



HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland
Improving Policing across Scotland

Wednesday, 23rd July, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Custody Progress Inspection Report – Argyll and West Dunbartonshire

A progress inspection of police custody facilities in Oban has led to additional recommendations being made to improve the healthcare provision for detainees.

In May 2024, a joint custody inspection was undertaken by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) in the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire region, focusing primarily on the custody centres in Clydebank and Oban.

During the inspection, HIS inspectors identified a key area of concern which related to the absence of clinical governance and oversight structures for healthcare provision within Oban police custody centre.

HIS communicated these concerns to the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), which has responsibility for healthcare provision within the police custody centre in Oban.

In a report published in October 2024 Argyll and Bute HSCP were asked to undertake a review of the issues identified and provide a formal update within two weeks of the date of the inspection.

The HSCP update was subsequently submitted and reviewed by inspectors, who carried out a progress inspection of the Oban police custody centre in March this year.

They found while some improvements had been made to address previous recommendations, the follow-up visit resulted in additional recommendations being made.

The five new recommendations – made in the ‘Custody Progress Inspection report: Argyll and Dunbartonshire’ published today - included that Argyll and Bute HSCP should establish a monitoring framework to collect data on patient outcomes in police custody, and to ensure that patients' needs are met.

Two of the progress report recommendations related to the storage of detainee health records and patient confidentiality.

The remaining two related to checks being carried out and recorded regarding emergency equipment and medications, and infection control precautions.

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, Craig Naylor, said: “Inspectors were clear that the purpose of the progress inspection visit was to focus on the healthcare improvement action plan, with an emphasis on governance arrangements, as well as consideration being given to some of the other healthcare related recommendations made in our initial report.”

HMICS and HIS Inspectors will continue to monitor progress against the new recommendations made.

Ends

Notes

Places of detention, including police custody centres within the UK, are monitored as part of the human rights treaty: 'Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)'.

OPCAT requires that all places of detention are visited regularly by a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), an independent body or group of bodies which monitor detainee treatment and conditions. HMICS is one of several bodies making up the NPM in the UK.

Ends notes

NOTES TO EDITORS

The 'HMICS Custody Progress Inspection Report – Argyll and West Dunbartonshire' will be available to download at the [HMICS website](#) from 00.01hrs, Wednesday, 23 July, 2025.

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