



Meeting Minutes

NPM Scotland Subgroup Quarterly Meeting

Thursday 28 August 2025, 10:00-12:30

Chair: AO

Present:

AO, Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)

SHG, UK NPM (Virtual)

KS, Independent Custody Visiting Scotland (ICVS)

CW, Care Inspectorate (CI)

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

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

ED, Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)

JoC, Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWCS) (virtual)

JT, Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) (non-voting) (virtual, intermittently)

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

Apologies:

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

CA, Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)

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

In attendance:

CK, NPM Secretariat Officer (Scotland)

SR, NPM Support Officer

CM, NPM Intern

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies

AO led a round of introductions to introduce **JoC** and **CM** to the Scotland Subgroup (SSG).

2. Declarations of Interest

Nothing to add to existing declaration registry.

3. Paper 1: Review of May minutes

All agreed to the minutes.

4. Paper 2: CPT update and reflections

SHG updated the SSG on the CPT visit to the UK. The CPT has [announced a periodic visit for 2026](#). During the ad-hoc visit in June 2025, the CPT met with many SSG

members. The visit focussed on police custody, prisons, and secure accommodation services. **SHG** welcomed reflections from the SSG on the CPT visit and engagement.

It was confirmed that a month's notice is normally given for an announced periodic visit (happening in 2026). The NPM Central Team will create a briefing for the CPT and any involved bodies when this is announced.

5. Ministerial Accountability Board update

SHG updated colleagues that Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, Angela Constance (Cabinet Secretary), has invited **SHG** to sit on Ministerial Accountability Board (MAB). The MAB was created to provide oversight while the Cabinet Secretary looks to establish a National Oversight Mechanism. The next (and second) meeting of the MAB will take place in September. The group discussed the purpose and value of the UK NPM participation on this board, and raised concerns as to the appropriateness of NPM membership on this board.

Action 78: SHG to update the SSG on MAB at Nov 2025 meeting.

6. UK NPM Reporting Dashboard demonstration

SR gave demonstration of UK NPM Reporting Dashboard.

JoC asked which hospitals are being included in the dashboard. **SHG** confirmed the inclusion of medium and high secure hospitals, but an exclusion of places of deprivation of liberty orders for now. This could be a data gap if not included. **JoC** also asked about the ability to record whether a recommendation has been resolved. **SHG** and **SR** gave updates on "Phase 2" of the dashboard – where there will be the possibility to track progress of recommendations.

JT spoke to the ease of use, giving positive feedback, but noted that searching for the right tag can be time consuming. The protocol for giving feedback on the database was confirmed.

The NPM Central Team will provide details of dashboard website traffic at the next SSG meeting. **AO** suggested picking this up at the next Annual Conference, noting an interest in how other bodies are using the dashboard.

Action 79: CK/SR to provide update on Reporting Dashboard usage at next meeting.

7. Paper 3: Summary of meetings with Subgroup representatives

AO noted that the summer meetings were all positive overall. Issues raised included consistency and seniority of membership, and whether the representatives can commit resources to activities. Also raised was the need for a shared understanding of human rights, and to look at how NPM bodies are evidencing this in SSG work. One suggestion was made about a sex and gender policy, which **AO** noted could be picked up by the SSG next year if members felt it appropriate and a priority. SSG

representatives were reminded that under the current membership structure, only those organisations that are the principal body inspecting or monitoring a given detention setting are designated as members of the UK NPM by the Lord Chancellor.

[JT left meeting]

[JaC joined meeting]

8. Paper 4: Issues Log

AO proposed that the SSG start to think more thematically about key issues.

Mental Health Transfers Data Roundtable:

CK provided an update on the roundtable, including a meeting with the Forensic Network (FN) in July. The FN continues to voluntarily collect this data. The group discussed whether for the SSG should continue to work towards a roundtable, and agreed to take advice from **JoC** following his attendance at the FB Board meeting.

Action 80: JoC to update the SSG after the next FN Board meeting.

Action 81: SSG to make a decision on the Mental Health Transfers Data Roundtable at Nov 2025 meeting.

Deaths in custody and data issues:

CK updated the SSG on the Deaths in Prison Custody Database she is maintaining, noting some inconsistencies between FAI details and SPS figures. The group discussed what should be done to address the broader issue of lack of data collection, transparency, and analysis, which thereby limits data-driven decision-making.

There was support for further parliamentary engagement on this issue

Action 82: CK to investigate possibility of a PQ on data issues in custody.

The group discussed the response from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs regarding unimplemented recommendations highlighted in the 2024 report [Review, recommend, repeat](#), which acknowledges data collection limitations. **AO** suggested another response to the Cabinet Secretary as the UK NPM remains concerned about the relationship between data collection, management, and accountability. **JoC** suggested the implementation of a post-recommendation review date.

Action 83: CK to draft response to letter from Cabinet Secretary.

Action 84: CK/SR to add discussion about post-recommendation reviews to agenda of Nov 2025 meeting.

Action 85: SSG members to share examples of data issues with CK via email.

The SSG agreed not to queue up any other key/thematic issues. **AO** proposed a more holistic approach to the thematic issues, but not a dissolution of the issues log.

[JT rejoined meeting]

Thematic Seminars:

AO, CK and **SHG** proposed a series of 3-4 thematic seminars (hybrid or in-person) to highlight systemic issues in Scottish detention, including: Deaths in Detention, Data,

and Human Rights in places of deprivation of liberty (from the perspective of the systemic nature of these issues and the need for sustainable action, as well as state obligations). Another session was also proposed, which would revisit the implementation of recommendations (i.e. those found in the Angiolini report etc.) The proposed audience is UK NPM bodies, parliamentarians, SG, civil society. Possible partners include SHRC or the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The terminology “Deaths in Detention” was proposed to more broadly capture all detention settings. The broader heading of “Human Rights in Places of Detention” was also suggested, under which we could introduce related issues like data, which are not as captivating, but nonetheless important Publication of an easy-read guide to human rights legislation, akin to SHRC’s easy-read prison rules was also suggested. The group questioned whose responsibility this was to produce easy-read documents as it requires significant resource. Unfortunately, in many detention settings, there appears to be limited human rights expertise to undertake this work, despite being 27 years on from the Human Rights Act. The SSG was asked for full commitment to these seminars due to their having to take place this winter to avoid the pre-election period (suggested timings October 2025 – January 2026). SSG members approved the proposal for the seminar series.

Action 86: AO/SHG/CK/SR to meet to make initial plans for seminar series.

Action 87 CK to send details of proposed seminar series to SSG members.

Action 88: SSG to scope out appetite for parliamentarians, SG, and other stakeholders to attend seminar series.

Issue Log Decisions:

Regulations: transfer of YP who have recently attained 18 years to Polmont

Due to capacity issues in secure accommodation services, and ongoing plans for a new unit to be built, the group agreed to move issue to a watching brief for the time being.

International recommendations not implemented

The SSG agreed to Neil Rennick’s request to join the next SSG meeting.

Action 89: CK/SR to invite Neil Rennick to the next SSG meeting.

Action 90: SSG members to prepare questions for Neil Rennick for the next meeting.

Separation and Reintegration Units (SRUs) and use of isolation

This will be folded into the UK NPM’s national work on isolation across all detention settings. **SHG** has commissioned Dr Sharon Shalev for this research. The current hypothesis for this research is that solitary confinement is the most prolific breach of human rights legislation in the UK.

Use of force (including on children in police custody)

NH updated that their investigation on police use of force against children continues, and the CYPSC is hoping for a contribution from the UK NPM, which the Central Team confirmed they would send

Investigation of deaths in mental health settings

JoC updated that an investigation process had been successfully piloted, and has been sitting with SG for some time awaiting budgetary approval.

Extended periods in police custody

This is to be pulled into thematic issues.

Joined up justice & data management

A priority theme with different actions across SSG members, and will feature as a thematic issue.

9. Paper 5: Pre-circulated written updates

The Care Inspectorate are in the initial stages of helping develop a new secure unit for children. **CW** asked for recommendations of external bodies that could advise on this. **SHG** referred to the work the UK NPM is doing on environmental conditions. **JoC** provided information on mental health settings that could be of use.

Action 91: CK to send a note to SSG members with CW's request in case of any further information.

10. AOB

There is now a vacancy within the UK NPM Steering Group. There is currently no Scottish representation on the Steering Group. CK will write to SSG members with the process for nominating and electing a new candidate. The position requires attendance at quarterly meetings, shared between London and online. The next meeting is 22 September 2025.

Action 92: CK to send Steering Group election process to SSG members.

The group discussed logistical considerations for upcoming meetings.

The next NPM Scotland Subgroup meeting will take place on 27 November 2025. Dates for 2026 meeting will be provided at this meeting.

Close 12:30

Summary of agreements and actions

Action	Agreement/action	Responsible	Status
<u>78</u>	SHG to update the SSG on MAB at Nov 2025 meeting.	SHG	On agenda
<u>79</u>	CK/SR to provide update on Reporting Dashboard usage at next meeting.	CK & SR	On agenda
<u>80</u>	JoC to update the SSG after the next FN Board meeting.	JoC	Complete / on agenda
<u>81</u>	SSG to decide on the Mental Health Transfers Data Roundtable at Nov 2025 meeting.	ALL	On agenda
<u>82</u>	CK to investigate possibility of a PQ on data issues in custody.	CK	
<u>83</u>	CK to draft response to letter from Cabinet Secretary.	CK	
<u>84</u>	CK/SR to add discussion about post-recommendation reviews to agenda of Nov 2025 meeting.	CK & SR	Complete
<u>85</u>	SSG members to share examples of data issues with CK via email.	ALL	Email sent
<u>86</u>	AO/SHG/CK/SR to meet to make initial plans for seminar series.	AO, SHG, CK & SR	Complete
<u>87</u>	CK to send details of proposed seminar series to SSG members.	CK	
<u>88</u>	SSG to scope out appetite for parliamentarians, SG, and other stakeholders to attend seminar series.	ALL	
<u>89</u>	CK/SR to invite Neil Rennick to the next SSG meeting.	CK & SR	Complete
<u>90</u>	SSG members to prepare questions for Neil Rennick for the next meeting.	ALL	
<u>91</u>	CK to send a note to SSG members with CW's request in case of any further information.	CK	Complete
<u>92</u>	CK to send Steering Group election process to SSG members.	CK	Complete