

## **Justice Committee**

### **Scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2017-18**

#### **Written submission from HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland**

Thank you for your letter of 15 September 2016.

Funding for HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS) is allocated by the Justice Directorate of the Scottish Government. For the year 2015-16, the budget for HMIPS increased significantly over the previous year as a result of the introduction of Independent Prison Monitoring, following the implementation of the Public Services Reform (Inspection and Monitoring of Prisons) (Scotland) Order 2015 on 31 August 2015. The first full year of Independent Prison Monitoring is this year 2016-17.

A total of 146 Independent Prison Monitors are currently undertaking the role, independently monitoring all 15 prisons in Scotland on a weekly basis under the new national system. This is in addition to the inspection work undertaken by HMIPS.

I would not anticipate that the delay in the publication of the 2017-18 draft budget would affect the service we provide on behalf of the people of Scotland. Our planning assumption is that sufficient resources will be allocated to HMIPS to enable us to fulfil our legal obligations to inspect and monitor prisons in Scotland. However if there were a reduction in funding this could potentially impact on the service we provide.

I look forward to seeing the outcome of the budget deliberations in due course. Once again thank you for seeking my views on this issue.

David Strang  
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland  
12 October 2016