the provision of an increased complement at night. Given the relatively compliant nature of this group of prisoners, who require less supervision in custody than many others, we support this as an entirely workable solution. (It would appear, therefore that the threat of closure may have concentrated minds and helped create a solution to what was previously an intractable situation.) We were also told that a small group of prisoners have been re-trained and would shortly become responsible for emptying porta potties throughout the establishment, thereby removing this task from the majority. Meanwhile we believe that electric power could be installed in cells at a relatively moderate cost (conduits have already been put in place to facilitate light switches inside cells – these could be used in parallel).

Very few prisoners raised the distance involved in visits as an issue.

What had formerly been called the Peterhead Unit had been given over to the HR Department and was being utilised as the establishment's staff training and resource centre (with the prisoners' work area connected to a gymnasium for the use of staff). Its 10 cells, which have access to night sanitation had been mothballed, but remain in operational condition. Some said this quality single story accommodation might be better used for special groups of prisoners, such as the growing numbers of older or disabled offenders (currently housed in other parts of the establishment).

As recommended previously, facilities for staff require to be upgraded.

Crime Prevention

Generally, drug misuse is not an issue (8% positive random mandatory drug tests – mainly cannabis)¹⁴.

There is a wide range of quality work available and almost all prisoners, apart from the very old and frail, work or attend classes – education facilities are also good.

The main contribution which Peterhead makes to reducing the risk of further offences is in the range and quality of its programmes. The STOP programme is targeted at addressing sex offending behaviour in a very focused and intensive way, and Peterhead has been acclaimed by many sources as a centre of excellence. Of 167 prisoners who have participated in this programme and subsequently been liberated we were told that six had been re-convicted for a further sexual offence

¹⁴ Currently the lowest in the SPS.

and that six had been recalled for a breach of licence conditions. A range of other accredited programmes are also in place to tackle offending behaviour, and in our opinion the prison is currently the best at delivering an holistic “correctional agenda”. This has been greatly reinforced by a remarkable level of staff “buy in”; something that has taken a number of years to build up.

The arrangements for sentence management are probably the best example of a systematic, cohesive and multi-disciplinary and agency approach that we have yet encountered.

Summary

Peterhead Prison provides secure custody up to ‘A’ Category status and delivers an excellent correctional and rehabilitative programme in a safe environment.

Arrangements for access to night sanitation are, however, unsatisfactory. Nevertheless, these could be resolved in the near future by a redeployment of staff, and at no extra cost. Whilst this may not be a solution for other prisons, it is possible in Peterhead because of the supervision requirements for this particular group of prisoners. This coincides with a recent willingness by some staff to challenge more traditional practices.

HMP Shotts

Intermediate inspection January 2002 (previous formal inspection November 1998)



HMP Shotts

Background

The introductory remarks which had prefaced the 1998 formal inspection report noted that “the regime has progressed considerably – indeed it was hard to recognise some of the [strong] criticisms which had been made in 1994”. Reference then had been made to the fact that Shotts contained some of the country’s most difficult, dangerous and manipulative prisoners with the concomitant need to get the right balance between control and regime restrictions.

This report went on to also observe that since the last inspection there had been a 36% increase in the number of lifers throughout the SPS, and a 57% increase in their number at Shotts. Generally, however, the report had found a safe and decent prison, and stated that the public would be reassured by what was being carried out in their name to securely hold long term prisoners and to address their offending behaviour. It was felt, however, that drug programmes could be better co-ordinated, and that pre-release arrangements needed improvement.

Separately it was recommended that priority be given to the construction of a new health centre, and on this latest visit, it was heartening to be able to tour what is now undoubtedly one of the best health centres in the SPS. A formal inspection of the health care arrangements was carried out on 11 December.

On the first day of inspection Shotts held 515 prisoners against an available capacity of 516 (design capacity of 528). Of these, 140 of these were serving a life sentence (total Scottish adult life sentence population 595). 54 prisoners were starting very long sentences in the National Induction Centre, whilst the Shotts Unit was still temporarily closed. Although some other establishments have substantial numbers of lifers, Greenock 114, Edinburgh 72, Glenochil 64, Peterhead 55, Perth 50 and Kilmarnock 40, a large proportion of Shotts prisoners are within the first few years of their sentence and there is no national "top end" to directly feed the open estate. Clearly Shotts Prison is a key establishment for the management of long-term prisoners in the SPS. It is also a complex establishment to run.

More recently there have been changes in sentencing policy as a result of the Convention Rights (Compliance) (Scotland) Act 2001. This means that a "punishment tariff" will be awarded at the time of sentence by the High Court Judge, or (importantly for Shotts) in the case of those already serving a sentence, a return to court to have the punitive part of their sentence defined. This could be upsetting for prisoners who have already served a considerable period of time, and for some the outcome could mean spending a longer period of time in closed conditions. This could have implications for the operational management of some prisoners.

In her briefing at the start of inspection, the Governor identified a number of key issues to be addressed. Key to these is to further develop sentence management to ensure that the various regime elements are playing a balanced part in the overall regime. However major changes to both the structure and composition of the senior management team had also been made during the past three months. There have been changes to the Governor, Deputy and Head of Regimes posts and three Unit Managers positions have yet to be filled. Given the complexity and importance of Shotts to the stability of the long term population, we would suggest that the vacant manager posts are filled as a matter of urgency.

Safety

In October 2001 there had been several incidents of concerted indiscipline in 'A' Hall, (which holds prisoners at the bottom of the progression system). These were contained and subsequent investigations suggested that boredom together with frustration over sentence lengths may have been contributory factors.

From 1 April 2001 until the inspection there had been 2 serious and 5 minor assaults on staff. There had also been 3 serious and 8 minor prisoner on prisoner assaults, plus 8 incidents of self-harm.

For an establishment of such complexity, these figures generally reflect sound staff/prisoner relationships and good control.

Decency

The oldest part of Shotts Prison is the NIC, which was completed for use in April 1978. A more detailed assessment of this Unit was carried out separately.

Many improvements and advances had been made to the other residential areas since the last inspection and there was clear evidence of investment in the Estate. There is 100% access to integral sanitation and all accommodation is relatively clean and decent (although some residential halls are in need of redecoration).

There were areas to the rear of 'A' and 'B' residential halls where litter and rubbish are dumped from the windows. These had recently been subject to clean up, although signs were clearly visible of "lines" being thrown over the fence.

Visits

The visit room was clean, warm and inviting with potted plants helping to minimise the institutional feel to the area. Visit sessions are held each afternoon and evening but are less busy on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and as a consequence the WRVS tea bar and the crèche are not available for these sessions. During these periods, visitors and prisoners have access to confectionery, soft drinks and tea dispensed from vending machines.

The four staff on duty in the room are not obtrusive and maintain discrete vigilance, supported by an FCDO who is always available to assist visitors with enquires. The information boards for visitors were informative and relevant.

Addressing Offending Behaviour

We assess that a number of issues need to be addressed, specifically in relation to sentence management. For example, there is a clear need to enhance the needs and risk assessment process. Work had already started in this area by devolving greater ownership to personal Officers and by de-commissioning a centrally based team in preference to Hall staff taking total responsibility. It was further recognised that a robust needs and risk assessment process was the foundation of a systematic and sequential sentence management programme for prisoners. Additionally Shotts has, over the years come to be perceived as predominantly an industrial/work based prison. There is a need, perhaps, to diversify more towards challenging offending behaviour through structured accredited and approved programmes.

This challenge is most acute amongst those prisoners on the lower end of the progression system who lack motivation and whose expectation of moving forward was seen by them and supervising staff as being low. However the most significant challenge probably lies in addressing drug misuse within the Prison. This was perceived to be on the increase, particularly with regard to consumption of opiate based substances. Hopefully, however, the imminent introduction of Cranstoun Addiction Services (Scotland) will provide a more detailed assessment of each prisoner's need and in turn the most appropriate drug intervention Programmes. Separately we were told that achieving the KPI target hours for education delivery had been difficult this year and it would seem that needs in this area ought to be reviewed.

Communications

A series of staff focus groups have been established to examine the management structure, with the intention of moving to process management. Team briefing has been reintroduced to keep staff informed by developments. Both the Governor and her Deputy are maintaining high profiles throughout the establishment on a daily basis. These, coupled with the more traditional approaches of GOB and staff meetings, seemed to ensure that staff are being kept informed. Industrial relations are, however, complicated at Shotts with the PSA union also having some members.

Summary

Overall, the general atmosphere and relationships between management and staff and staff and prisoners appear satisfactory. The senior management team seem to be coming to grips with their task and had identified the key areas which require to be addressed. However, there are three vacancies at 'F' Band level and we believe it is important that these are filled quickly. Generally, during informal contact with staff over several days, a business like atmosphere appeared to be evident. Nevertheless, the nature of the prisoner population means that this situation could always change quickly, something the senior management team are well aware of¹⁵.

The new Health Centre is a major improvement and will much better meet the needs of the establishment. The new staff facility, which includes a locker room, gymnasium, cooking and dining area, is also a welcome addition.

Future Development

Fourteen acres of land is lying vacant within the eastern perimeter and could provide a number of options for more prisoner accommodation (presumably not requiring the lengthy planning consultations which could be involved in the development of an entirely new site).

¹⁵ As evidenced by a major incident of concerted indiscipline which took place in April 2002.

OPEN PRISONS

HMP Castle Huntly

Formal inspection November 2001 (previous intermediate inspection March 2001)



HMP Castle Huntly

The previous formal inspection of HM Prison Castle Huntly had been carried out in November 1996. At that time, the prison catered for the needs of short term category 'D' offenders and was Scotland's only prison for short termers. HMPs Noranside and Penninghame, which both housed long term category 'D' prisoners made up the rest of open estate.

In the intervening period, a number of significant changes had taken place in the open estate and these have been highlighted in various intermediate inspection reports. These included the closure of HMP Penninghame in March 2000, following which its LTPs were transferred to the remaining two open prisons. Noranside then started to accept short term prisoners which has had inevitable implications for the development of two regimes to meet prisoner needs and expectations, whilst it also made limited arrangements to hold some sex offenders.

More recently it had been announced that one Governor would be taking charge of both Castle Huntly and Noranside (the newly appointed post holder was able to attend at the formal debrief of the management team, at Castle Huntly on 29 November 2001).

During this latest inspection a number of innovations were found, and with two notable exceptions, it was our view that considerable progress had been made since the time of the 1996 formal inspection. We were however hugely disappointed to discover that high levels of "recreational" drug misuse were still evident and that the workshops were largely standing empty. These are matters of concern to the general public, and who are likely to demand better returns for their investment (£18,275 per prisoner place according to local management).

The inspection was conducted under similar headings for closed prisons and our assessment is shown below:

Safety

There were no major concerns – for example, violence is not a general feature of the regime, which is very encouraging given that these same prisoners will have graduated from closed establishments, where violence levels are high. The clear indication therefore, is that open establishments can be part of a positive process which addresses inappropriate behaviour. No cases of self harm were encountered either.

Decency

We found conditions at Castle Huntly to be uniformly decent, albeit somewhat austere. Some prisoners (especially long termers) complained about having to live in dormitory conditions, whilst some indicated that recreational arrangements were inadequate.

Crime Prevention

The main focus of any open regime is the preparation of its prisoners, especially those who have served long sentences, for a return to the community. In particular individuals should be prepared in such a way that they are less likely to return to criminal behaviour on release. Elements of the regime, such as those involving work and placements in the local community or on weekend leaves include an element of testing – to see if the individual is indeed ready for a permanent return to the community. An element of reparation, via purposeful work is also a feature of this approach.

So far as work experience outside the prison was concerned we found that the arrangements at Castle Huntly were as innovative as we have found anywhere in Scotland. So too as were the general arrangements for placements in the local community in Dundee and Perth, which were extremely well supervised. Similarly we were impressed with arrangements for full time education and found that education arrangements within the establishment were above average. We were further impressed with the contribution that the Social Work Unit was making to assist individuals. Generally, we felt that management had the appropriate sense of direction required to better prepare prisoners for release.

All that said, we were extremely disappointed to find that whereas only a few months ago the work sheds and work parties had been particularly productive, for a variety of reasons most of these activities had foundered. We were not surprised, therefore, to find many prisoners complaining that they were bored. Additionally, other activities such as the gymnasium were limited due to staff being diverted to other work, or unable to cover shifts. Thus our primary recommendation and on which we have already written to the Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service is that work arrangements need urgently to be restored within the grounds of the Castle¹⁶. Coupled with this we found that levels of so called recreational drug misuse were still unacceptably high, a situation which had first been reported on in 1996. We believe that from measures must be taken to stamp out illegal drug misuse, especially in an open establishment like Castle Huntly¹⁷. Given that such misuse is criminal activity at a time when the individual is also being granted many privileges and opportunities, we would suggest a particularly stringent approach. This ought to include some form of written contract between the prisoner and local management and which is signed before arrival in the open estate.

¹⁶ These have since largely been restored.

¹⁷ Drug misuse has already dropped, according to the latest figures.

HMP Noranside

Intermediate inspection October 2001 (previous formal inspection October 1998)



HMP Noranside

The previous formal inspection of Noranside had taken place in 1998, and had resulted in a favourable report. This latest visit was the third follow up, during which time HMP Penninghame had closed, with a considerable knock on effect on the prisoner mix at both Castle Huntly and Noranside.

At the start of inspection we were briefed by the Deputy, as the Governor had recently retired (and no long term successor had yet been identified). He outlined the major issues facing the prison, which included the following: following the closure of Penninghame the effect on the regime of trying to balance the needs of long and short term prisoners; a drop in prisoner numbers and more recently the increasing trend towards illegal drug misuse.

On the day of inspection, 18 cells were out of commission in 'D' wing, which had reduced the available capacity to 117. This meant that with 92 prisoners in custody, the prison was operating at 21% under available capacity (or 35% under total capacity). There is no single reason for prisoner numbers being so low, and certainly there are enough suitable long term Category 'D' prisoners available, particularly from top-end regimes. However it would seem that prisoners were tending to opt for Castle Huntly, for a variety of reasons - not least because it is half an hour's travel time closer to the Central Belt. Another contributory factor might be that sentence management could not always be carried out early enough, or that a failed drug test dictated that individuals weren't eligible to transfer for 6 months.

We noted that whilst management at Noranside had strenuously tried to provide accurate information to top end prisons about its establishment's purpose and regime, this did not always appear to be getting down to prisoners. Consequently, some individuals arrived with expectations which did not match the day-to-day reality. We spoke, for example, to a number of prisoners who had expected to progress in open conditions, but were receiving far less family contact and lower wages than had been the case in their top end establishment. We believe, therefore that the issue of differentials between sending establishments and the open estate needs to be re-examined. There also does not appear to be any system which monitors the availability of prisoners to meet the criteria for open conditions.

Additionally, we were concerned to hear of prisoners having their release date extended (sometimes by several years) whilst at Noranside. Not only is this extremely unsettling for the individual concerned, it can also undermine the authority and credibility of local management to a considerable

degree. We realise the reasons for extending release dates and the complexity of the issue, but suggest that everything possible should be done in future to agreeing a firm release date before any individual is sent to open conditions.

There were problems associated with the mixing of LTPs and those serving less than four years. Some short-term prisoners, for example, were not eligible for home leave for several months after arriving at Noranside, whilst long termers were going home to their families on most weekends: indeed the regime does not seem to be properly designed to cope with the needs of short termers in general, and especially at the weekends.

We were, however, pleased to note that Noranside can now accommodate up to twelve sex offenders as part of their final preparation for release. Similarly the home living unit for life sentence prisoners in Cameron House is impressive. Here, prisoners were taking full responsibility for day-to-day living, which included buying food, cooking meals and cleaning. We suggest that consideration should be given to extending this facility further – perhaps to Alba House. We also found that there had been significant developments in Sentence Management and throughcare tracking to follow up on prisoners who had been released on license.

During our last full inspection in 1998 we had praised the worksheds and other employment activities for prisoners, and were pleased to find that, generally, this was still the case. The worksheds were busy and prisoners were working hard within the estate. Additionally two prisoners were attending College on a full time basis, whilst eleven work placements were available in the surrounding countryside and towns. We visited most of these and found that the placements offered a relatively wide range of experience. Nevertheless, the scheme appears to be rather loosely based and is in need of review – but later we were informed that attention would be given to identifying new placements and generally re-invigorating the scheme. (We do of course recognise the need to balance placements with the needs of running the prison regime.)

Over the last year, the positive random sample of MDT had risen from 8% to over 18%, which is extremely worrying. Suspicion tests are also now indicating a 30% positive rate, and as a result many more prisoners are now being returned to closed conditions - indeed some prisoners were being returned for the fourth or fifth time. Nevertheless we would suggest that 'zero tolerance' is the only policy which should be pursued. We do not believe that the public will tolerate the idea of individuals being released into the community with an ongoing drug problem, having enjoyed the many opportunities which exist in open conditions. We therefore suggest that the overall drug situation receives much closer analysis (for example some believe that the decision to abandon the addition of days as an Orderly Room punishment for those serving determinate sentences may be contributing to what is already an unacceptable situation).

Prior to inspection we were told by the Area Director that in the very near future one Governor would be taking overall direct responsibility for both Castle Huntly and Noranside. In effect, this reduces the number of open establishments in Scotland to one (whereas there were three only two years ago). This further wide reaching development was expected to help develop equity of regime and recruitment of prisoners in the open estate. Additionally, we were told that it would provide opportunities to make savings - through economies of scale, or by combining core management structures.

Overall, we were impressed by the standards of cleanliness throughout the prison and had no major concerns regarding either safety or decency. The establishment was also contributing to the reduction of future levels of crime in the community by testing and preparing prisoners for release. Nevertheless, we think that throughcare arrangements could be better focused and possibly restructured along the lines of those found at HMP Edinburgh.

Finally, some prisoners complained that there were still too many petty rules in force. We felt, however, that a balance has to be struck in order that appropriate standards of discipline are maintained.

LOW SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT

HMP Low Moss

Unannounced visit 31 August 2001 (previous formal inspection February 1998)



HMP Low Moss

During the course of this visit it soon became apparent that the establishment had been operating under-capacity for some time. This was said to be attributable to the resistance of prisoners across the system to be housed in dormitory accommodation - 329 prisoners were unlocked on the day of our visit, against a capacity of 375. Separately, it was reported that the revised policy of returning "unsuitable" prisoners to Barlinnie, rather than their sending establishment, had reduced the number of Kilmarnock prisoners who previously had been arriving to present difficulties on reception at Low Moss.

The spartan conditions in the dormitories were largely unchanged since our last visit, but it was disappointing to note that plans to introduce bunk beds, and which would create more floor space for recreational activities, had not been progressed (due initially to design problems followed by production difficulties at HM Prison Edinburgh, caused by staff shortages). Davidson House, however, was bright and cheery, though we noted the onset of what could prove to be serious problems of water inundation in its fabric.

We were encouraged to sense a generally safer atmosphere in the prison, the number of serious assaults now being much lower than only two years ago (when the prison was described as "Scotland's most violent").¹⁸ This profound improvement is largely held to be due to much improved leadership by management and the consequent efforts by staff to develop a greater sense of community in the dormitories. CCTV monitoring has also helped.

On the morning of our visit, there was an extremely limited regime in operation. We were told that workshops did not function on Friday afternoons and also were shut on two Friday mornings per month, in order for staff training to be carried out. We further ascertained that on most other days, there was insufficient purposeful activity in the workshops. Timetabling, or more accurately "regime rationing", had therefore been introduced, to ensure equity of access to a limited regime.

¹⁸ Regrettably there were three serious incidents of concerted indiscipline on 11 February, 17 April and 28 April 2002 resulting in considerable damage to some dormitories.

We were, however, pleased to find that a busy PT programme was being delivered and additionally, that the education provider was exceeding targets (though the latter were not needs driven, due to a lack of any effective formal induction and assessment process.)

We were further encouraged to note that some work was being taken forward in the development of partnerships with a range of community-based agencies. In due course, this should improve delivery of throughcare for prisoners.

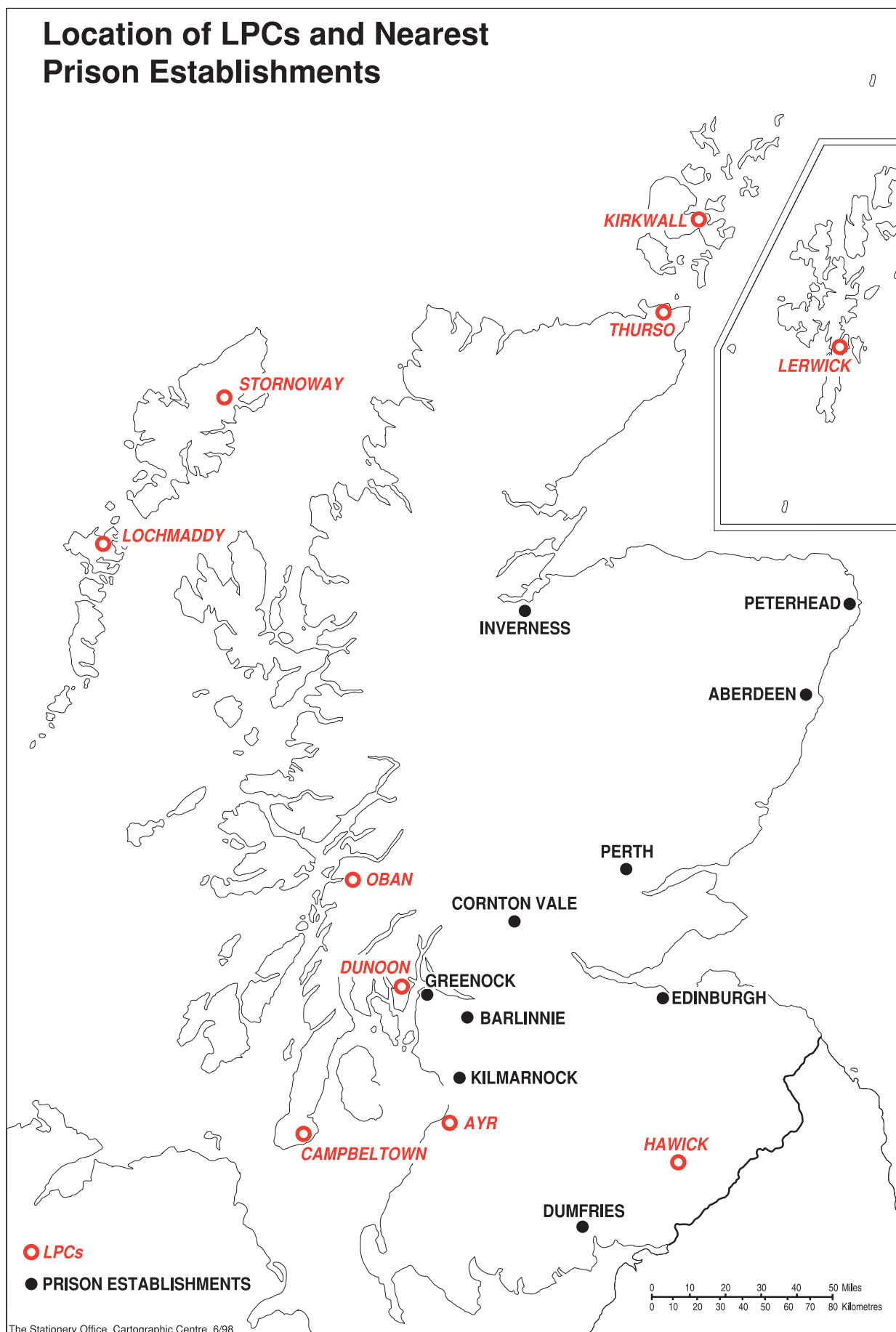
Industrial relations were as cordial and positive as we had ever encountered; revised attendance patterns had also been fully agreed and are due to be implemented in late October.

There was, however, an understandable undercurrent of anxiety about the outcome of the estates review. All to whom we spoke recognised that Low Moss simply could not exist in its present form for much longer. Unsurprisingly, the number of staff seeking transfer to other establishments was on the increase.

In summary, dormitory conditions, while still clearly unacceptable, are at least safer now than they have been for some time. The regime remains impoverished and in addition, drug misuse remains a major issue. (While we were pleased to find a detoxification programme in operation, assessments and services had suffered greatly due to the lack of a drugs co-ordinator.)

We very much welcome the construction of a new Gate area, and were told of plans for the upgrading of the Visits complex. Yet, whilst local management tried their best to be positive about the future we left the establishment feeling disappointed and unsettled. Over the years a very large number of prisoners have passed through Low Moss, yet it is only latterly that the management team and staff have really started to try and address some of the community's expectations from the correctional agenda for short term offenders. There should be far more tangible hope for the future at this particular establishment in the shape of substantial investment in buildings; as we have been saying since 1998 - possibly one or more new houseblocks on the spare ground adjacent to the workshops (similar to that which has already been erected at HMP Edinburgh).

This extremely large site is well integrated with the local community, has good road access to Glasgow, and has clear potential either for partial, gradual or even full development.



Background

Legalised Police Cells (LPCs), derive historically from the inaccessibility of the Scottish Courts in outlying districts and islands. They are used to hold prisoners awaiting trial locally in such areas or following conviction, pending transfer to a nearby prison.

Formerly there were LPCs in eleven locations, but following the opening of the Skye Bridge, cells in Portree were discontinued on 31 March 2001. The present configuration of LPCs is as shown below:-

	No. of cells as at August 2001	
	Male	Female
Kirkwall	3	-
Thurso	8	2
Lerwick	6	-
Stornoway	2	1
Lochmaddy	2	1
Oban	6	1
Dunoon	8	2
Campbeltown	6	1
Ayr	12	3
Hawick	4	1
Total	57	12

The conditions under which prisoners are held in LPCs are subject to the provisions of the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules (1994) and accordingly, they are subject to formal inspection. The Inspectorate presently undertakes inspections of the LPCs on a triennial basis. The most recent inspections took place in July and August 2001.

General Assessment

Generally, statutory requirements were being met and we were satisfied with the treatment of, and conditions for prisoners. Two formal Recommendations were made:-

- Ayr – Discussions between Strathclyde Police Force and the Scottish Prison Service should be initiated to consider the continued need for the Legalised Police Cells at Ayr.
- Dunoon – The fire door should be checked on a regular basis.

A number of Points of Note were made:-

- Kirkwall – There is an irreducible number of ligature points in the cells (reflecting the obsolete design of the cells).
- Lerwick – The area available for exercise in the open air is insecure.
- Lochmaddy – The buzzer in one of the cells was not functioning consistently.
- Stornoway – There was no record of any visits by the Visiting Committee.
- Dunoon – The call buzzer and light in cell 4 was inoperative.
- Campbeltown – The flush buttons on some of the WCs could, potentially, provide a ligature point.
- The buzzer and light panel for the female cell was inoperative.

- Discussions with the local fire brigade should be resumed with a view to regular inspections being carried out.
- Hawick
 - There is only one exit route from the cells (while this is not necessarily considered to be a serious problem, it is suggested that further advice is obtained from the local fire brigade).

Since the last inspection, Visiting Committees (VCs) have been set up in each of the LPC areas. The VCs were constituted under Rule 140A of the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Amendment Rules 1996 and each comprises three to four members. They meet regularly during the year, develop a programme of visits to the LPCs and each produces an Annual Report which is submitted to SPS.

In 1998 we drew attention to the long term viability of retaining the LPCs at Portree and Ayr in light of the opening respectively of the Skye Bridge and HMP Kilmarnock. The cells at Portree were subsequently discontinued (from 31 March 2001) but Ayr continues to operate. Given the lower occupancy rates and the fact that HMP Kilmarnock has now been running for 2 years, we recommend that discussions between Strathclyde Police Force and the Scottish Prison Service are initiated with a view to their also being discontinued.

Occupancy rates in general have fallen in most LPCs, with only Hawick and Lochmaddy showing any marked increase in use over the last three years. This factor, as well as the costs involved in maintaining the cells in some of the more remote areas, together with costs of escorts to the mainland, leads us to the conclusion that the introduction of video links might now be considered.

BEST PRACTICE

Items of best practice observed during formal inspections in 2001-2002 were as follows:-

HMP & YOI Cornton Vale (12)

Practices at HMP and YOI Cornton Vale that are commended to other establishments:-

1. Ongoing monitoring and updating of progress relating to the Recommendations and Points of Note made in previous inspection reports.
2. Prescribed medications on admission are confirmed by fax by the community prescriber.
3. Staff will retoxify individuals only if a prescriber is identified in the community – and will continue to provide prescription on release.
4. A worker from "Turnaround" is a member of the Drug Strategy Co-ordination Group.
5. Addictions Awareness Focus Groups have been established for staff and prisoners.
6. The Registered Mental Nurse is located in the reception area.
7. The introduction of a temporary administrative post to support the day to day operational arrangements for the pharmacy contract has released the registered nurses from this area of work.
8. The use of a patient's photograph attached to the prescription Kardex ensures that the patient is correctly identified when medicines are being administered.
9. Remand prisoners are offered the opportunity to work.
10. A wide range of programmes are designed or adapted specifically for the female prisoner population.
11. The Social Work Unit is proactive in its work and fully involved in wider prison issues and meetings.
12. The HR Department has produced a new Cornton Vale Staff Handbook, which complements the SPS Handbook.

HMP Castle Huntly (8)

Practices at HMP Castle Huntly that are commended to other establishments.

1. Extension of the sentence planning process to include short term prisoners (subject to them having a minimum of 12 weeks to serve before liberation).
2. The range, quality and supervision of work and community placements.
3. All prisoners were seen in groups during induction and subsequently on an individual basis within 2 weeks by the social work unit.
4. The direct telephone line from the gate to the social work unit (which should be reintroduced).
5. The Social Work Unit's daily 'open surgery'.
6. The flexibility and quality of the catering arrangements.
7. The production of support criteria for Life Sentence Prisoners awaiting the designated punishment part of their sentence.
8. The local prisoners' forum has a committee of three prisoners to raise issues and communicate concerns and ideas.

HMP Perth (8)

Practices at HMP Perth that are commended to other establishments.

1. Prisoners who are granted medical support by the Drugs Referral Team are allocated a key worker and the prisoner is informed of the decision by latest next day.
2. An occupational therapist has been made available in the prison.
3. The use of administrative staff in the pharmacy is reducing the workload on other members of the medical team.
4. Good use of officers and "runners" for the dentist meant that delays in the arrival of patients are being kept to a minimum, with waiting lists reduced.
5. Student nurses from the local University are brought into the health centre to complete a module of clinical training. This improves awareness of nursing in a prison environment.
6. In certain circumstances, a member of a life sentence prisoner's family is allowed to attend the minuted meeting, to describe how the changes to tariffs might affect them.
7. All life sentence prisoners are given a pro forma on admission on which to request a meeting with the LLO.
8. The Estates "Contractor Packs" which outline responsibilities, security concerns and health and safety regulations are both detailed and concise.

Legalised Police Cells (4)

Practices that are commended:-

- Campbeltown – the layout of the office next to the observation cell was being redesigned to allow easier viewing.
- Hawick – Separate colour coded cleaning materials in the kitchen.
 - The provision of books and other materials for ethnic minority prisoners.
 - The work of the civilian Custody Care Officers.

4 Summary of Recommendations Made in 2001-2002

Report/Recommendations

Ministerial Response

HMP & YOI Cornton Vale 22 - 29 MAY 2001

For SPS HQ/Operations Director

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. An open facility for female offenders should be established to allow females the same progression opportunities as males (paragraphs 3.3 and 7.15). | <i>Still being evaluated.</i> |
| 2. Further consideration should be given to the management on site of at-risk women in Inverness, Aberdeen and Dumfries (paragraph 6.24). | <i>Practice has changed.</i> |
| 3. A full needs assessment of arrangements for clinical psychology should be carried out, with a view to its restoration in the prison (paragraph 6.28). | <i>Being kept under review.</i> |

For Operations Director/Governor in Charge

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4. More listeners should be recruited and response times and problems associated with weekend lock up should be resolved (paragraph 4.50). | <i>Being addressed.</i> |
| 5. The layout of the reception area should be re-examined to provide more storage space for prisoners' property and ensure that the nurse's station is fit for purpose (paragraph 5.15). | <i>Agreed.</i> |
| 6. The new administrative arrangements associated with the operational needs of the pharmacy contract should be continued and funding for the post secured (paragraph 6.15). | <i>Being bid for through the normal processes.</i> |
| 7. A more flexible arrangement for discipline/escort cover on days when the dentist and psychiatrist are both in attendance should be examined (paragraph 6.33). | <i>Being addressed via new staff attendance arrangements.</i> |
| 8. Steps should be taken to introduce an audit of health care standards (paragraph 6.49) | <i>Agreed.</i> |
| 9. There should be closer scrutiny of the input from personal officers to the sentence management process to ensure reviews are conducted timeously and realistic targets agreed (paragraph 7.11). | <i>Being developed.</i> |

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 10. The assessment process should be used to set meaningful performance targets (paragraph 7.12). | <i>Not yet.</i> |
| 11. Technology should be introduced to help staff monitor banned visitor lists and provide front line security, and procedures for banned visitors should be detailed in instructions and subject to audit and inspection (paragraph 7.25). | <i>Agreed in principle.</i> |
| 12. An unambiguous searching procedure in reception should be introduced (paragraph 7.26). | <i>Agreed.</i> |

18 Points of Note were also recorded.

HMP Castle Huntly 20 - 23 November 2001

For SPS HQ/Operations Director

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. A "compact" between prisoners and the SPS should be signed, prior to transfer to open conditions which sets out clearly the rules relating to drug misuse (paragraph 4.54). | <i>Agreed (in principle).</i> |
| 2. An unambiguous protocol is established to ensure there is fairness and parity between Castle Huntly and Noranside in relation to drug free environments (paragraph 4.57). | <i>Agreed.</i> |

For Operations Director/Governor in Charge

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 3. The worksheds should be reopened and expanded (paragraph 4.13) ¹⁹ . | <i>Agreed.</i> |
| 4. As a matter of urgency, the entire drug strategy within the establishment should be re-examined (paragraph 4.62). | <i>Agreed.</i> |

19 Points of Note were also recorded.

HMP Perth 7 - 11 January 2002

For SPS HQ

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. An urgent solution is needed to ensure the complete redevelopment of 'C' Hall (paragraph 3.9). | <i>Agreed.</i> |
|---|----------------|

For Governor I/C

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 2. The second opportunity to comply when prisoners appear in the Orderly Room for MDT refusal should not be made available (paragraph 5.8). | <i>Not accepted.</i> |
| 3. Reception arrangements need urgent review (paragraph 5.11). | <i>Agreed.</i> |
| 4. More programmes and other opportunities should be developed for short term prisoners, as should more work opportunities (paragraphs 7.7 and 7.16). | <i>Agreed/agreed in principle.</i> |

¹⁹ And since implemented.

5. Visiting arrangements should be reviewed, particularly the present policy of strip searching every prisoner (paragraph 7.25)²⁰. *Agreed.*

24 Points of Note were also recorded.

Legalised Police Cells July/August 2001

1. Ayr – Discussions between Strathclyde Police Force and the Scottish Prison Service should be initiated to consider the continued need for the Legalised Police Cells at Ayr (paragraph 4.54). *SPS currently in discussion with Strathclyde Police.*

2. Dunoon – The fire door should be checked on a regular basis and if this does not ensure that the door is easily opened then the lock or, if necessary, the door must be replaced (paragraph 4.77). *Repair work has been carried out and regular checks made.*

9 Points of Note were also made.

²⁰ Already changed.

5.1 Safety

- *Secure Custody.* For the fourth successive year, the SPS record on escapes has been quite excellent
- *Deaths.* In the previous reporting year the number of deaths in custody had shown an encouraging reduction from 25 to 16 (including suicides reducing from 17 to 11). This year, there were 11 suicides (subject to FAI), whilst the total number of deaths in custody was recorded at 18.
- *Violence.* Generally, there has been an increase in the number of serious assaults amongst prisoners, more especially at Edinburgh, Kilmarnock and Aberdeen. The number of serious assaults on staff, however, has decreased. A series of incidents of concerted indiscipline have also surfaced, and whether this is due to pressures of overcrowding, problems associated with local drug supply, or the loss of the Governor-in-Charge's ability to award extra days in the Orderly Room is not yet known. (A combination of factors could well be responsible.)
- *Medical.* It was encouraging to be able to inspect a new purpose built Health Centre at HMP Shotts at the turn of the year. The new contractual arrangements for the provision of medical services seem to be operating fairly well (though there are concerns at some locations about residual effects – such as the composition of local suicide risk management and addictions fora, etc). There have, however, been further problems with the recruitment and retention of nurses, with particularly negative effects evidenced at Edinburgh and Kilmarnock. Equally, there has been a welcome further increase across the service in the number of nurses with mental health qualifications and those able to work with addictions problems.

5.2 Decency

- *Overcrowding.* As at 29 March 2002, five establishments were seriously overcrowded, as shown below (previous year in brackets):-
 - *Aberdeen* - 11% (31%)
 - *Edinburgh* - 25% (24%)
 - *Inverness* - 25% (15%)
 - *Barlinnie* - 36% (32%)
 - *Greenock* - 25% (25%)
- *Slopping Out.* The use of chemical toilets, ("porta potties") continues at Peterhead, Polmont and Glenochil YOI involving 600+ prisoners. Redeployment of staffing at night at Peterhead, at no extra cost, has been suggested as one solution for that particular establishment (i.e. this might work, but only for this particular group of prisoners and subject to careful risk assessment). Looking to the near future, it is probable that the new build at Polmont will bring this practice to an end there - and Glenochil YOI in the longer term.

- Prisoners in 'C' Hall at Perth continue to be subject to the degrading and unhygienic practice of 'slopping out', whilst a number of Halls at Edinburgh, are similarly affected (though an additional new Hall is to be built and when available should bring slopping out to less than 13% of design capacity). At Barlinnie, a further 191 WCs have been provided over the course of the year, with a further 184 forecast via the refurbishment of 'C' Hall. (However, even when the latter is completed, the majority of prisoners will still not have access to night sanitation - 54% of present design capacity, at best).
- *Prisoners on Remand.* With the long awaited refurbishment of 'B' Hall at Barlinnie, the year ended with uniformly decent conditions being made available for all remand prisoners across Scotland.

5.3 Crime Prevention

In general, the efforts which are geared towards long term offenders appear to tackle, in a rational way, some of the factors that can lead to criminal behaviour. Elsewhere, however, there are gaps:

- *Short Term Prisoners.* Little is being done for those serving short sentences, and this needs to be addressed (if only to better focus on substance misuse, including alcohol).
- *Young Offenders.* Young offenders could benefit from much sharper regime focus and more co-ordinated staff attention – particularly from specially selected staff.
- *Female Offenders.* Much has still to be done for women offenders at Cornton Vale. Similarly, offenders at Inverness, Aberdeen and Dumfries suffer from a relative paucity of regime (though most appear to prefer these arrangements, trading such negative aspects off against proximity to home).

In addition, we offer more detailed comments as follows (predicated on what might sensibly be expected to work, rather than on formal evaluation).

- *Needs and Risk Assessment.* We have been particularly impressed with what was found at Edinburgh, Glenochil and Peterhead.
- *Offending Behaviour Programmes.* The majority of establishments appear to be meeting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). A better balance could, however, be struck between the demands of KPIs and the actual needs of prisoners.
- *Drug and Alcohol Misuse.* At most local prisons some 80% of admissions are found to have taken illegal substances at the point of entry, and amongst women this figure is even more depressing (as high as 94%). This reflects some very worrying trends in communities across Scotland, though imprisonment would appear to reduce this, as evidenced by the year's random mandatory drug testing figure of 17% positive. There are also contrasting MDT results across establishments - a low of 8% at Peterhead and a high of 35% at Shotts. We welcome the introduction of Cranstoun Drug Services (Scotland) Addiction Workers (43 case workers at 11 establishments), an initiative which if properly implemented, could have a considerable effect on levels of recidivism. Nevertheless, most establishments could do more on programmes which focus on alcohol misuse.
- *Work.* In addition to the element of reparation, opportunities are inspected according to what might better prepare prisoners for work in the community. There is not always enough work, or the appropriate types of work in some prisons, but facilities at Aberdeen have been particularly poor this year. There have been problems too in the workshops at Edinburgh (created by the need for court escorts, though since the staff attendance

patterns were revised some improvement has been reported). At Glenochil there could be better co-ordination of activity in the workshops - and fewer prisoners "behind their doors"; the workshops at Perth are also dated in direct contrast to the new facilities in Friarton Hall, which are quite excellent. Polmont has also continued to suffer from court escort problems and the frequent closure of its workshops, whilst "regime rationing" appears to be in operation at Low Moss. There is not enough work for prisoners at Barlinnie, but this is being addressed through the timetabling of work and other activities. During the year we also suggested that the regimes at Kilmarnock and Shotts could be overly focusing on work.

- *Education.* Although the overall SPS KPI has been met, some establishments – for example Perth, Shotts and Glenochil – have struggled to meet the hours allocated to them in their contract. We would also like to see better incentives for prisoners to attend education.
- *Staff Interaction.* Some offending behaviour programmes are delivered by psychologists or other specialists as well as uniformed staff. However positive behavioural change amongst prisoners may also take place during 'out of hours' time, with prison officers acting in effect as "role models". This was found to be particularly impressive during the recent inspection of Peterhead.
- *Preparation for Release/Throughcare.* Much work has still to be done at most establishments. However, we commend the well established throughcare arrangements at Edinburgh and the new facilities which have been created at Polmont and Greenock.

5.4 Outlook

Whatever solutions are implemented following public consultation on the Estates Review, it will take some years before they can become fully operational. In the interim, it is likely that fewer staff will continue to deal with a steady increase in the number of prisoners, which in turn will demand the building of more houseblocks.

In a wider context, therefore, it would greatly assist prison staff in their interactions with the more serious or persistent criminals, if fewer individuals were sent to prison for short sentences (especially as the SPS is at present largely unable to address their offending behaviour in any coherent fashion). This applies in particular to those who are sent to jail for a matter of days, and to those women offenders who can be more of a danger to themselves than to the public.

6 Review of the Prison Inspectorate's Year 2000-2001



Inspections and Other Reports

6.1 Inspections for the year were completed as follows (previous year in brackets):

6.1.1 Three full inspections (3), nine intermediate (14) and six unannounced inspections (0). Reports of the formal inspections contained 21 Recommendations (24) and 63 Points of Note (110). Two recommendations relating to Legalised Police Cells were also made (n/a) as well as nine Points of Note (n/a). See also Appendix 1.

6.2 An evaluation of visiting arrangements at HMP Edinburgh was carried out in April 2001.

Staff

6.2 Eric Fairbairn (HMDCIP) was re-assigned to HMP Perth as Deputy in September 2001, since when the post of HM Deputy Chief Inspector has remained vacant. Mike Crossan returned as Inspector from HMP Low Moss on 4 February 2002.

6.3 Several part-time consultancy posts have continued to support inspections, whilst a service level agreement enables the Inspectorate to call on the services of SPS Research Services when required.

6.4 More recently it was confirmed that the Chief Inspector's post is to become full time (with effect October 2002).

6.5 Further staff details are shown at Appendix 2.

Training

6.7 See Appendix 3.

Finance

6.8 The Inspectorate's budget for 2001-2002 is shown below:-

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Staff costs for one part-time Chief Inspector and three full-time staff | £229,182 |
| • Consultancy, training, travel and subsistence and other running costs | £43,350 |
| • Total | £272,532 |

6.9 The 2002-2003 budget is: £293,663

Communications

6.9 Recent formal and thematic reports can be found on the Internet (www.scotland.gov.uk/hmip).
Email: clive.fairweather@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Appendix 1

FORMAL ACTIVITIES OF THE PRISONS INSPECTORATE: APRIL 2001 - MARCH 2002

1. Formal Inspections Conducted/Published

Establishment	Inspection Date	Report Signed	Report Published
(1) HMP & YOI Cornton Vale	22-29 May 2001	25 May 2001	6 September 2001
(2) Legalised Police Cells	July/August 2001	31 August 2001	20 September 2001
(3) HMP Castle Huntly	21-23 November 2001	7 January 2002	20 February 2002
(4) HMP Perth	7-11 January 2002	28 February 2002	2 May 2002

2. Unannounced/Intermediate Inspections conducted by the Prisons Inspectorate: April 2001 – March 2002

Establishment	Visit Date	Report Signed
(5) HMP Aberdeen*+	+12/13 and 16/17 July 2001	19 July 2001
(6) HMYOI Polmont*+	+24 July and 3 December 2001	25 July 2001, and 10 December 2001
(7) HMP Edinburgh*+	+26 July, 13 September (Health Centre) and 15/16 November 2001	27 July 2001 27 November 2001
(8) HMYOI Dumfries+	+22 August 2001	27 August 2001
(9) HMP Barlinnie+	+29 August 2001	31 August 2001
(10) HMP Low Moss+	+31 August 2001	03 September 2001
(11) HMYOI Glenochil	6 September 2001	10 September 2001
(12) HMP Inverness	12 September 2001	23 September 2001
(13) HMP Noranside*	17/18 October 2001	05 November 2001
(14) HMP Shotts Medical Centre	11 December 2001	30 January 2002
(15) HMP Shotts*	24/25 January 2002	31 January 2002
(16) HMP Greenock	5 February 2002	11 February 2002
(17) HMP Kilmarnock*	14/15 March 2002	28 March 2002
(18) HMP Glenochil*	20/21 March 2002	24 April 2002
(19) HMP Peterhead*	25/26 March 2002	19 April 2002

3. Submissions to the Scottish Parliament's Justice and Home Affairs Committee

- The 2000-2001 Annual Report was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 31 August 2001, whilst further oral evidence was given to the Justice 2 Committee on 11 September 2001.

+ Unannounced

* 2 day or more visit

Appendix 2

PRISONS INSPECTORATE STAFF 2001-2002

(P/T = Part time)

(F/T = Full time)

	March 2002		April 2001
HM Chief Inspector	Clive Fairweather	(P/T) ²¹	Clive Fairweather
HM Deputy Chief Inspector	Vacant	(F/T)	Eric Fairbairn
HM Assistant Chief Inspector	Dr David McAllister	(F/T)	Dr David McAllister
Inspector (Attachment)	Malcolm McLennan	(F/T)	Malcolm McLennan
Inspector (Attachment)	Mike Crossan	(F/T)	-
Medical Adviser	Dr Mike Ryan	(P/T)	Dr Mike Ryan
Education Adviser	John Oates	(P/T)	John Oates
Nursing Adviser	Margaret Reed	(P/T)	Margaret Reed
Addictions Adviser*	Jane Thomson	(P/T)	Jane Thomson
Research Adviser	Dr Nancy Loucks	(P/T)	Dr Nancy Loucks
Clerical Support	Janet Reid	(F/T)	Janet Reid

*By kind permission of Govan Addictions Service Project

ATTACHMENTS (All P/T)

November 2001 (HMP Edinburgh)	Margaret Brown	HMP & YOI Dumfries
November 2001 (HMP Castle Huntly)	John Durno	Consultant
December 2001 (HMYOI Polmont)	Jim Dustan	HMP Edinburgh
January 2002 (HMP Perth)	Colin Allen	HM Inspectorate for England and Wales
	John McCaig	Deputy Governor, HMYOI Polmont
	Dr Lindsay Thomson	Forensic Psychiatrist State Hospital
	Jo Walsh	Criminal Justice Magazine
January 2002 (HMP Shotts)	John Durno	Consultant
	Mike Crossan	HMP Low Moss
	Derek McGill	HMP Greenock
February 2002 (HMP Greenock)	John Durno	Consultant
March 2002 (HMP Kilmarnock)	John Durno	Consultant
	Teresa Medhurst	HMP Glenochil
	Dawn Liszka	HMP Edinburgh
March 2002 (HMP Glenochil)	John Durno	Consultant
March 2002 (HMP Peterhead)	Dawn Liszka	HMP Edinburgh
	Sandy Ratcliffe	English Prisons Inspectorate
	Marjorie Simonds-Gooding	English Prisons Inspectorate

²¹ Full time wef Oct 2002 (first time since the post was created in 1981).

OBSERVERS

May 2001 (HMP & YOI Cornton Vale)	Professor Michael Adler Chris Tchaikovsky Ian Dearing Sebastian Wolf Michael Matheson, MSP Christine Grahame, MSP Lyndsay McIntosh, MSP Pauline McNeill, MSP Mary Mulligan, MSP Fiona Groves Claire Menzies	University of Edinburgh University of Cambridge HMP Inverness Attachment, HMP Edinburgh Justice 1 Committee Justice 2 Committee Justice 2 Committee Justice 2 Committee Justice 2 Committee Parliamentary Clerk Parliamentary Clerk
November 2001 (HMP Edinburgh)	Derek Edmunds	Ex Board of Visitors, Brixton
November 2001 (HMP Castle Huntly)	Keith Stewart	HMP Edinburgh Throughcare Centre
December 2001 (HMYOI Polmont)	Pauline McNeill, MSP Scott Barrie, MSP	Justice 2 Committee Justice 2 Committee
March 2002 (HMP Glenochil)	Dr Sheila Bird	MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge

Appendix 3

TRAINING AND LIAISON 2001-2002

DATE	SUBJECT	LOCATION
March 2001	Informal visits to State Hospital/Orchard Clinic	Carstairs/Edinburgh
April 2001	Liaison with Mental Health Commission	Edinburgh
April 2001	Audit Scotland	Edinburgh
April 2001	Social Work Conference	Edinburgh
May 2001	Visit GSSC (tagging)	East Kilbride
May 2001	Association of Visiting Committees	Clydebank
June 2001	Women Offenders Conference	London
June 2001	Dyslexia Forum	Edinburgh
June 2001	Prison Reform Trust Conference	London
June 2001	Prison Education Strategy Conference	London
June 2001	Scottish Prison Education Conference	Dundee
September 2001	Criminal Justice Conference	Birmingham
September 2001	Prison Reform Trust Liaison Meeting	London
September 2001	Koestler Awards	London
October 2001	Race Relations Conference	Glasgow
November 2001	Irish Prison Reform Trust	Dublin
November 2001	Howard League	Edinburgh
November 2001	SACRO Conference	Edinburgh
November 2001	Law Conference	Edinburgh
December 2001	Meeting with Turkish Prison Delegation	Glasgow
February 2002	Howard League	Edinburgh
February 2002	Families Conference	Edinburgh
February 2002	SPS Health Conference	Ardrossan
March 2002	Howard League	London
March 2002	Butler Trust	London

SPS STAFF AND MANAGEMENT Organisation

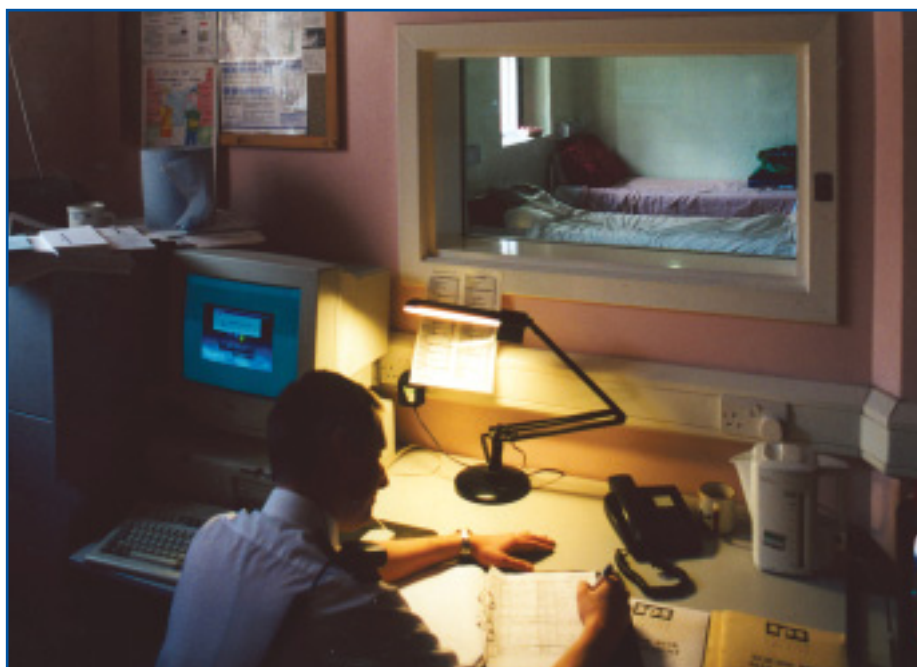
	2001-2002 Complement	2000-2001 Complement
SPS HQ* (Including Central Stores	312	305
SPS College	68	66
Prison Establishments (does not include Kilmarnock Prison)	4,166	4,148
TOTAL	4,546	4,519

*A further 21 staff are employed at HQ on temporary contracts.

Management

The introduction of the "Correctional Excellence" model and requirement to measure and audit standards is a challenge for senior management in the SPS. The EFQM model now complements strategic planning and a new appraisal system for all SPS staff has also been introduced this year. The prison board has restructured to accommodate this new direction and measures and audits will be introduced to prove success in areas identified by the vision.

A decision to set standards for recruitment and promotion boards for senior managers has also been taken. Meanwhile all F, G and H Band vacancies are to be advertised to include external candidates.



Staff Attendance Patterns

Most establishments have introduced new attendance patterns with relative ease, although in some cases there were concerns about the number of patterns (which may cause future difficulties if it is decided to rotate staff between areas).

The exercise did not, in fact reduce the total number of staff. However, savings were still made from adjustments to the numbers of staff in higher pay Bands.

Morale

The uncertainty surrounding the publication of the Estates Review has continued to affect morale in a number of establishments.

As shown below, staff turnover has also increased with a noticeable move to join the Police (Barlinnie: 15.4% and Edinburgh: 13.7%). It would appear that most of the leavers are from the operations group. However we are pleased to note that Kilmarnock Prison has reduced its turnover rate from 32% to 14% over the course of the reporting year.

Turnover

Establishment	Staff Complement	Turnover (%)
HMP Inverness	111.5	15.8
HMP&YOI Cornton Vale	256.1	8.9
HMP Aberdeen	163.8	8.6
HMP Greenock	188.9	11.1
HMP Perth	431.3	9.2
HMP Edinburgh	467.9	13.7
HMP Barlinnie	588.5	15.4
HMP Kilmarnock	292	16.1
HMYOI Dumfries	157.4	9.0
HMYOI Polmont	345.2	5.3
HMP Peterhead	240.9	12.0
HMP Glenochil	473.9	5.0
HMP Shotts	436.2	8.2
HMP Low Moss	172.5	6.0
HMP Castle Huntly	69.1	4.5
HMP Noranside	64.1	12.0

The SPS no longer reports staff sickness as a key performance indicator. (The average number of days per person for the year 2001 – 2002 was 17.6.)

SPS TUS

The POA(S) took industrial action on 23rd April 2001, with many staff in establishments across the country refusing to enter their workplace for several hours. The TUS said that this was in protest at the management's refusal to accept the dispute procedure. The matter was finally resolved after ACAS were involved in discussions and an independent arbitrator gave a ruling on the introduction of the work patterns.

Subsequently, SPS management and the trade union side have signed a "Voluntary Industrial Relations Agreement" (VIRA, in December 2001). Under the terms of this agreement the POA(S), the Public and Commercial Services Union and Prospect agreed "not to induce support or authorise industrial action in exchange for access to independent arbitration for dispute resolution." TUS and management have now successfully completed a joint workshop as part of the new partnership agreement process.

MANDATORY DRUG TESTING (MDT) RESULTS – 2001-2002

MDT was introduced on a phased basis from February 1996. The figures shown below are the headline rates, which include all random tests found to be positive due to drug misuse and the underlying rates, which exclude those positive test results that may have been due to drug misuse in the community.

Establishment	Average Population 2001-2002	Average for 2001-2002		Average for 2000-2001	
Local/Remand		HL	UL	HL	UL
HMP Inverness	133	21	15	31	20
HMP & YOI Cornton Vale	237	13	13	10	9
HMP Aberdeen	197	31	26	28	19
HMP Greenock	317	22	15	28	14
HMP Perth	493	29	20	27	20
HMP Edinburgh	689	26	19	25	19
HMP Barlinnie (includes YO's)	1090	19	11	20	9
HMP Kilmarnock	536	27	18	24	18
HMP Dumfries*	126	20	18	34	16
YOIs					
HMP Aberdeen	-	33	0	-	-
HMYOI Dumfries	126	9	7	16	16
HMYOI Glenochil (included below)	89	-	-	8	8
HMYOI Polmont	431	15	12	14	10
Long Term					
HMP Peterhead	291	7	7	4	3
HMP Glenochil (includes YO's)	485	17	17	17	17
HMP Shotts (including units)	512	35	35	28	28
Category C					
HMP Low Moss	325	30	26	35	25
Open					
HMP Castle Huntly	136	14	14	17	17
HMP Noranside	103	19	19	7	7
SPS Total		22	17	21	15

Random Drug Test Results 1996-2001

Year	Headline	Underlying
1996-97*	36	29
1997-98	29	23
1998-99	25	18
1999-2000	22	15
2000-2001	21	15
2001-2002	22	17

*The phasing of the introduction of MDT from February 1996 meant that not all establishments were testing for all of 1996-97.

SUICIDE

Recent statistics for apparent self inflicted deaths in SPS custody are as follows:

1993-94	7
1994-95	16
1995-96	8
1996-97	17
1997-98	13
1998-99	14
1999-2000	17
2000-2001	11 (following FAI)
2001-2002	11 (subject to FAI)

Comparative statistics since 1986 by establishment are shown below:

(® = Remand © = Convicted)

(® = Remand © = Convicted)

Establishment	Average Daily Population	2001-2	2000-01	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98	1986-96	Remarks
HMP Inverness	133	-	1©					
HMP&YOI Cornton Vale	237	2®©	-	-	1®	1©	7(6®1©)	
HMP Aberdeen	197	-	-	1®	-	1®	4®	
HMP Greenock	317	-	1®	2®	2®	3(1®2©)	11(8®3©)	
HMP Perth	493	1©	-	1®	3(1®2©)	1©	14(1®13©)	
HMP Edinburgh	689	1®	2®	2(1®1©)	2(1®1©)	1©	8(6®2©)	
HMP Barlinnie	1090	4(3®1©)	5®	5(3®2©)	4(3®1©)	3®	32(18®14©)	
HMP Kilmarnock	536	2®	1®	1®	-	-	-	Opened 25 March 1999
HM YOI Dumfries	126	-	-	1©	-	-	2®	
HM YOI Polmont	431	1©	-	-	-	1©	4(1®3©)	
HMP Peterhead	291	-	-	1©	-	-	-	
HMP Glenochil	485	-	1©	1©	1©	1©	3©	
HMP Shotts	512	-	-	2©	-	-	2©	
HMP Low Moss	325	-	-					
HMP Castle Huntly	136	-	-	-	-	-	-	
HMP Noranside	103	-	-	-	-	-	-	
(HM Remand Institution Longriggend)*		-	-	-	1®	1®	5®	
		11(7®4©)	11(9®2©)	17(9®8©)	14(9®5©)	13(6®7©)	92(51®41©)	

* Longriggend closed in April 2000.



Establishment	Suicides (Apparent)	Suicides Attempted Suicides	Self Harm
HMP Inverness	0	4	13
HMP&YOI Cornton Vale	2	3	98
HMP Aberdeen	0	0	14
HMP Greenock	0	3	6
HMP Perth	1	19	2
HMP Edinburgh	1	4	21
HMP Barlinnie	4	9	19
HMP Kilmarnock	2	8	90
HMYOI Dumfries	0	2	15
HMYOI Polmont	1	3	27
HMP Peterhead	0	0	9
HMP Glenochil	0	2	9
HMP Shotts	0	0	9
HMP Low Moss	0	1	3
HMP Castle Huntly	0	0	0
HMP Noranside	0	0	0
HMYOI Glenochil	0	1	3

ANNEX 4

VIOLENCE

Introduction

- In 1996-97 serious assaults on prisoners by other prisoners rose to 127, then reduced in 1997-98 to 108.
- In 1998-99 a record number of 129 serious assaults was recorded. However one year later there was a reduction to 91.
- In 2000-2001, there was a further welcome reduction to 69 (though the number of serious assaults on staff had increased to 15).
- In 2001-2002 incidents of serious prisoner on prisoner assaults have risen to 85.

		Serious Assaults			
Establishment	Average Daily Populations	Prisoner on Prisoner		Staff	
Local/Remand	2001-2002	2001-2002	2000-2001	2001-2002	2000-2001
HMP Inverness	133	0	0	0	0
HMP & YOI Cornton Vale	237	0	0	2	0
HMP Aberdeen	197	11	7	0	0
HMP Greenock	317	4	3	0	0
HMP Perth	493	3	7	1	1
HMP Edinburgh	689	12	5	1	1
HMP Barlinnie	1090	9	8	1	0
HMP Kilmarnock	536	10	6	2	1
YOIs					
HMYOI Dumfries	126	3	2	1	1
HMYOI Glenochil	89	2	0	0	0
HMYOI Polmont	431	8	15	1	2
Long Term					
HMP Peterhead	291	2	1	0	2
HMP Glenochil	485	8	7	1	3
HMP Shotts	512	6	3	2	3
Low Security					
HMP Low Moss	325	5	5	0	1
Open					
HMP Castle Huntly	136	1	0	0	0
HMP Noranside	103	1	0	0	0

OVERCROWDING



Background

- In 1995-96 the average daily population was 5,632, against a capacity of 5,156.
- In 1996-97 the average daily population rose to 5,992, against a capacity of 5,291.
- In 1997-98 the average daily population rose to 6,059, against a capacity of 6,259 (March peak, 6,334).
- In 1998-99 the average daily population was 6,029, against a capacity of 6,496²².
- In 1999-2000 the average daily population was 5,974, against a capacity of 6,139.
- In 2000-2001 the average daily population was 5,883, against a reduced capacity of 5,896²³.
- In 2001-2002 the average daily population was 6,185 against a capacity of 5,806.

Overcrowded Prisons

- In 2001-2002 the under-mentioned establishments were over-populated as shown below:-

Establishment	2001-2002	2000-2001	1999-2000
• HMP Barlinnie	36%	32%	18%
• HMP Aberdeen	11%	31%	(-)
• HMP Greenock	25%	25%	(-)
• HMP Edinburgh	25%	24%	(-)
• HMP Inverness	25%	15%	(-)

The Immediate Future

- At the end of March 2002 the prison population was 6,201 (6,171) and at the time of signature of this report, that figure was 6,593 (6,234).

²² Increase largely due to opening of HMP Kilmarnock.

²³ Due to the closure or rationalisation of seven establishments.

ANNEX 6

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 2001-02

1/04/2001 to 31/03/2002	Barlinnie	Compton Vale	Dumfries	Greenock	Kilmarnock	Lowmoss	Polmont	Shotts	Aberdeen	Castle Huntly	Edinburgh	Glenochil	Glo YOI	Inverness	Noranside	Perth	Peterhead
Escapes	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Absconds*	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	4	16	2	0	1	16	3	0
Staff Complement	588.5	256.1	157.4	188.9	292	172.47	345.2	436.2	163.8	69.1	467.9	473.9		111.5	64.1	431.3	240.9
Staff in Post	601	260.6	155	195	293	177	351.6	435	162	68	473	461		108.5	60	423	209
Staff under/over compl	12.5	4.5	-2.4	6.1	1	4.53	6.4	-1.2	-1.8	-1.1	5.1	-12.9	0	-3	-4.1	-8.3	-31.9
Staff sickness levels	14	27.3	26.3	10.4	11.3	22.1	19.1	21.6	20.6	8.6	17.9	21.9		16.2	14.4	14.2	9.7
Staff Turnover	15.40%	8.90%	9.00%	11.12%	16.07%	6.00%	5.32%	8.25%	8.60%	4.50%	13.70%	5.00%		15.80%	12.00%	9.22%	12.00%
Average Daily Prisoner Population	1,089	236	125	317	535	325	430	512	197	136	688	485	89	133	102	492	291
Available Design capacity	952	230	156	250	548	389	422	528	162	151	605	496	174	108	135	583	306
Available Capacity	818	230	122	254	548	345	422	528	155	151	578	496	134	108	135	593	296
% Overcrowding	41.81%	6.09%	15.57%	26.77%	0.00%	0.00%	2.84%	0.00%	10.33%	0.00%	28.55%	0.00%	0.00%	25.93%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Fires	6	12	1	0	30	1	12	2	4	1	6	4		2	0	4	0
Assaults on staff	24	22	1	9	24	0	16	9	26	0	16	8	8	0	0	5	2
KPI	1	2	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Prisoner on prisoner	77	45	3	8	73***	22	40	14	39	1	62	24	12	1	1	24	16
KPI	9	0	3	4	10	5	8	6	11	1	12	8	2	0	1	3	2
MDT Random	10%	13%	12%	15%	18%	26%	12%	35%	25%	15%	20%	18%		17%	20%	20%	8%
Refusals - Not Available																	
Apparent Suicides**	4	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Att/ Suicides	9	3	2	3	8	1	3	0	0	0	4	2	1	4	0	19	0
Self Harm(not suicides)	19	98	15	6	90	3	27	9	14	0	21	9	3	13	0	2	9
Adjudications	2022	1877	624	571	4141	745	1951	3861	835	156	1300	1755	757	311	133	1850	250
Guilty	1828	1749	539	485	3061	542	1812	3621	785	147	872	1655	676	263	122	1716	224
Needs & Risk numbers	276	26	17	94	320	52	432	86	0	11	657	191			25	226	108
Programmes completed	147	51	27	43	58	25	104	111	26	0	64	115		7	0	56	95
Numbers at Work	290	192	78	147	317	310	272	220	17	125	336	384	26	27	111	266	268
% Night sanitation	45%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	61%	100%	100%	100%	61%	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%	0%
Average cost per prisoner place*****	24,228	37,054	33,850	28,409	26,000****	16,780	30,055	28,289	35,487	18,581	27,805	24,002		36,350	20,523	26,376	26,098
Actual cost	23,065,079	8,522,375	5,280,607	7,102,334		6,527,377	12,683,087	14,936,667	5,748,864	2,805,745	16,821,998	16,081,661		3,925,811	2,770,585	15,377,335	7,986,029
Average cost per prisoner (£)*****	21,180	36,112	42,245	22,405		20,084	29,496	29,173	29,182	20,630	24,451	28,017		29,517	27,163	31,255	27,443

* Includes failures to return

** FAI still not determined

*** Includes 40 fights i.e.x2

**** Includes mortgage repayments

***** Calculated from actual net expenditure for 2001-02. Excludes expenditure for Headquarters, SPS College, Zeist, capital and capital charges (Kilmarnock figures provided by Kilmarnock).

Most of the figures in this chart are provided by SPS. They reflect the position throughout the year 2001-02, and as such are slightly different from those in intermediate reports which reflect the position at a specific date in the reporting year.

OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED WITH PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous has seen substantial growth and development over the past year, especially with regard to continued involvement in Scottish penal establishments. There has been a growing commitment from many of prison sponsors and co-ordinators and AA have been encouraged to see some newer members embrace this service. AA has recently put in place policies and procedures, which address the need for staff to be accountable to the security requirements of individual establishments.

Alcoholics Anonymous has developed a 'Chit System', for verifying that referred clients or those under a court supervision order had attended AA meetings. This System has been utilised for courts and probation, social services and industrial employment. There are well established structures with the prisons in Scotland and many Prison Sponsors have had much experience in this field. The General Service Board members with special responsibility for this area are in regular contact with prison staff around Scotland, establishing contacts and informing them of what is on offer to those within the prison community still suffering from the chaotic disease of alcoholism.

As of November 1999 AA is participating within 114 penal establishments throughout Great Britain.

Contact telephone number 0141 226 2214.

APEX Scotland

Apex Scotland is the leading employment and training organisation specialising in work with offenders. They are involved in delivering a wide variety of services throughout the Scottish Prison Service, which are designed to increase the employability of the prisoner during their prison sentence, therefore increasing their chances of securing positive training, education or employment on release. Apex Scotland has two full time units based within HMP Edinburgh, which has a complement of two staff (due to increase to four in April 2000) and one member of staff based within HMYOI Polmont. All of the services delivered enhance and contribute to the throughcare and preparation for release work available within prison establishments. Other establishments are served by staff working from local Apex community units.

Apex is conducting a consultancy study for the Scottish Prison Service on evidencing employability skills. This study works in complement to the occupational psychology service.

Contact telephone number: 0131 220 0130 and 0131 538 7790 or via the website at <http://www.apexscotland.org.uk>

Edinburgh & Lothian Council on Alcohol

ELCA provides specialist alcohol counselling for offenders in the Lothians who are referred through the Criminal Justice System.

Contact telephone number: 0131 225 8888

HOPE

HOPE is a voluntary organisation which has been working within the Scottish Criminal Justice System since 1989. During this time it has concentrated most of its efforts on building a network of groups of volunteers across Scotland to visit isolated and vulnerable prisoners and to offer support to the families of these prisoners.

A recent award from the Community Fund has allowed HOPE to enhance and complement this work by providing funding to establish Scotland's first National Prison Visitors' Scheme.

In addition, HOPE offers support in the following areas:

- Employment and training
- Women's support
- Basic skills
- Family support

It is now HOPE's belief that the way forward is to have a strong presence in local communities and to put down roots in the places where prisoners and their families live and return to.

For further information: Write to:

HOPE, Central Office, 18 Stevenson Street, Glasgow G40 2ST
Telephone: 0141 552 0229, Fax 0141 552 1991 email: hope.organisation@virgin.net
HOPE, National Prison Visitors' Scheme 310 Peat Road, Glasgow G53 6SA
Telephone: 0141 876 1846, Fax 0141 876 1725 email: hope.npvs@virgin.net

The Howard League for Penal Reform (Scotland)

The Howard League for Penal Reform in Scotland is principally concerned with the following three policies to address issues of social health:

1. policies which reduce poverty and unemployment;
2. policies which provide alternatives to crime; and
3. policies which take full account of the needs of victims of crime, and which emphasise rehabilitation of offenders – and rehabilitation in the community, rather than in prisons.

The Howard League seeks to address the problems of the criminal justice system through changes in society. It emphasises the need for social regeneration, restitutive justice and local, secure, Rehabilitative Centres.

Contact telephone number 0131 666 2316.

Kids VIP

Kids VIP is a charity, which works in Scotland through a national co-ordinator, to enable relationships between children and their imprisoned parents to be sustained and developed.

Contact telephone number 0141 339 3428.

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union works world-wide to support and help families and is now involved in over 76 prisons in the UK. This includes HMP Edinburgh, HMP Perth and HMP Kilmarnock.

Contact telephone number 01828 627229

Open Door Trust Glasgow

Open Door Trust Glasgow operate a number of services within the Scottish Prison Service. At the moment they work in HMPs Barlinnie and Low Moss.

Support groups operate in the Drug Support Unit, the Drug Rehabilitation Unit and amongst the Young Remand Prisoners in Barlinnie. In Low Moss groups are run for the whole prison.

Outside the prison environment, Open Door Trust Glasgow provides backup and support through structured recovery programmes, which take a holistic approach to ensure that recovery is comprehensive. The organisation looks at the underpinning problems such as poverty, neglect, abuse and a lack of things that many in society take for granted.

Contact telephone number: 0141 243 2336 Fax number: 0141 248 5028

The Parole Board

The Parole Board for Scotland exists under the provisions of the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989 and the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings (Scotland) Act 1993. The Board's principal functions are to direct and advise Scottish Ministers on:

The release on licence and recall from licence of persons serving sentences of imprisonment or detention whose cases are referred to the Board; the conditions of such licences and the variation and cancellation of such conditions; and any other matter so referred which is connected with the release and recall of such persons.

Under Rule 15 (3) of The Parole Board (Scotland) Rules 1993 and Rule 14 (3) of the 1995 Rules, each prisoner whose case has been referred to the Board is entitled to be interviewed by a Board member prior to the case being considered at a meeting of the Board. The members of the Board visit each prison establishment which holds parole eligible prisoners in order to conduct such interviews.

Contact telephone number: 0131 244 8755.

Prison Fellowship Scotland

Prison Fellowship Scotland (PFS) is a Christian, interdenominational, voluntary organisation and a Scottish Registered Charity. It is a charter member of Prison Fellowship International which works in 88 countries world-wide. PFS aims to support the work of the church and chaplains in serving the needs of prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. Membership comprises around 300 volunteers and five staff who, amongst other things take part in regular in-prison meetings and befriend/help ex-prisoners and their families through weekly 'drop-in' meetings in cities around Scotland.

Befriending/helping Publications include a newsletter 'JUBILEE' which is printed 3 times yearly with a circulation of about 3,000.

Contact telephone/fax number: 0141 332 8870 (from April 2000: 0141 552 1288)

Email: pfscotland@cqm.co.uk

The Prison Reform Trust

The Prison Reform Trust (PRT) is a research, educational and campaigning charity. Its aim is to help create a just, humane and effective penal system in all parts of Britain. PRT's work divides into three main categories: a wide-ranging research and publications programme; offering advice and information to prisoners, their friends and relatives, prison staff and the wider public; and taking up issues with Governors, officials in HQ and Ministers. PRT produces, in conjunction with the Prison Service in England and Wales, prisoners' information books which are available to all prisoners. PRT also publishes a quarterly magazine, *Prison Report*.

Contact telephone number 020 7251 5070

Email: prt@prisonreformtrust.org.uk

Or via the website at <http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk>

SACRO

SACRO aims to promote community safety by:

- providing high quality services to reduce conflict and offending;
- developing new initiatives and ways of working to promote community safety;
- influencing, through consultation, development of Government policies and of legislation;
- engaging in, promoting and disseminating research; and
- providing consultancy and training services.

SACRO provides a number of community mediation, youth justice, bail, mediation and reparation, supervision, supported accommodation, intensive groupwork and throughcare and transition care services throughout Scotland. SACRO also has a Community Mediation Consultancy and Training Service, a Restorative Justice Development Officer and provides the Development Officer for the Aberdeen City Youth Crime Action Plan.

Contact telephone number 0131 624 7270

Salvation Army

Within the Criminal Justice System in Scotland, the Salvation Army provides a network of Prison Visiting Ministries who offer pastoral visits to prisoners and a support resource to prison staff, chaplains and social workers. Care and support to prisoners' families is also provided and is continuing to be developed. Two full time officers with responsibility for prison Ministry in Scotland have been appointed in the last year. The organisation is currently working in one fifth of Scotland's prisons.

The Salvation Army currently has 348 bail beds per year on offer and several of their Social Service Centres are working with prisons and their Social Work Departments to assist with places on release. In partnership with the University of Kent, the Army's National Addiction Service are working on, and developing, programmes to address the issue of drugs in prison.

Prisoners work on day release in Salvation Army Centres and another well used service is the Family Tracing Service which transports to prisons families who would otherwise find great difficulty in making these journeys.

Contact telephone number 0141 881 5291, Fax number 0141 881 5293.

Samaritans

The Samaritans' Vision is for a society in which:

- fewer people die by suicide;
- people are able to explore their feelings; and
- people are able to acknowledge and respect the feelings of others.

The Samaritans' values are based on the following beliefs:

- the importance of having the opportunity to explore difficult feelings;
- that being listened to, in confidence, and accepted without prejudice, can alleviate despair and suicidal feelings; and
- that everyone has the right to make fundamental decisions about their own life, including the decision to die by suicide.

The Samaritans and The Scottish Prison Service work together to care, in a pro-active way, for vulnerable prisoners. The SPS's revised Suicide Risk Management Strategy (the ACT strategy) provides the vehicle for the work currently undertaken.

The Samaritans seek to provide direct befriending to those serving a custodial sentence and ultimately to implement and maintain Prisoner Listener Schemes within prison establishments. Thirteen Listener schemes have now been implemented and over 260 prisoners have been selected and trained to undertake this work, gaining skills and knowledge and achieving a level of competence and confidence which enables them to provide high quality care to fellow prisoners. Listeners abide by The Samaritan Principles and Practices including that of absolute confidentiality.

Contact telephone numbers 0141 639 5523 or 0141 248 4488.

Scottish Consortium on Crime and Criminal Justice

The Scottish Consortium on Crime and Criminal Justice brings together leading organisations concerned with crime and criminal justice – the Howard League for Penal Reform in Scotland, APEX Scotland, SACRO, the Scottish Human Rights Centre, Victim Support Scotland and NCH. A number of other organisations and individuals contribute as Associate Members.

The Consortium aims to reduce the incidence and alleviate the impact of crime in Scottish society as far as is reasonably possible by whatever morally acceptable means can be shown to be most effective. Its main objective is to contribute to the development of principled and effective juvenile and criminal justice policies and practices based on existing knowledge about the best ways to reduce offending, ensure fair treatment for the victims of crime, enhance civil liberties, increase community safety and the effectiveness of the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

The objectives are pursued through a programme of work to disseminate information about key issues in crime and penal policy to politicians, policy makers, practitioners, the media and the general public. The Consortium's reports can be found on www.sccj.org.

Contact telephone number 0131 669 4484

Scottish Forum on Prisons and Families (from June 2002 - Families Outside)

Imprisonment adversely affects many Families who become involved with the criminal justice system. It is estimated that over 13,000 children in Scotland each year are affected by the imprisonment of a parent.

The Forum was established in 1990 and exists to highlight the needs of children, partners and other Family members of Prisoners, promoting, co-ordinating and enhancing services to meet these needs. The Forum works in conjunction with the Scottish Prison Service and statutory and voluntary agencies throughout Scotland.

Members of the Forum include, SPS, Save the Children Fund, SACRO, WRVS, Toybox, HOPE, NCH (Action for Children), Salvation Army, Kids VIP, other voluntary agencies, ADSW and Scottish Executive Departments involved with criminal justice.

Throughout its existence the Forum has been involved in implementing a number of key developments regarding prisoners' families needs. The most recent include the *Good Practice Guide Children Visiting Prison*, a research report *Teenagers with a Family Member in Prison* and the establishment of a freephone Information Line for families and friends of prisoners.

The Forum is staffed by volunteers, an Administrative Officer, Family Information Line co-ordinator and an Executive Officer on secondment from the SPS. In practice, the role is to provide support to family contact development teams throughout Scotland's prisons, deliver awareness training to all

SPS staff, promote quality and good practice initiatives within Prisons and increase their capacity to encourage and support family contact in line with the SPS correctional agenda.

SFPF is a charity registered in Scotland funded by grant giving organisations including the SPS.

As from June 2002, SFPF will be known as Families Outside, and will be a limited company, also offering associate membership to those interested in the organisations work and corporate membership for larger organisations involved in work with families affected by imprisonment.

Contact telephone number 0131 557 9800
Prisoners Families Information Line Freephone 0500 839383

Scottish Human Rights Centre

The Scottish Human Rights Centre is a non party-political members' organisation, which works for the development of human rights in Scotland. The Centre carries out research, produces publications and provides advice, education and information on a wide range of human rights issues. Part of this work includes monitoring prison conditions and the operation of the Scottish criminal justice system. Members of the public are welcome to use the Centre's human rights library, which is open from 2-5 pm, Monday to Friday.

Contact telephone number 0141 332 5960.

Toybox

Groups of Toybox volunteers run play schemes in prison visits rooms in a number of Scottish prisons.

Contact telephone number 0141 339 3428.

WRVS

The WRVS provides refreshments for prisoners' visitors in eight establishments and assists with the provision of toys and transport for families. Clothing assistance for released prisoners is also given in some areas by special arrangement.

Contact telephone number 0131 314 0600.

Prisons Video Magazine

The Prisons Video Magazine is a regular series of magazine-style programmes on videotape about and exclusively for the UK prison world. Four editions were produced in 1999, five during 2000. Each typically runs for about thirty-five minutes and contains five or six individual items. The Prisons Video Magazine covers a wide range of prison-related subjects to serve all segments of the prison community.

The Prisons Video Trust aims to assist the rehabilitative function of prison by providing a nationwide forum through the medium of a video magazine for those who live and work in the prison system to share information and debate issues that confront them. It serves all segments of the prison community and seeks to inform, to promote dialogue and to entertain.

Copies of the videos are distributed to every prison and to departments of the Prison Service, as well as to other interested parties.

Contact telephone number 0207 916 7707/Fax: 0207 916 7488.

The Prisons Visitors Scheme

The scheme is normally administered by prison chaplains but those interested in becoming a prison visitor should in the first instance contact the Governor-in-Charge of the relevant establishment.

Front cover - New Remand Hall: HMP Cornton Vale

Back cover - THE YEAR 2001/2002 (Top to bottom)

1. Old accommodation block: HMP Barlinnie
2. HMP Perth
3. Open conditions: HMP Castle Huntly
4. Preparation for release

Photographs courtesy of Dougie Barnett Photography and Graeme Hunter Pictures



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