

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**
HMP YOI Grampian
April to September 2018**7 Independent
Prison
IPMs****33 Prison
Monitoring
Visits****64 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Organisational effectiveness:** Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs) learned that there had been staffing shortages, and that this had had a negative effect on prisoners. Staff had less time to develop positive relationships with prisoners, and prisoners had experienced cutbacks to recreation time. Management assured IPMs that regime restrictions had been necessary to ensure safety in residential areas, and that the prison had recently secured additional officers who would arrive in the coming weeks.
- **Staff attitudes:** IPMs consistently observed staff having positive attitudes towards prisoners, despite facing some very challenging behaviours. IPMs also observed prisoners held in the Separation and Reintegration Unit (SRU) being treated with courtesy and respect.
- **Personal safety:** IPMs confirmed that those held in the SRU had reintegration plans and that those at risk of self-harm were monitored regularly.
- **Effective, Courteous and Humane Exercise of Authority:** IPMs observed the Internal Complaints Committee process on a number of occasions and concluded that the process was delivered in a fair manner, with prisoners being given clear explanations for decisions being made.
- **Purposeful activity:** Prisoners stated that they were keen on receiving education. IPMs saw staff encouraging prisoners to take part in education activity, including holding an awards ceremony. There appeared to be a good uptake over the reporting period.
- **Family ties/visits:** The prison had a very positive approach to encouraging and maintaining prisoner/family ties, clearly going to great lengths to facilitate family visits. The visit room was clean and welcoming, and had good facilities for children.

Updates and Actions

- **Smoke-free prisons:** IPMs have been assured that the prison is on track to implement the new smoke-free prisons policy, and that a range of support mechanisms will be made available to prisoners who smoke, including 'vaping' devices, and support to stop smoking.

Focus in the Next Quarter

- IPMs will monitor the implementation of the SPS 'Smoke-free prisons' policy
- IPMs will also monitor staffing levels related to the delivery of various elements of the regime.