

# UK NPM Reporting Dashboard Quarterly Analysis Q3 (October – December) 2025



## At a Glance:

Total Records	Recommendations	Best Practices	Total Reports
1,102	836	266	86
Top tags		Top categories	
Governance		Management, Oversight and Procedures	
Staff training and oversight		Education and Purposeful Activity	
Mental health support		Safety and Security	

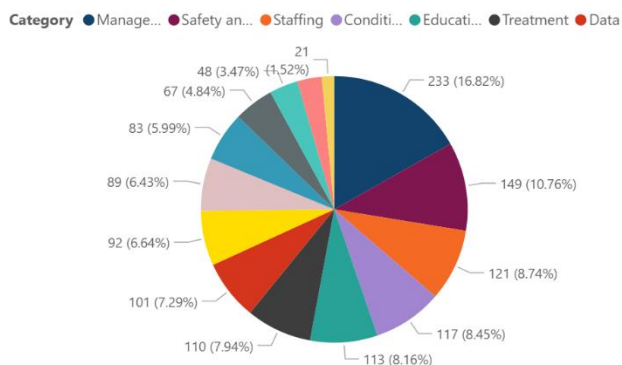
## Overview

During Q3 of 2025, a total of 1,102 records, from 86 reports, were produced by UK NPM bodies. Of these records, 76% (836) were recommendations, and 24% (306) were examples of good practice. This split almost exactly mirrors the number of records made in Q2.

Top categories in recommendations this quarter were **management, oversight and procedures, safety and security** and **staffing**.

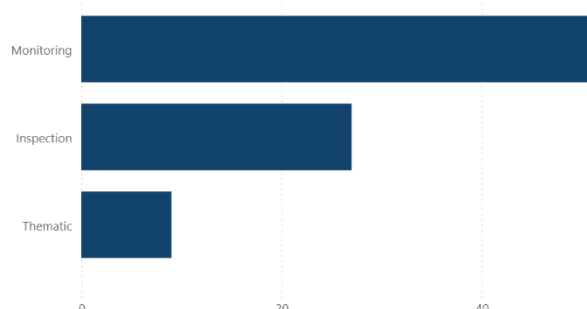
Top categories in good practice were **education, treatment** and **management, oversight and procedures**.

Total Recommendations by Category



More specifically, top thematic tags in recommendations across all sectors were **governance**, **staffing levels** and **data recording**, echoing similar themes from Q2. The most commonly identified good practices related to **wellbeing support**, **staff-detainee relationships** and **staff training and oversight**. Again, these findings are almost identical to Q2's.

Total Reports by Report Type



Of the 86 reports published in this quarter, 51 were monitoring reports, 27 were inspection reports and 9 were thematic reports.

46 of the 99 reports were related to prisons, 15 to police custody, 9 to secure children's homes, 7 to immigration detention, 4 to secure mental health and 1 to court custody. This follows a similar spread from Q2. There were also 2 reports relating to children in custody, but not necessarily any one setting – these were marked as “Other”.

## Prisons

During Q3, 31 monitoring, 13 inspection reports, and 1 thematic report were published across the UK. Key themes of concern emerging in Q2 related to **employment**, **purposeful activity** and **staffing levels**, while key areas of good practice were seen in **wellbeing support**, **employment**, and **staff-detainee relationships**. While recommendation themes differed from Q2, best practice themes remained similar. The total number of recommendations made and good practices identified was 536 and 185, respectively. These records came out of reports across England, Wales and Scotland.

## Immigration Detention

5 monitoring reports, 1 inspection report and 1 thematic report on immigration detention were published in Q3. A total of 75 recommendations were made, and 12 examples of good practice were identified. Recommendations focused on issues of **use of force**, **safeguarding** and **governance**. There were significantly more Use of Force recommendations due to the IMB's [By Force of Habit](#) report. Good practice was found in **staff-detainee relationships**, **detainee access to information** and **physical**

**provisions.** The inspection and monitoring visits reported on occurred in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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## Police Custody

Very similarly to Q2, only 2 of the 15 police custody reports related to inspections, with the rest coming from annual monitoring visit reports and also a review of state threat legislation by the IRTL. Areas of concern were **governance**, **detainee access to information** and **hygiene**, but **healthcare treatment**, **staff training and oversight** and **wellbeing support** were recognised as positive areas of police custody. These records reflect findings in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Overall, 84 recommendations were made, and 34 examples of good practice identified.

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## Court Custody

There was one thematic report published by the Lay Observers relating to the [impact of poor transport on court custody](#) this quarter. 11 recommendations were found in this report, which unsurprisingly related to **transfers between settings/establishments**.

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## Secure Children's Homes

There were 8 inspection reports from the secure children's estate in England and Scotland published this quarter, with top concerning themes being **staff training and oversight**, **data recording** and **governance**, while themes of good practice were **staff-detainee relationships**, **staff training and oversight** and **cases management**. These records comprise 67 recommendations and 25 examples of good practice. 40 recommendations were made in 3 thematic reports relating to the secure children's estate by the Children's Commissioner for England.

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## Secure Mental Health

Of this quarter's 2 inspections of secure mental health facilities in Scotland and England, concerns were found in **data recording**, **health assessments** and **maintenance**. On the other hand, areas of good practice were identified in **safety**, **risk management** and **data recording**. 8 recommendations were made, and 10 examples of good practice identified. 23 recommendations were made in 2 further thematic reports. Outside of mental health treatment, support and assessment, these mainly focused on **funding**, **safeguarding** and **regime suitability**.

## Examples of Good Practice

Good Practice	Establishment
The centre had introduced weekly management welfare checks for detainees held over six months, which was positive given the risks of long-term detention for detainee well-being.	Dungavel IRC
Norfolk Constabulary are one of the first forces to fully implement support for female DPs suffering with the menopause, with signposting to support agencies through L&D, a dedicated female staff member, and access to a selection of different products, such as lip balms and fans to make their stay in custody more comfortable.	Police Custody Establishments in Norfolk
A particularly commendable initiative involved three children producing a video about their experiences and feelings around consequences, which was shared with staff during an away day. This has helped staff to view the use of consequences from a child's perspective. This powerful child-led contribution has helped staff's understanding and reinforced the importance of listening to the child's voice in shaping practice.	Lincolnshire Secure Unit
The service worked with people and healthcare partners to understand what being safe meant to them and the best way to achieve that. They concentrated on improving people's lives while protecting their right to live in safety, free from bullying, harassment, abuse, discrimination, avoidable harm and neglect. Staff identified, and shared and recorded safeguarding concerns with necessary staff and external agencies quickly and appropriately.	Broadmoor Hospital
Brinsford's neurodiversity support manager (NSM) is passionate about helping neurodivergent prisoners. He strives to achieve this by engaging with prisoners, and upskilling staff to develop their awareness of best practice when working with neurodivergent men. It is estimated that 72% of prisoners in Brinsford have neurodiverse needs, so this resource is vital and its inception in 2024 was welcomed.	HMP Brinsford
Cells were not wheelchair accessible and none had raised beds that could be used to support those detainees with mobility issues. Inspectors were told if patients had complex physical, social or care needs, a fitness to remain in custody assessment would be completed by the ANP followed by a joint discussion between custody staff and healthcare staff. This is considered good practice.	Police Custody Establishments in the Highlands & Islands

For more detailed analysis on good practice, please refer to the UK NPM's monthly thematic analysis of good practice.