

PRISON	HMP YOI GRAMPIAN		YEAR (1 APRIL – 31 MARCH)	2022-2023	
Total number of visits	94	Total number of missed weeks	0	Total number of IPM hours	470
Total number of prisoner requests received	63	Number of IPMs in the team (as at 31 March)	6		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The IPM Team worked extremely hard this year, conducting an average of nearly two visits per week against the statutory minimum of at least one visit per week. IPMs also dealt with an above-average number of prisoner requests. All this activity saw the team dedicate among the highest number of volunteering hours.

IPMs assessed a number of matters in relation to the HMIPS Standards, with the majority of findings being assessed positively. The two key concerns centred around healthcare: (1) Reduced access to healthcare as a result of longer waiting times for services such as GP and mental health; and (2) Poor GEOAme performance diminishing prisoner access to hospital appointments.

IPMs were very impressed with the work done by the Outreach Team, in supporting harder-to-reach prisoners with a range of care and support needs, and the development of the 'Employability Pipeline' model that the prison operated that sought to match prisoners' skills and experience with relevant job opportunities upon release.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Standard 1: Lawful and Transparent Custody

IPMs did not find any concerns relating to this standard.

Overall RAG rating

Standard 2: Decency

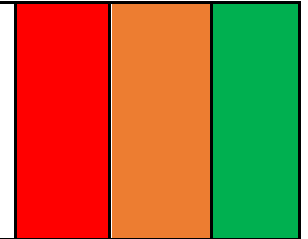
IPMs tested the food and concluded that it was satisfactory.

<p>The Family Hub did some excellent work acquiring suitable and suitably sized clothing from charitable donations, for female remand prisoners who were about to attend court.</p>			
<p>Standard 3: Personal Safety</p> <p>IPMs saw clear evidence of the efforts made by staff to ensure that different prisoner populations were kept apart for their safety. Staff worked well to intercept large amounts of contraband including mobile phones and drugs, working closely with Police Scotland.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 4: Effective, Courteous and Humane Use of Authority</p> <p>IPMs monitored the SRU, including speaking with some prisoners, who spoke highly of the officers managing them. IPMs saw evidence of a range of activities offered to prisoners, including exercise in the fresh air, DVDs etc. Each prisoner had a management plan.</p> <p>IPMs observed a number of Orderly Room procedures taking place and concluded that they were conducted fairly, with any resultant punishments being deemed to be fair also.</p> <p>IPMs observed the cell search process and found that it was executed thoroughly and carefully, with due respect for the prisoners' belongings.</p> <p>Support appeared to be in place to assist prisoners whose first language is not English, to bridge the language barrier. This included fellow prisoners as well as staff.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 5: Respect, Autonomy and Protection Against Mistreatment</p> <p>IPMs spent a lot of time monitoring Banff Hall where female prisoners are held and concluded that there was a positive atmosphere and that prisoners had good relations with staff. A lot of the prisoners appeared to be busy and it was clear that prisoners were supportive of each other.</p> <p>IPMs attended 'Co-Production Meetings' and concluded that there was a willingness by management to discuss matters and obtain prisoners' views which helped prisoners feel as if they could contribute to improving prison life for all.</p>	□	□	✓

<p>Standard 6: Purposeful Activity</p> <p>IPMs spent time monitoring and conversing with prisoners at work and concluded that, overall, convicted prisoners were happy with the work sheds allocated to them and the work that they did. IPMs were also pleased to note that remand prisoners had now been assigned to some work sheds.</p> <p>Prisoners appeared to engage enthusiastically with a range of other purposeful activities. Education provision at the prison was considered by IPMs to be very good with a high uptake.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 7: Transitions from Custody into the Community</p> <p>Arrangements for the liberation of convicted prisoners appears to be thorough and well-planned. IPMs saw examples of Transition Plans for prisoners moving back to the community and were satisfied that a process was in place to ensure identified needs were considered prior to prisoners' release.</p> <p>However, IPMs learned the situation for remand prisoners was less efficient, with the possibility that prisoners who had been on long-term remand and receiving back-dated sentences could be released on the day of sentencing. This meant that long-term remands could be released having had limited preparation for the community. IPMs welcomed the fact that the Social Work Team was starting to approach long-term remands to offer some support.</p> <p>IPMs observed how the Risk Management Team (RMT) considered the cases of transgender prisoners and concluded that cases were considered sensitively, with thorough consideration of associated risk factors.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 8: Organisational Effectiveness</p> <p>IPMs did not find any concerns relating to this standard.</p>	□	□	✓
<p>Standard 9: Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>IPMs discussed healthcare matters with a number of prisoners and concluded that communication with prisoners around appointments needed to improve. NHS Healthcare management later put measures in place to address this.</p> <p>A number of prisoners spoke with IPMs to complain about receiving the wrong medication. Prisoners also complained about long waiting times for appointments (including GP, Mental Health and Dentist). Healthcare management confirmed that this was due to</p>	✓	□	□

low staffing levels, and that ongoing recruitment efforts were continuing. Waiting times improved towards the end of the reporting period.

An estate-wide issue regarding the capacity of GEOAmev to fulfil its obligations in transporting prisoners had a significant impact on prisoners, including numerous occasions where important hospital appointments were cancelled.



RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status key:

Some serious concerns

Some slight concerns

No concerns / good practice

RAG rating: where IPMs felt each standard would be rated given their experience - not a complete analysis but based on the judgement of the IPM team

KEY ISSUES

1. Waiting times for some NHS services were too high and low staffing levels caused delays.
2. Poor GEOAmev performance impacted upon prisoners' access to appropriate healthcare in hospitals.

ENCOURAGING OBSERVATIONS

IPMs were very impressed with the work done by the Outreach Team, in supporting harder-to-reach prisoners with a range of care and support needs. IPMs spoke with prisoners who had benefitted from working with the team, and they said they felt better prepared for release than they otherwise might have.

The 'Employability Pipeline' model that the prison operated sought to match prisoners' skills and experience with relevant job opportunities upon release, and IPMs appreciated this approach.

CONCLUSION

The main issue for the prisoners was access to healthcare, caused by considerable waiting times arising as a result of low NHS staffing levels. Matters improved slightly towards the end of the reporting period as the NHS staffing situation was alleviated. Poor GEOAmev performance as detailed above also impacted adversely in terms of prisoner access to healthcare.

Apart from healthcare, IPMs did not report any major concerns with regards to the treatment of or the conditions for prisoners at HMP Grampian.