



## A brief history of Kilmarnock prison

HMP Kilmarnock is located 3 miles to the south-east of Kilmarnock. The prison is the first in Scotland to be Designed, Constructed, Managed, Financed and Built (DCMF) under the private finance initiative (PFI) and became operational on the 25 March 1999. The prison has a 25 year contract.

It is the most modern prison in Scotland, with 500 single cells, and with a maximum capacity of 692 prisoners. The prison has had 3 Directors since opening but the current Director Wendy Sinclair is the first woman.

The prison is a closed high security establishment, similar to HMP Shotts, Edinburgh and Perth. It accommodates male adult prisoners – remands, short-term and long-term - and male young offender remands.

As with all Scottish Prisons, HM Prison Kilmarnock is subject to the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2006, as amended, and prisoners have the same rights at Kilmarnock as they would have in **any other** Scottish Prison. Although Kilmarnock Prison is operated by Serco, it is part of the SPS estate and prisoners remain under the same care agenda as that of the Scottish Prison Service.

Every prison is a small community in its own right with education, work, healthcare but with the addition of offending behavior programmes it becomes a regime where we try and tackle some of the causes of offending. We work hard to deliver a safe and effective regime to prepare prisoners to lead a law abiding life upon release to the community. We also provide some of the interesting aspects of life and have had a Burns Supper in February. Well attended, you could have heard a pin drop when Tam O 'Shanter was being read.

One of the most recent significant legislative changes was the introduction of the Management of Offenders in Scotland Act (2005). Amongst other changes the Act brought in Home Detention Curfew (HDC, or early release on electronic tag). Popular with prisoners it has to date been successful with few breaches.

We believe that supporting prisoners and their families will lead in the long run to reducing reoffending. So we have worked with other organizations to improve our family support.

- In 2006 a Butler Trust Award was achieved by our Visits and Addictions team in 2005 for the work they have undertaken in conjunction with the Lighthouse Foundation (a local charity who work within the prison) in providing support to prisoner's families.
- This team was also recognised in 2005 by Serco's Chairman's recognition Award for their contribution towards reducing drug-related deaths in Ayrshire. They donated the £500 award to the Lighthouse Foundation.
- Prisoners at HMP Kilmarnock often donate money to charity and the Lighthouse has benefited from a number of charitable events.
- A further partnership, 'Project Happy' works with prisoners families and provide a shuttle bus between Glasgow and the prison to facilitate visiting.

Their work has been filmed by the BBC and can be seen on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Preventing the next crime is important to us and we have worked with the police and 'Crime stoppers' to look at a knife amnesty and display Crime stoppers information around the prison.

Finally the Chief Inspector of Prisons report, (HMCIP) stated that Kilmarnock was a "safe and controlled prison" - welcome praise indeed.

**Wendy Sinclair**

**DIRECTOR**

**HM PRISON KILMARNOCK**