

THE BARLINNIE VISITING COMMITTEE

This is the final report of the Barlinnie Visiting Committee (VC) for the period 1st April 2015 until 31st August 2015 when it was replaced by a new system of monitoring. During this period the VC met once, visited the prison on 30 occasions and responded to 11 prisoner requests. The membership of the VC remained the same as listed in the 2014/15 Annual Report.

Once again I would like to thank all the VC members for their work on behalf of the Committee and also to the Governor and staff for their assistance in the final months of our existence.

Please note that VC records held by our secretary have been lodged with the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Allan Devlin

Chair

31st August 2015

POINTS OF NOTE AND WORK OF THE VC

At the VC meeting in June, the committee noted the favourable comments made by the Director of Prisons on the overall good performance of HMP Barlinnie during 2014/15. The governor had met with the external health provider NHS focusing on efficiency improvements and the use of the Day Care Unit, all aimed at making the service better.

E hall is now exclusively housing sex offenders and protection prisoners with numbers averaging 260. Employment, offender programmes and recreation is offered in an appropriate manner.

Letham Hall which holds life prisoners continues to operate well with a population of around 60. Currently an average of 16 prisoners attend external community placements.

The Link Centre continues to offer assistance to prisoners from many external agencies such as Faith in Throughcare, Citizens Advice, New Routes and Adult Learning. Assistance with Housing is provided by four Local Authority Housing Departments. The Centre also continues to offer many family based events for prisoners and their families.

The VC welcomes the continuing popularity of the Communication Hub comprising the Library and Prison Radio Station.

The average prison population during this period was 1230. During visits, the VC noted the regime in place in E Hall for sex offenders and protection prisoners held there.

The VC was represented at a presentation in the Learning Centre about the Museum Project which was organised with Glasgow City Council Leisure.

A VC rota for visiting had been prepared up until 31st August 2015 and members responded to 11 prisoner requests. These were in the following categories.

Social Work	2
Health	3
Discipline	2
Security category	1
Transfer	1
Conditions	2