Justice Committee

Transfer of prison healthcare to the NHS

Written submission from the Scottish Prison Service

I refer to the question raised by Graeme Pearson, MSP at the Justice Committee evidence session on the transfer of prisoner healthcare to NHS on 20 November.

The written response requested from the Scottish Prison Service is detailed below for the information of the Committee.

**Question**

“HM inspectorate of prisons for Scotland has reported that healthcare services in Dumfries operate under difficult conditions. Will someone in your organisation pick up on that comment and will they work through what those difficult situations are and repair them?”

**Response**

Management from HMP Dumfries have confirmed that the refurbishment of the health centre facilities at HMP Dumfries is complete and a full range of clinical services are now provided from that location and the satellite surgery in the residential area. The Prison Health Service is now fully staffed and has bank nurse provision if required. Medical service provision has not changed since hand over to the NHS and is operating without any issues. The Health Board has employed a full time mental health nurse at the establishment and regular Multi-Disciplinary Mental Health Team (MDMHT) meetings take place. The Health Board has invested additional resources to reduce the dental waiting list and the waiting time is now comparable with the community. All other aspects of care is commensurate with that which is available in the community.

Ruth Parker
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