

## Report on HMP Kilmarnock – Inspection 19 to 23 May 2025

### Short Summary of the Inspection Findings

#### About this inspection

- This report is from His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS).
- Inspectors visited **19–23 May 2025**.
- We looked at how prisoners were treated and the conditions they lived in.

#### What inspectors found

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

<u>No.</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Rating</u>
1	Lawful and Transparent Custody	☹️ Generally acceptable
2	Decency	☹️ Generally acceptable
3	Personal Safety	☹️ Generally acceptable
4	Human Use of Authority	☹️ Generally acceptable
5	Respect and Protection	☹️ Generally acceptable
6	Purposeful Activity	☹️ Generally acceptable
7	Transition to Community	☹️ Generally acceptable
8	Organisational Effectiveness	☹️ Generally acceptable
9	Health and Wellbeing	☹️ Generally acceptable

#### Good things seen

- **The change from a private to a public prison was done safely.**
- **Good staff–prisoner relationships**, helping to keep people safe.
- **Good, education and gym opportunities**, including access for remand prisoners.
- **Some good healthcare practices**, including:
  - Prisoners with long-term health conditions were looked after well.
  - The health and wellbeing drop-in clinics.
  - Good support for those with addictions.
- **Good family contact**, including:
  - Welcoming visits area
  - A tea bar run by a prisoner.
- Good work to support people **preparing for release**.

## Main problems

- **Overcrowding:**
  - Many single cells shared by two people.
  - Some remand and convicted prisoners sharing cells.
- **Living conditions:**
  - Poor cleanliness in some halls, showers and dining areas.
  - Inconsistent systems for cleaning and laundry.
- **Food:**
  - Many prisoners unhappy with the quality of food, portions and choice.
  - Concerns about food hygiene and safety.
- **Complaints system:**
  - Prisoners had little confidence in it.
  - Complaints sometimes went missing or were not answered.
- **Equality and fairness:**
  - Equality and Diversity work had **fallen back** since the last inspection.
  - Foreign nationals and disabled prisoners found it harder to access information and services.
- **Information and induction:**
  - Induction was inconsistent.
  - There was limited translation and easy-read materials.
- **Healthcare gaps:**
  - Long waits for dental care.
  - Confidentiality issues during some health consultations.

## Inspectors want these improvements

- Reduce overcrowding and **end sharing of single cells**, especially for remand and convicted prisoners.
- Improve **cleanliness, hygiene and laundry systems**.
- Improve **food quality, choice and safety standards**.
- Make the **complaints process easy to use, reliable and trusted**.
- Fully support **Equality and Diversity**, tackling barriers for foreign national and disabled prisoners.
- Ensure all prisoners receive **clear information and induction**, in languages and formats they understand.
- Ensure everyone gets **daily access to fresh air**.
- Improve **access to healthcare**, especially dentistry, and protect patient privacy.
- Support staff with training and clear roles following the transition to SPS.

## Final message

HMP Kilmarnock successfully managed a difficult transition into the public sector, and many staff showed dedication and care. There is good work in health care, family contact and purposeful activity. However, **overcrowding, poor hygiene, food quality, equality issues and weak complaints systems** are holding the prison back. Inspectors expect the prison and the Scottish Prison Service to act quickly to make improvements and to build on the strengths already in place.