



**HMIPS**

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland  
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

## Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin HMP Edinburgh April to September 2018



11  
Independent  
Prison  
Monitors



51 Prison  
Monitoring  
Visits



33 Prisoner  
Requests

### Key Findings

- **Time in Cells:** Independent Prison Monitors found that there were still some people spending long periods locked in their cells, because places were not available for them on halls that could provide them with a full regime.
- **Transport:** Transport arrangements were raised with IPMs, mainly with regard to missed hospital appointments.
- **Staffing:** During this period, IPMs were told on a few occasions that there were not enough staff on shift to offer a full regime every day. The team raised this at a recent meeting with the Governor in Charge.
- **Visitors Centre:** IPMs went to the Visitors Centre run by Barnardos.

### Updates and Actions

- **Time in Cells:** The reorganisation of the establishment, in terms of populations being held in different areas, seems to have had a positive impact on the number of people experiencing very restricted regimes. For those who were locked up for longer periods of time, access to time in the open air had been resolved and there was better access to the gym. This is work in progress and the team will continue to monitor.
- **Transport:** The Governor in Charge agreed that one of his team would look at the matter in more depth to find out if any changes could be made to improve things and reduce the amount of appointments missed.
- **Staffing:** The Governor in Charge told the IPM team that there had been some challenges in making sure staffing levels were at the level required to ensure the regime ran smoothly. He told them about actions that had been agreed to address this and the relevant timescales. Everyone agreed that this is a priority and the team will continue to monitor progress.
- **Visitors Centre:** IPMs thought the Centre was well run and that staff were very approachable. Staff at the Visitors Centre provide support to visitors, answer concerns, and assist new visitors to understand the visiting arrangements, during what could be a stressful time.

### IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- **Smoke Free Prisons:** Given that the date for prisons across Scotland to become smoke free is approaching, the monitoring team will be looking at how it is implemented in HMP Edinburgh.