



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Report of
Her Majesty's Chief
Inspector of Prisons
for Scotland
1982

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
September 1983*

EDINBURGH
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
£2.40 net

Cmd 9035

PREVIOUS REPORTS

1981—Cmnd. 8619

ISBN 0 10 190350 2

FOREWORD BY THE RT. HON. GEORGE YOUNGER, M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND

This is the second Annual Report to have been submitted by H.M. Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland since the new arrangements for inspection of penal establishments announced in the House of Commons on 1st August 1980.

It is gratifying to note that H.M. Chief Inspector records that there has been a prompt response to the recommendations made by him in his reports on individual establishments. He goes on to record, however, that in his view attention is still required to the overcrowding of short-term and remand sections and other facilities available to both these groups of inmates. I very much share that concern and have asked the Director of the Scottish Prison Service to take whatever steps may be possible in the short-term to improve matters for these groups of inmates. As stated in my Foreword to last year's report, however, substantial improvement in these areas cannot, unfortunately, be looked for, in the absence of any reduction in the number of people being committed to prison, until the major projects at present under construction and planning to provide additional places within the system come to fruition.

H.M. Chief Inspector includes two specific recommendations in his report—one relating to the inmates' earnings scheme and the other relating to the problem of containing and treating disturbed inmates within penal establishments. I am informed by the Director of the Scottish Prison Service that both of these problems were already receiving attention; that action is being taken on the lines recommended by H.M. Chief Inspector; and that he will be reporting to me further on these matters in due course.

GEORGE YOUNGER

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St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DU

19 July 1983

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE GEORGE YOUNGER, T.D., M.P.
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Scotland

I beg to submit the Annual Report of H.M. Inspectorate of Prisons for 1982. The duties, principles and procedures governing the inspection of penal establishments in Scotland were set out in Chapter One of the report for 1981 and are also set out in the report "Prisons in Scotland 1980" and in the interests of economy are not reprinted. In principle it has not been seen necessary to alter the basic procedures but some have been developed or adjusted.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your obedient Servant



D. A. P. BARRY, C.B.E.
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0. The Work of the Inspectorate

Staff of the Inspectorate

1.01. The staff of the Inspectorate is unchanged and is as follows:

A. C. Meikle	Governor Class I H.M. Deputy Chief Inspector of Prisons
J. Bertram	Governor Class III Inspector of Prisons
Personal Secretary	Miss L. M. Moffat

Programme of Inspections

1.02. The Secretary of State approved the programme of inspections for 1982 which included the following establishments:

H.M. Prison Penninghame
H.M. Prison Low Moss
H.M. Institution Cornton Vale
H.M. Prison Perth
H.M. Prison Shotts
H.M. Prison Barlinnie
H.M. Special Unit Barlinnie

All the above establishments were inspected and thus the programme of inspection of all adult establishments has been completed on time.

1.03. The Inspectorate of Prisons has the duty of inspecting all Legalised Police Cells throughout Scotland and those at Hawick and Oban were visited for this purpose during the year and reports and such recommendations as were seen appropriate forwarded to the respective Chief Constables. The prompt response of the Chief Constables to recommendations is appreciated.

Reports

1.04. Reports of inspections of the following establishments, which were completed in the previous year, were published in 1982.

H.M. Prison Peterhead
H.M. Remand Institution Longriggend
H.M. Prison Dungavel

Reports have been completed following the inspections carried out at:

H.M. Prison Penninghame
H.M. Institution Cornton Vale
H.M. Prison Perth
H.M. Prison Low Moss

and the outstanding reports are at the final drafting stage.

Visits

1.05. Informal visits including one without prior notice were made to all but one of the establishments presently operating, the exception being H.M. Prison at Peterhead which was visited in the first two weeks of January 1983. A visit was also made to the Scottish Prison Service College and H.M. Prison Greenock which is unoccupied during reconstruction.

Meetings, etc.

1.06. The practice of meeting regularly with the Director of the Prison Service has continued and the working relationship which was reported last year as having developed satisfactorily has been strengthened. The Inspectorate has also met with officials of the Committee of the Prison Governors (Scotland) Branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants and also with Social Work Services Group. Regular meetings have been held with officials of the Scottish Office and the members of the Inspectorate again attended the Scottish Prison Governors' Annual Conference.

1.07. Regular contact was maintained with the senior staff of H.M. Inspectorate of Prisons for England and Wales and these contacts have been maintained with the appointment of Sir James Hennessy, K.B.E., C.M.G. as H.M. Chief Inspector in succession to the late Mr W. H. Pearce, C.B.E.

1.08. In 1981 the Secretary of State directed the Inspectorate to assess the conditions of remand prisoners in Scotland and it was considered that it would be helpful to have comparative information on remand conditions elsewhere. Accordingly the Chief Inspector was given authority to visit remand establishments in the Lower Saxony Lander of the Federal German Republic and in France. This visit which was scheduled for late 1981 had to be abandoned due to the extreme weather conditions then prevailing, but was re-scheduled for March 1982 when it was also possible to visit the office of the Council of Europe Committee on Human Rights in Strasbourg and take the opportunity of discussion with senior officials there.

1.09. These visits were arranged informally with helpful advice from the Consuls General of the Federal Republic of Germany and of France, both resident in Edinburgh. The assistance of those in the respective Ministries of Justice who kindly made arrangements for these visits is acknowledged with grateful thanks. The Chief Inspector wishes also to record his appreciation to members of the administration, to Directors and members of the prison staffs and to inmates of the prisons visited of their courtesy and patience in answering the many questions and enquiries.

1.10. The background gained from these visits has been of help in the inspection of remand accommodation and conditions. In general terms it must be said that the conditions of remand prisoners in Scotland whilst far from satisfactory would seem to compare favourably with those detained on remand in France but less favourably with those in Lower Saxony. Very considerable interest was expressed by staff at all levels in both countries in the concept and operation of an independent Inspectorate.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Conditions and Regimes

General Assessment

2.01. During our programme of informal visits to establishments during 1982 we paid particular attention to matters on which we had made recommendations to the Governor and local management, Prisons Division and/or the Secretary of State following earlier inspections. In many instances appropriate action has already been possible and in others progress is being made as quickly as circumstances and resources permit. Our comments on a number of establishments are as shown below.

2.02. *Aberdeen*

The Prison has operated just below its design capacity for much of the year but the population has been marginally above this level consistently in the final quarter of the year. The standard of cell furniture has been improved. A programme of recreation and association is being developed for remand inmates. Work is in hand for the improvement to the "A" Hall ablutions and a contract for similar work in "B" Hall is being negotiated. Further improvements and alterations to other buildings will result in the eventual provision of class-rooms allowing our recommendation regarding education facilities to be implemented.

2.03. *Dungavel*

No formal recommendations were made despite a number of critical comments requiring attention locally or by Prisons Division. The kitchen area has been under a reconstruction programme which is now complete. The local Chief Fire Officer has visited and is to undertake a thorough inspection and issue a report. There is now a Social Worker in post and his contribution is commended by the Governor, who particularly welcomes his involvement with parole reports which are now able to include some forward planning. On the other hand, work by inmates on community projects is less available due in part to these being staffed by young people and others on schemes operated by the Manpower Services Commission. The Governor would like to see the population rise to nearer the design capacity.

2.04. *Edinburgh*

The overcrowding of this Prison has continued, the population reached a peak of 734 early in the year and remained over 700 throughout the first quarter. Thereafter it declined but has remained at least 100 in excess of the design capacity throughout the year. It must be emphasised that overcrowding is in principle restricted to the remand and short term sections of the prison and the quality of the regime for these two categories of inmates is unacceptably impoverished. Although some efforts have been made to improve the recreation and dining facilities for those on remand the concern previously

expressed regarding the position of these inmates in our previous report on Edinburgh remains. The expected reduction of remand population consequent to the implementation of the Bail, etc. (Scotland) Act 1980 has not taken place. The remand population in Edinburgh at the beginning and end of the year was 111 and 123 but was more often than not considerably in excess of that figure reaching a peak of 180 on 1st June 1982.

2.05. Accommodation at Edinburgh is likely to be under increased pressure for some time because of the necessity to take Forth Hall out of commission during reconstruction of the roof, made necessary by the discovery of a design fault. The opportunity will be taken to upgrade the accommodation and to undertake a pilot scheme of provision of integral sanitation and this we welcome.

2.06. *Inverness*

The population has been in excess of design capacity to a varying degree throughout the year. Although no recommendations were made in the report on this establishment it is commendable that despite pressure on the accommodation for remand inmates occasioned by the temporary transfer of female accommodation, the conditions have been only minimally affected.

2.07. *Longriggend*

In addition to the 11 formal recommendations there were a considerable number of others made to both local and central management. Many are long term and time will be needed for implementation. We were impressed on our visit, however, by a new air of purpose and are aware that Prisons Division has allocated a high priority to the improvement of Longriggend.

2.08. *Peterhead*

Our recommendation regarding the increase in the management team is unlikely to be fully considered until the entire programme of re-furbishment of the halls is complete. There has been progress in the improvement of staff facilities but the recommended accommodation of the works department remains outstanding. It is reported to us that staff complements are now agreed. Recommendations relative to the Chaplains and the staff of the Social Work Unit have been implemented.

2.09. Improved recreational facilities have now been completed but the acoustics of the new general purpose area are far from satisfactory and the showing of films or video tapes presents some difficulty. We hope that this situation will be rectified in the near future. Our recommendations that an increase should be made in the present 4½ hours working day is not acceptable to the Governor and staff. We have discussed this and are content to shelve this recommendation. It is noted, by implication, that the staff complements agreed with the Department allow for continuance of the shorter working day.

2.10. The recommendations relative to dining facilities assumed an early completion of the extension and reconstruction of the kitchen. We are most concerned to note the lack of progress in the 16 months since our inspection. It is appreciated that very considerable difficulties have presented themselves

and the completion is now in the hands of a hard pressed works staff. We strongly recommend that all steps be taken to bring forward a completion of this work. We are still unhappy about the methods used to transport meals to halls and the Dining Hall in "C" Hall. We appreciate that there are physical difficulties in the operation of heated trolleys but food of good quality delivered hot to inmates is a basic requirement. There has been considerable progress in the construction of the 10 cell unit.

General

2.11. In general, therefore, we wish to record that there has been a prompt response to the recommendations in our reports although the overcrowding of short term and remand sections and other facilities available to both classes of inmate still require attention.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 General Assessment

Conditions of Buildings

3.01. Following our inspections we have drawn to the attention of the Director such minor matters as we have been able to observe regarding the condition of buildings. The Inspectorate receives regular reports from Prisons Division on existing and proposed developments in each establishment. Steps have been taken to recruit tradesmen to fill vacancies in works departments and this should improve maintenance schedules. Nevertheless we have generally been impressed by the standard of decoration particularly in inmates' accommodation but we would hope that general refurbishment of Halls would not normally be delayed until the dilapidation which we observed in "C" Hall at Perth has taken place.

Security

3.02. Matters relating to security of establishments are now forwarded to the Secretary of State under Confidential Cover following each inspection.

Morale of Staff

3.03. In the 1981 report under paragraph 3.07 we dealt at some length with the morale of prison staff and have little to add to our remarks contained therein. We are concerned however that in some establishments particularly the larger prisons, communications have been reported as less than satisfactory. It is however encouraging that where this was observed the Governors concerned appreciated the problem and undertook to examine ways in which the situation could be improved. It is important that communications in both directions are effective towards the maintenance of a satisfactory level of morale and of efficiency and of the understanding and attainment of objectives.

Morale of Inmates

3.04. During the year we have not observed any conditions which would cause us to change the opinion previously expressed regarding the morale of inmates, but until general overcrowding and lack of adequate employment or occupation are improved in remand and short term situations, the morale of these inmates is not likely to improve.

The Inspectorate has during 1982 developed some of its inspection procedures but is conscious that further changes are required in relation to its assessment of inmates' morale.

Employment and Occupation

3.05. The difficulties of providing employment and occupation for inmates have continued and there are still a number of short term inmates confined to their cells for part of the working day because of lack of opportunity of

this nature. This situation is not likely to improve in the present economic climate unless there is a more determined effort to provide other occupation where work opportunities are limited. There may arise a need to re-examine some of the workshop operations presently functioning to provide more labour intensive tasks than at present. It is perhaps relevant to note that the Chief Inspector was able to observe the success which the prison administration in Lower Saxony has been able to achieve in attracting to their prison workshops contracts of a labour intensive nature which result in a reduction of imports from developing countries. A description of one of the Directors of an establishment visited that "Prison Industries represent 'the third world within Germany'" is quite apt. An on the spot examination of the methods used by the administration in Lower Saxony might be of considerable advantage to us in Scotland.

3.06. In practically all of the establishments inspected during the year we have had our attention drawn either by staff or by inmates or both to the unsatisfactory inmate wage system. We have formed the opinion that this requires a thorough in-depth examination as a matter of some urgency and we so recommend.

3.07. The Training for Freedom scheme continues to operate but with increasing difficulties in the provision of employment for those selected for this privilege. We are glad to observe that for those inmates for whom a position in employment has not been found, great efforts are made to find other occupation within the community so that the aims of the Training for Freedom scheme continue to be met.

Services and Facilities

3.08. As our programme of inspections has progressed it has become apparent that the administration within the offices of establishments depends to a large extent on the development of local systems which inevitably creates difficulties when clerical officers are transferred from one establishment to another. We have received mixed reports from Governors regarding the effectiveness of some members of the clerical staff who are members of the prison service but we ourselves have no recommendations to make in this regard.

3.09. Our further inspections in 1982 have confirmed the remarks we made in paragraph 3.12 of the 1981 Report relative to the Chaplaincy services provided in penal establishments. In that Report we mentioned the desirability of holding a Chaplains' Annual Conference and regret that this suggestion has not yet been implemented.

3.10. We have been concerned to learn during some of our inspections in 1982 that many discipline staff do not approve of some aspects of the education programme and facilities provided in establishments. We are at pains to point out that this is not a general state of affairs but that it exists at all is a matter for concern. There is a need for an exchange of information between the educational units within establishments and the discipline staff so that each understands the position of the other. This is a further example of the poor communications which exist and which we are anxious should be improved.

3.11. It was impressed upon us during most of the inspections undertaken in 1982 by medical and nursing staff, by discipline staff at all levels, by the consultant psychiatrists who provide services within the prison system and by senior management that penal establishments are being obliged to accept an increasing number of inmates with varying degrees of personality or behavioural disorder. It is not within our remit to examine the reasons for this but it must be emphasised that such inmates once they are in prison can only be treated in a penal setting. Medical officers and consultant psychiatrists who have spoken to us about this problem have pointed out that such treatment is often inappropriate. Prison staff of all grades including Nurse Officers have been at pains to point out to us that they do not have the knowledge or the expertise or training or indeed the facilities properly to contain and treat such inmates. Many of those who have made such representations to us maintain that there is a need for a unit within the Scottish Prison system to provide an appropriate facility for such inmates where the treatment will be very much medically orientated and staffed by officers with nursing training and experience under the direction of a Medical Officer with experience in forensic psychiatry. Others consider that trained staff with Specialist support and adequate facilities should be provided in each of the larger establishments. We wish to make it clear that we see our function as reporting this concern and the suggestions and recommendations made to us from those within the service and providing medical services to establishments. We recommend for our own part that these representations be given the most serious and urgent consideration.

3.12. The service provided by Social Work Units within establishments is generally good but not all complemented posts are occupied. There would appear to be a quite wide variation in the priority given by Regional Social Work Departments to offender work and this is reflected in the support for the Social Work Units within establishments.

Committees

3.13. At each inspection during 1982 we met with representatives of Visiting Committees. All of these with the exception of the Visiting Committee to the Borstal and Young Offender Units at Cornton Vale, which is appointed by the Secretary of State are appointed by Local Authorities. We have already recommended in our report on Low Moss Prison that steps should be taken to appoint a separate Visiting Committee to that establishment. We do not consider it satisfactory that the establishment should be served by a sub-committee of the Barlinnie Visiting Committee which although large in numbers has already sufficient responsibilities. In our Report for 1981 we had already recommended that the responsibility for Longriggend Remand Unit should devolve on a new Visiting Committee. All members of Visiting Committees seen during inspections have re-affirmed that the training sessions provided for members at the Prison Service Training College are most valuable and we are glad to note that Prisons Division is continuing this facility.

3.14. Local Review Committees continue to provide the preliminary assessment of inmates eligible for release on licence under the Parole Scheme as provided in the Statute. The only matter on which we have concern is that reported at Perth Prison, which contains a considerable number of inmates on indeterminate sentences, that the operation of the Preliminary Review Committee is not understood either by staff or inmates. We have taken the

opportunity of discussing this informally with the Chairman of this Committee and have been impressed with the promptness of his response. By contrast, we learn that in Peterhead Prison the Committee's operation is seen as a welcome development.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Recommendations

4.1. We recommend a thorough examination of the inmates' earning scheme. (3.06)

4.2. We recommend that there be consultations regarding the problem of containing and treating disturbed inmates within penal establishments. (3.11)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been gratifying to observe the growing acceptance by Prison staff at all levels of the need for an Independent Inspectorate and the response we have experienced is evidence of the realisation that our role is supportive as well as investigative. That this is so is in great measure due to the tireless efforts of my small support staff and this I wish to record with gratitude.