



Meeting Minutes

NPM Scotland Subgroup Quarterly Meeting

Thursday 27 November 2025, 10:00-13:00

Chair: AO

Present:

AO, Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)

SHG, UK NPM

MK, UK NPM

RJ, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)

NH, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland (non-voting, virtual)

CA, Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)

SS, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons Scotland (HMIPS)

JC, Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWCS)

CH, Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) (non-voting)

Apologies:

KM, Care Inspectorate (CI)

KS, Independent Custody Visiting Scotland (ICVS)

In attendance:

CK, UK NPM

SR, UK NPM

CD, *Director of Justice*, Scottish Government

HY, *Prisons Policy Manager (Prisons Team)*, Scottish Government

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies

AO led a round of introductions to introduce **MK** as incoming interim Head of the UK NPM, and shared news of **SHG**'s new appointment as Deputy Chief Inspector of Prisons in Scotland.

2. Declarations of Interest

Nothing to add to existing declaration registry.

3. Guest Discussion: Cat Dalrymple, Director of Justice, and Heather Young, Prisons Policy Manager (Scottish Government)

The Scotland Subgroup were pleased to welcome **CD** and **HY** for a discussion on issues in Scottish detention settings, including: the Scottish Government's Vision for Justice; Scotland's rising and complex prison population; deaths in custody; the implementation of recommendations from the Independent Review of the Response to Deaths in Prison Custody (2021) and the Review...Recommend...Repeat (2024)



INDEPENDENT
CUSTODY VISITING
SCOTLAND

reports; the pace of change; the importance of data; operational challenges; governance relationships between the Scottish Prison Service and Scottish Government; funding of essential preventive and therapeutic mechanisms like “Willow”; and the availability of mental health and substance misuse services across the country.

SHG updated the Subgroup on the Ministerial Accountability Board and confirmed his continued membership on this board once he leaves the UK NPM, meaning the NPM no longer has sight into this board.

[ACTION 93] CK to draft a letter of thanks to **CD**

[ACTION 94] CK to draft a letter to Cabinet Secretary Angela Constance

[ACTION 95] CK to draft a letter to Audrey Nicoll

4. Paper 2: Review of August minutes

All agreed to the minutes.

5. Key Issues updates

- **Paper 3: Mental health transfer data roundtable**

JC updated the group on this issue, noting the opening of female high secure beds at the State Hospital and the Forensic Network’s (FN) quarterly report monitoring of transfer times to mental health settings. It was suggested that this issue becomes a watching brief for the Subgroup to see how this mechanism delivers.

There was discussion over the accuracy of FN’s data and the value of statutory oversight of this data. It was confirmed that the FN Secretariat is the State Hospital but has the normal accountability review of any health board. **JC** sits on the oversight board.

AO suggested that some subgroup members create a short briefing paper for the group, fleshing out the concerns and recommending next steps for the subgroup on this issue. This will be brought to the Subgroup’s next meeting in March.

The group also discussed the possibility of having the Forensic Network present their work on the topic at a future Scotland Subgroup meeting.

[ACTION 96] CK/CH/SS/JC to liaise and create a short briefing paper for the group to bring to Q4 meeting.

- **Paper 4: Pre-circulated written updates**

Nothing arising from the pre-circulated updates.

6. Thematic Seminar/Reports

The group agreed in principle to a thematic seminar which will take place at the end of February/early March. The UK NPM team and Subgroup Chair will return to the group with further information.

[ACTION 97] CK to circulate Doodle Poll to determine date for thematic seminar

[ACTION 98] CK/MK/AOH/SR to discuss thematic seminar and come back to the group with correspondence

7. AOB

The group discussed the proposed dates for 2026 subgroup meetings, and considered potential speakers to invite (suggestions included Principal Sheriff Abercrombie, Martyn Evans from the Sentencing and Penal Policy Review, Forensic Network).

There was a short discussion on recommendation review dates, originally raised in a previous meeting. **AO** suggested that this may be something that Subgroup members do internally.

[ACTION 99] CK to circulate dates for 2026 meetings

[ACTION 100] ALL to consider speakers for 2026 meetings

Close 13:00

Summary of agreements and actions

Action	Agreement/action	Responsible	Status
<u>82</u>	CK to investigate possibility of a PQ on data issues in custody.	CK	
<u>93</u>	Draft a letter of thanks to CD	CK	Complete
<u>94</u>	Draft a letter to Cabinet Secretary Angela Constance	CK	Complete
<u>95</u>	Draft a letter to Audrey Nicoll	CK	Complete
<u>96</u>	Liaise and create a short briefing paper for the group to bring to next meeting.	CK/SS/JC/CH	Complete
<u>97</u>	Circulate Doodle Poll to determine date for thematic seminar	CK	Complete
<u>98</u>	Discuss thematic seminar and come back to the group with correspondence	CK/MK/AO/SR	Complete
<u>99</u>	Circulate dates for 2026 meetings	CK	Complete
<u>100</u>	Consider speakers for 2026 meetings	All	