

Report on HMP Glenochil – Inspection 24 to 28 February 2025

Short Summary of the Inspection Findings

About this inspection

- The report is from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS).
- Inspectors visited 24–28 February 2025.
- We looked at how you were treated and the conditions you lived in.

What inspectors found

It was a mixed picture. There were good points and some serious concerns.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Rating</u>
1	Lawful and Transparent Custody	😊 Satisfactory
2	Decency	❌ Poor
3	Personal Safety	😊 Generally Acceptable
4	Humane Use of Authority	😊 Satisfactory
5	Respect and Protection	😊 Generally Acceptable
6	Purposeful Activity	😊 Generally Acceptable
7	Transitions to Community	😊 Generally Acceptable
8	Organisational Effectiveness	😊 Satisfactory
9	Health and Wellbeing	✅ Good

Good things seen

- Healthcare rated “good”. Caring staff looked after an ageing and infirm population. Excellent health and social care. Safe medication systems and infection control. Good mental-health and addiction services. Regular care for long-term conditions and palliative patients.
- Peer mentors delivering induction to new arrivals and helping others with recovery programs.
- Visits were friendly and welcoming, and families could book longer sessions.
- Most convicted men could work three days per week, but not everyone had equal access.
- Education by Fife College was well-taught but limited in variety. Sports and fitness was good..
- Faith services were well liked, though not always available to all groups.

Main problems

- Overcrowding: 244 men were sharing cells for one person. This is below international standards on minimum living space.
- Separation and Reintegration Unit: Numbers held were rising and spilling over into the residential halls, with no regime.
- Food and hygiene: There were serious concerns about food hygiene and cleanliness, the menu was unchanged for four years.
- Cleaning and equipment: Litter and poor cleanliness across parts of the prison.
- Staff shortages: not enough officers to maintain consistent regimes and run activities.
- Complaints system: Prisoners lacked confidence in it and staff sometimes discourage them from using it.
- Safety risks: Substance misuse, lack of awareness amongst staff of the SPS anti-bullying policy, inconsistencies with suicide-prevention paperwork.
- Limited activities: Education and training was restricted. Library access was poor. There was no weekend chaplaincy. Men on non-offence protection had limited access to work, education, faith services or addiction support.

Inspectors want these improvements

For HMP Glenochil:

1. Better support for people in situations of vulnerability.
2. Every prisoner with fair and full access to daily activities.
3. Peer mentors used more and prisoner feedback acted on.
4. Better food quality
5. Better cleanliness.
6. Appraisals, support and development for all staff.

For the Scottish Prison Service (SPS):

7. Faster access to rehabilitation programmes.
8. A complaints process that is easy to access, tracked, and fair.
9. No sharing of single cells.
10. Make sure people in separation and reintegration units are accommodated properly and not subject to solitary confinement.

Final message

HMP Glenochil had dedicated staff and strong health care, but faced overcrowding, poor food and hygiene, staff shortages and limited opportunities for prisoner voice. Improvements were starting but will need continued focus from both the prison and the Scottish Prison Service.

HMIPS will ask the Scottish Prison Service to let us know how they will deliver the improvements within three months of this report being published, and ask for a progress update one year later. These updates will be published on our website.