

COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY
LIAISON VISITS - COURT CUSTODY UNITS
SUMMARY REPORT OF OUR FINDINGS,
MAY-OCTOBER 2020

Inspecting and Monitoring
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DO NO HARM - STAY SAFE - TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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1. INTRODUCTION

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS) inspects Court Custody Units (CCUs) and prisoner transport under the authority of The Public Services Reform (Inspection and Monitoring of Prisons) (Scotland) Order 2015.

The Order specifically states that the functions of the Chief Inspector are to inspect the conditions in which prisoners are transported or held in pursuance of prisoner escort arrangements (within the meaning of Section 102 (Arrangements for the Provision of Prisoner Escorts) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994(3)).

These visits contribute to the UK's response to its international obligations under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). OPCAT requires that all places of detention are visited regularly by independent bodies, known as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), which monitor the treatment of and conditions for detention. HMIPS is one of 21 bodies making up the NPM in the UK.

This report is intended to share the key outcomes from our programme of liaison and unannounced visits, carried out by HMIPS, to CCUs in Scotland that were operational during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency from May-October 2020.

2. BACKGROUND

In the early days of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland (HMCIPS) acknowledged that there would be a need for amendments to the daily routines and regimes in Scotland's CCUs in order to keep people safe. HMCIPS made it clear, however, that "protective measures must never result in inhuman or degrading treatment of persons deprived of their liberty", and she would continue to report to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on the treatment and conditions in which custodies are held, in line with HMIPS's [Standards for Inspecting and Monitoring Prisons in Scotland](#), which includes CCUs. All the Standards are grounded in human rights.

In recognition of the pressures imposed by COVID-19, HMIPS developed an adapted methodology to their usual full inspection process and a new, temporary, [Liaison Visits Framework - Prison and Court Custody Units](#) was applied for use during this COVID-19 emergency.

The framework looks specifically at the measures CCUs and the Transport provider (GEOAmey) have had to adopt to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. The full inspections and our COVID-19 adapted liaison visit methodology are informed by a set of bespoke Standards as set out in our document [Standards for Inspecting Court Custody Provision in Scotland](#), first published in March 2017 and further reviewed in January 2020. The individual reports reflect the COVID-19 performance against these Standards.

3. PROCESS

HMIPS developed a risk algorithm that was populated by weekly information sharing with the CCUs and information received from other agencies including the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). This provided intelligence to inform the scheduling of visits. More information on the risk algorithm can be found in the framework.

On a weekly basis, HMIPS contacted each of the GEOAmeY Court Managers to confirm numbers attending, with a focus on understanding the CCU response to COVID-19.

Where it was deemed appropriate, through telephone calls, information received from GEOAmeY, or results from the risk-based HMIPS Liaison Data Algorithm, HMIPS conducted a one day liaison visit to one of the CCUs.

Liaison visits to CCUs had the following functions:

- To ensure scrutiny of CCUs continued and were grounded in human rights, looking at the treatment and conditions of those held in detention.
- To offer support to the CCU management and staff.
- To provide assurance to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on the SPS, NHS, GEOAmeY, and the Scottish Court and Tribunals Service (SCTS) response to the COVID-19 pandemic for those in custody.
- To garner intelligence and information to make informed decisions on future HMIPS priorities.
- To identify good practice that could be shared.

HMIPS assimilated information prior to the liaison visits to select the CCU to be visited and to contribute to the focus of the visit, and consequently developed evidence-based findings utilising a number of different techniques. These include:

- Calls to the CCU Manager prior to the visit.
- Obtaining information and documents from the SCTS and the court inspected.
- Shadowing and observing staff as they performed their duties within the CCU.
- Interviewing custodies and staff on a one-to-one basis.
- Weekly calls to SPS where the transport contract can be discussed.
- Inspecting a wide range of facilities impacting on both custodies and staff.
- Reviewing policies, procedures and performance reports.

The information gathered facilitated the compilation of a report into the CCU against the modified Standards used. A written record of the evidence gathered was produced by those undertaking the visit, consisting of a detailed narrative against each of the Standard's inspected. A list of recommendations and good practice arising from the liaison visit was also included.

A visit has now taken place to every CCU that was operational in the first nine months of the pandemic in Scotland. The visits were undertaken in most cases

by two HMIPS staff members, the Inspector of Prisons and the Operations Manager, but they were on occasion accompanied by other members of staff from HMIPS.

The adapted inspection methodology developed in response to COVID-19 will be kept under continual review and, as soon as it is safe and reasonable to do so, consideration will be given to recommencing full CCU inspections.

Findings from any CCU Liaison Visits and issues that were highlighted from weekly CCU telephone calls, were reported to:

1. the Cabinet Secretary for Justice; and
2. the Scottish Government Justice Directorate, GEOAmey, Police Scotland, the SPS, and the SCTS for information and action.

HMIPS ensured that all relevant parties were kept informed and any good practice or recommendations identified were monitored.

Seventeen CCUs were visited during the period of this report and the findings from each visit can be found at Annex B.

4. OVERVIEW BY HMCIPS

The decision to visit all extant courts during the pandemic phase between March and December 2020 reflected the need to continue scrutiny and to gain and report on conditions and treatment of prisoners during the emergent COVID-19 pandemic.

It should be stressed that this was not an inspection of GEOAmey, the current escort contractor, nor was it an inspection of the SPS, the escort services contract holder, the SCTS, or of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). However, all of these parties (and in some cases the police) have a responsibility, for managing the infrastructure along with the constituent parts of the service. It is therefore important that all partners work together to address the shortfalls highlighted in this report.

Escort services and court cells face a number of logistical challenges. Despite these challenges, this report finds that the escort service functions well. It also finds that conditions in the majority of court cell areas are adequate, although a minority of courts face an urgent requirement to upgrade facilities.

The logistics required from the pandemic impacted heavily on the CCUs despite the reduced court activity. Adapted protocols for cell sharing, movement of custodies, and infection control suddenly became pressing matters with the added burden of social distancing requirements, isolation for affected staff, and the considerable additional resources necessary to reduce virus transmission risks.

Within this challenging context, one element in particular has stood out. Information sharing and scheduling between key agencies appears to inhibit efficient CCU management. We would like to see an effective shared digital platform developed to assist in this issue. All key agencies should continue to work together to improve scheduling to aid phased management of custodies and reduce unnecessary transport and court custody use.

It is worth mentioning that CCUs are largely poorly ventilated, containing environments unsuited in a pandemic to large amounts of human traffic. To have multiple cell occupancy and unnecessary attendance of custodies increases the airborne viral load and inhibits CCUs becoming “COVID-19 safe” workplaces.

HMIPS has for some years criticised the minimal use of video courts throughout Scotland and particularly to those cases where distance or vulnerability is an issue. Women and young people in particular, complain of long travelling times and waits in CCUs often for very short appearances in court, and would prefer the increased use of virtual courts.

Appearances at Court can be very short indeed or even cancelled at short notice. We have found that the number of custodies who end up not required in court puts unnecessary pressure on CCUs and escort services as well as subjecting custodies to unnecessary journeys. However, one of the welcome benefits of the pandemic is the rapid and significant increase in the number of video courts. I look forward to the

results of the current trial being published, and if positive, to even greater use of video courts reducing unnecessary, time-consuming, and expensive transport provisions.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the co-operation provided during our liaison visits from all agencies, and in particular GEOAmey for their rapid response to our recommendations.

Wendy Sinclair-Gieben

Wendy Sinclair-Gieben
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland

5. OUR FINDINGS

Encouraging Observations

Hygiene: Protection from COVID-19

The principle drive behind the HMIPS Pandemic Emergency Liaison Visits was to ensure that all was being done to protect people from harm. This included steps being taken to comply with the Scottish Government guidelines to protect custodies, staff, and others from contracting coronavirus (COVID-19).

It is known that keeping the workplace clean, encouraging frequent hand washing, promoting and implementing physical distancing, providing floor markings, and maximising ventilation reduces the potential for coronavirus to spread and HMIPS inspected on the basis that these are a critical part of making and keeping CCUs 'COVID-19 secure'.

Initially, hand sanitiser was not routinely offered to custodies arriving in the CCU or when moving around the CCU during their stay, there was also no record kept of the offer, acceptance, or decline of hand sanitiser. HMIPS were encouraged to note that in the majority of courts visited, hygiene and infection control were taken very seriously and the response to Scottish Government guidelines implemented as soon as practicable.

GEOAmey are to be commended for their speedy response to these recommendations. It was evidenced in more recent liaison visit reports that these issues were no longer featuring as a recommendation and were in-built as routine practice and procedure.

Cell Sharing Risk Assessment (CSRA)

At the start of the visits, the cell sharing risk assessment had not been amended to take count of the emerging pandemic risk. It was noted that not all CCUs were asking custodies questions that determined their possible exposure to COVID-19, any past or current symptoms and their awareness of the physical distancing rules. This therefore prevented staff from making an accurate assessment of risk in respect of a custody's safety and that of others. It also impacted on the ability of CCU staff to make informed decisions for custodies sharing cells.

In addition, no record was being made on Personal Escort Records (PERs) or Geotrack (the GEOAmey IT system), of these questions being asked and what answers were provided. As such, this exposed staff to the possibility of future complaints in response to which they could not evidence that adequate steps had been taken in respect of COVID-19 for a custody in their care.

When recommendations were first made by HMIPS to address these issues, GEOAmey responded without delay and ensured that a series of questions in respect of risk associated with COVID-19 were added to their CSRA document,

and implemented it nationally. Hand sanitiser was also supplied and provided to all custodies on arrival, as a minimum, with further availability being made throughout their stay.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Early visits found inconsistencies in the allocation and use of PPE equipment, where some managers allowed staff to determine themselves what they wanted to wear and when. For example, Inspectors observed some to be wearing masks and gloves and some not. Physical distancing within the CCU was again something that at the start was not routinely monitored and addressed by managers. When custodies were searched by staff full PPE comprising of mask, gloves and apron were not always worn.

Initially, Inspectors observed in a number of CCUs that custodies being taken from the Court Custody Vehicle (CCV) to the CCU were close handcuffed to a member of GEOAmeY staff and neither wore masks. It was established that custodies were not offered a mask to wear, and the wearing of a mask by the member of staff was a personal preference. It was clear that this impacted significantly on the rights of the custody as they were not given the opportunity to protect themselves unlike the member of staff.

When recommendations were made by HMIPS to address these issues, GEOAmeY responded quickly and provided instructions nationally to all CCU managers that staff should wear sufficient PPE (defined) at all times whilst operating in the CCU. Any member of staff searching a custody was required to wear full PPE and all members of staff escorting a custody from a CCV were required to wear a mask to protect themselves and the custody at all times.

By making a comparison between some of the early and most recent liaison visits, it can clearly be seen how rapidly GEOAmeY responded to any recommendations made by HMIPS in respect of hygiene, PPE, custody movements and CSRAs.

Cleaning

Since the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions, the cleaning schedules for the SCTS cleaning staff was variable and patchy between CCUs. Some were amended to provide an additional daily visit to the CCU to carry out cleaning of thoroughfares and toilets, whereas some maintained the pre-COVID-19 scheduled daily visit. However, it has been noted that the SCTS did provide additional cleaning for cells at all CCUs between use or when a custody was suspected of, or confirmed to have, COVID-19. HMIPS welcomed this commendable response.

GEOAmeY staff were observed to generally maintain good hygiene levels in the CCUs, through the periodic use of antiseptic wipes on keys, surfaces, handles and doors and most importantly in the interview rooms between use by custodies.

In summary, the response whilst variable and inconsistent in the early stages rapidly became controlled and consistent with infection control a primary concern robustly managed.

Areas for Development

Virtual Court Appearances

As with previous full inspection reports, HMIPS continue to recommend that every effort should be made to make greater use of the video-link process between Sheriff Courts, police stations, and prisons.

The benefits are reducing the number of custodies arriving from prison for short procedural appearances where there is no likelihood of them being released, and for those arriving from police stations located some distance from the CCU. This will provide financial savings in a number of areas, including a reduction in transport movements across the country, which in turn has a positive impact on reducing virus transmission risks and COVID-19 exposure between custodies, GEOAme, the SPS, Police Scotland staff, and the legal teams.

It is clear that since COVID-19 restrictions were imposed on all areas of business, there has been a significant step forward with good work being carried out between agencies to facilitate court appearances by video-link. Figures obtained from COPFS have shown that in April 2020 there were 110 custodies appearing in court by video-link from Police custody units, and in December 2020 this had increased to 471 with January 2021 showing a further increase to 535. The virtual model pilot at Falkirk Sheriff Court is a good example of how this work is progressing and HMIPS hopes that if successful, will see a roll-out nationally in the not too distant future.

Allocation and Time in Cells

COVID-19 Scottish Government guidance in respect of physical distancing states that the fundamental science around distance and transmission remains unchanged. Risk increases with proximity to an infected individual. Moving closer than two metres therefore increases the risk of transmission from infected individuals occurring. The risks of transmission can be mitigated by reducing the time in contact, being outdoors, proper ventilation, using masks, screens, and visors and other measures including hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

With this in mind, having an agreement on maximum custody numbers in a CCU other than single cell occupancy is unrealistic.

A well-executed CSRA may identify a multitude of reasons as to why a custody requires a single cell. It is possible in certain circumstances that the CSRA identifies that each cell in a CCU should be single occupancy due to the assessment of risk, for example:

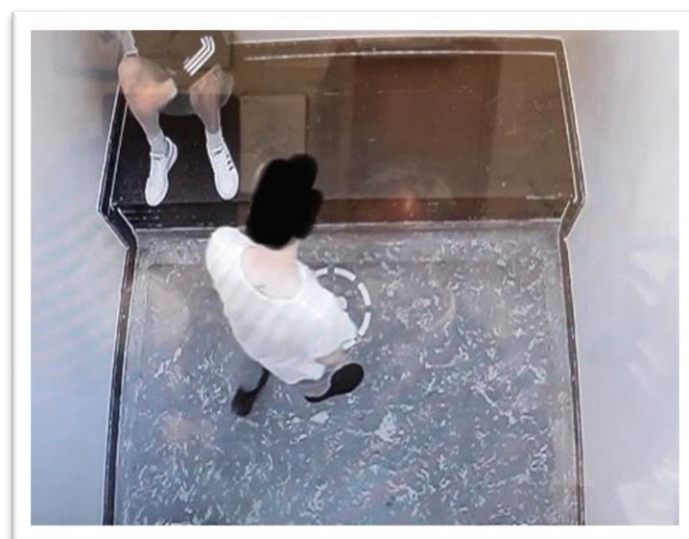
Single cell requirement	
1 x adult male	1 x adult female
1 x male under 21	1 x female under 21
1 x male under 18	1 x female under 18
1 x offence protection	1 x violence against others
1 x constant observation (mental health issues or on the SPS Talk to Me Suicide Strategy)	1 x COVID-19 or other infectious disease issues

There could be many other reasons, for example some custodies may have issues around racism or homophobia, and custodies attending from prison arguably should not share a cell with those arriving from police custody. Equally, if there is intelligence that identifies risk from other SPS custodies this needs to be taken into account.

A recent finding was that custodies attending from a Separation and Reintegration Unit (SRU) within a prison were not being kept apart from other custodies and being permitted to share a cell. We encourage the SPS to work with GEOAmey to ensure this is prevented in future.

GEOAmey have sole responsibility for the allocation of cells within the CCUs and should not be influenced by other agencies or factors to deviate from their assessments. The expectation on numbers and virus transmission risk therefore should be that cells are single occupancy by default unless a CSRA clearly determines otherwise.

Inspectors frequently found cells clearly marked for one custody accommodating two. Physical distancing was not possible for occupants, as the photograph below shows:



Inspectors also found cells with markings suggesting suitability for double occupancy which clearly does not allow physical distancing, as the photograph below shows:



Prison Custodies Cell Allocation

The term “bubble” is often used to describe a cluster of people with whom individuals spend core time with during the pandemic.

Such bubbles are encouraged by the Scottish Government and are currently operating within Scotland’s prisons where small numbers of prisoners operate together similar to a household bubble. This, however, will only be effective if it is managed properly and members of that bubble are not exposed to others.

The Inspectors found during the liaison visits that the PER forms accompanying a custody from a prison do not detail if that custody is part of a bubble within a prison.

Further investigation found that the majority of CCU staff were not aware that prisons were operating bubbles and what they should do in respect of managing that custody on arrival at the CCU.

It was found that custodies attending a CCU from the same prison were almost always placed together in the same cell, on a number of occasions both custodies were part of different bubbles from within that prison. It is clear that working hard to keep bubbles operating as they should in a prison by keeping prisoners apart, is of little or no use if they are then placed in a cell with individuals from other bubbles whilst staying in a CCU. We encourage the SPS to work with GEOAmey and others to minimise such risks.

Marked Papers/Scheduling/Court Start Times

Inspectors found that, in general, a procedure existed in each of the CCUs to try and ensure that all agencies involved in the daily processing of custodies were made aware of each custodies health, location, and movements.

In respect of COVID-19, this process should ensure that the SCTS, the COPFS, Police Scotland, defence agents, the SPS, and GEOAmeY logistics are aware of the initial CSRA carried out by CCU managers determining which custodies are in a cell in the CCU, and which were not present in the CCU and retained at a police station or prison.

Generally, the processes were similar in each CCU. Each started with the GEOAmeY Team Manager sending an early email to the partners informing them of the names of the custodies arriving in the CCU that day, which custodies would be arriving in the CCU first, and which would be held back at police stations or prisons via the 9D retention process (see Annex B), to await cell availability in the CCU. A point of note is that there was no evidence of any 9D forms being served by GEOAmeY on the SPS to retain custodies, only Police Scotland.

The purpose of this process was clearly intended to give priority to processing the custodies arriving first in the CCU, to reduce their time in custody and allow the safe reception of those custodies still being held in police stations. This control of custody numbers in the CCUs reduced the potential for COVID-19 virus, and is a main contributor to keeping CCUs 'COVID-19 safe'.

Throughout the visits there was evidence that this process was not entirely effective in assisting the efficient movement of custodies or reducing the lengthy periods of time custodies were spending in shared cells.

Our evidence suggested that there were a number of reasons for this:

- Court times are dictated by an "Act of Court" and the start time can vary from 10:00 to 14:00. Despite this variety of start times, the GEOAmeY contract required custodies to be in court custody by 09:00. In practice, this meant that some custodies were arriving in the CCUs from 07:30 onwards and placed in a cell, often with another custody, in full knowledge that they would not appear in court for over five hours.
- Inspectors frequently found evidence of custody papers having been marked by the COPFS arriving with the CCU and defence agents for custodies that were not yet present in the CCU.
- Some papers did not arrive from the COPFS for custodies until late afternoon. This prolonged the amount of time custodies spent in the CCU cells and in transit, and as such increased exposure time in respect of COVID-19. It was acknowledged that some papers were late for good reason, for example late arrival of reports from Police Scotland, additional information being required, and for decisions to be made in respect of

possible petition cases. However, it was clear that the list of names provided by CCU managers at the start of the day detailing the custodies who are held in the CCU first were not always prioritised by the COPFS.

- Inspectors regularly found custodies were being brought from prison to a CCU only to find that they were not required by the court. Whilst inspecting Dundee Sheriff Court Inspectors found that on 07/12/2020 seven custodies attended the CCU from a prison and only three were required for the court, four made unnecessary journeys and as such took up cell space in close proximity to staff and custodies. Further enquiry found that nationally on this date 16% of all custodies brought to a CCU from a prison were either not required to appear on the day or were known not to be required before they left the prison.

To determine if this was an irregular event the figures were again gathered nationally on 11/01/2021, on this occasion 25% of all custodies brought to a CCU from a prison were either not required to appear on the day or were known not to be required before they left the prison.

If this one issue alone could be addressed it would have a significant impact on the unnecessary movement of custodies providing not only a financial saving but promoting single cell allocation and making a significant contribution to reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. We urge the SPS, the SCTS, and GEOAmey to explore how this can be addressed.

External visitors to the CCU

The vast majority of CCUs had stopped permitting defence agents and other external agencies from entering the cell area during the early stages of the COVID-19 restrictions. Most custody interviews were seen to be carried out using interview rooms separated by glass partitions. It was noted, however, that due to the layout of some CCUs, solicitors were permitted to enter the corridors to gain access to interview rooms to speak with their clients. Inspectors noted that some solicitors did not wear masks or gloves, and it appeared to be a personal choice that was exposing others to unnecessary risk. It was clear that this was a difficult situation for some CCU staff to address. Therefore it would be advisable for GEOAmey and the SCTS to ensure a blanket rule for all CCUs that no persons are permitted access without wearing a mask and agreeing to abide by physical distancing rules.

6. CONCLUSION

At the start of 2021 more than 50% of all confirmed COVID-19 cases in Scotland were of the new variant of coronavirus, which is estimated to be up to 70% more infectious. Even with the strong progress made with the vaccination programme, many custodies attending court will not have received a vaccination. With this in mind the need for the most basic public health requirements to be adhered to in the daily workings of Scotland's CCUs is crucial. Due to the location and construction of the vast majority of CCUs fresh air and adequate ventilation cannot be provided and is clearly not sufficient for the numbers of staff and custodies located there. Good cleaning schedules, regular use of disinfectant wipes, and PPE is evident, but maintaining physical distancing and avoiding the creation of small groups of people indoors is extremely difficult and sometimes nearly impossible.

HMIPS therefore believe it is essential that during this pandemic all agencies strive to ensure that collectively their daily processes secure a way to deliver single cell occupancy in all CCUs. To have multiple cell occupancy or the unnecessary attendance of custodies increases the airborne viral load in a poorly ventilated environment, and as such prevents CCUs becoming a more "COVID-19 safe" workplace.

We are delighted to have been able to highlight a number of areas where the response, particularly by GEOAmey, to recommendations made in our reports has been swift and decisive, and we now look for a similarly positive response to the different developmental areas outlined above.

We recognise that achieving single cell occupancy in all CCUs and avoiding all unnecessary court attendances is challenging, and not implementable overnight, but each CCU where that can be achieved represents another significant step in reducing transmission risks as well as contributing to the development of a more modern, efficient, and humane court system.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS)
May 2021

Update on Progress with Key Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION	UPDATE	RELEVANT AGENCY
SCTS may wish to liaise with the relevant body to encourage solicitors only to enter the CCU area when absolutely necessary and to always wear a mask and gloves.	Awaiting response	SCTS GEOAmey
If an “Act of Court” determines the start time of the custody court then partner agencies should consider working together to amend this to help reduce the unnecessary gathering of custodies and associated staff early in the day, thus reducing the need for social distancing and cell sharing.	Awaiting response	SCTS COPFS
Consideration should be given to the use of virtual court facilities for custodies attending a CCU from prison where there is no possibility of them being released.	Awaiting response	SCTS COPFS
CSRA and COVID-19 questions should be asked methodically and clearly and then documented. Custodies should only be accepted into the CCU when staff are satisfied they have understood and answered all questions.	Adopted	GEOAmey
As custodies are not given a choice regarding PPE, all GEOAmey staff escorting custodies in the CCU must wear gloves and masks at all times whilst handcuffed.	Adopted	GEOAmey
Staff escorting custodies from CCVs to the CCU should wear both masks and gloves.	Adopted	GEOAmey
All key agencies should work together to improve scheduling to aid phased management of custodies through the Team Manager.	Awaiting response	SCTS COPFS GEOAmey

CCU Visit Programme – May-October 2020

	Report on CCU Liaison Visit	Publication Date
1.	Report on Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Paisley Sheriff Court on 11 May 2020	August 2020
2.	Report on Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Falkirk Sheriff Court on 18 May 2020	August 2020
3.	Report on Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Hamilton Sheriff Court on 26 May 2020	August 2020
4.	Report on Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Dundee Sheriff Court on 1 June 2020	August 2020
5.	Report on Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Aberdeen Sheriff Court on 8 June 2020	August 2020
6.	Report on Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Edinburgh Sheriff Court on 15 June 2020	August 2020
7.	Report on Liaison Visit to Glasgow Sheriff Court, Court Custody Unit on 29 June 2020	August 2020
8.	Report on Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court on 9 July 2020	August 2020
9.	Report on Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Kilmarnock on 13 July 2020	August 2020
10.	Report on a Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Airdrie Sheriff Court on 27 July 2020	November 2020
11.	Report on a Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Dumbarton Sheriff Court on 10 August 2020	November 2020
12.	Report on Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Inverness Sheriff Court on 24 August 2020	October 2020
13.	Report on a Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court and Unannounced Visit on 7 September 2020	December 2020
14.	Report on a Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Dumfries Sheriff Court on 22 September 2020	December 2020
15.	Report on a Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Livingston Sheriff Court on 12 October 2020	December 2020
16.	Report on a Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Greenock Sheriff Court on 28 October 2020	December 2020
17.	Report on a Liaison Visit to Court Custody Unit, Ayr Sheriff Court on 29 October 2020	December 2020

ACRONYMS

CCU	Court Custody Unit
CCV	Court Custody Vehicle
COPFS	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSRA	Cell Sharing Risk Assessment
Geotrack	GEOAmey IT System
HMCIPS	HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland
HMIPS	HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
NHS	National Health Service
NPM	National Preventive Mechanism
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
PER	Personal Escort Record
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SCTS	Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service
SPS	Scottish Prison Service
SRU	Separation and Reintegration Unit
9D FORM	A process to prevent the admission of custodies into a CCU due to capacity issues with regard to health and safety.



HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland is a member of the UK's National Preventive Mechanism, a group of organisations that independently monitor all places of detention to meet the requirements of international human rights law.
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