



# Education & Work Training Thematic Inspection Report Summary



## Report Timeline



## Focus Area: Rehabilitation & Development - Purposeful Activity

### OIP: Provision of Work Training in Prisons

- Access to Work Training
- Work Training Certification
- Sustainability of Work Training Initiatives

### DE Inspectorate: Provision of Education in Prisons

- Teaching and Learning
- Leadership and Management

*"Purposeful activity" is more expansive in definition than 'authorised structured activity' as provided for under Rule 27(2) of the Prison Rules 2007-2020. Not only should activity be intended to decrease the likelihood of re-offending, but it should also be designed to benefit prisoners during their period of imprisonment."*

## Inspection Key Findings

### Work Training

- Across the 3 prisons, there were many examples of in-prison collaboration, engagement with the community and peer-led initiatives.
- In 2 of the 3 prisons, people in prison were not guaranteed their minimum entitlement to five hours of access to "authorised structured activity" on five days of each week. Prisoners on protection experienced very little engagement with activities in the prisons.
- There were not many certification opportunities available to prisoners, but there were examples of initiatives championed by prison staff to increase engagement with community partners.
- Prison officer posts dedicated to prisoner rehabilitation were often redeployed to other posts, and there was no education and work training policy in place to support sustainable and strategic planning in education and work training.

### Education

- Quality of teaching across all prisons inspected was very good. Teachers were flexible, creative and innovative in their teaching and learning programmes were designed around student needs.
- Across the prisons, relationships between school and prison management were good or very good. However, there were issues in 2 prisons with access to school. Challenges included: unpredictable opening of the school, erosion of start and finish times and difficulty in providing support for vulnerable prisoners.
- Students described the school as a vital service that helped them cope with their sentence and gain skills and qualifications. Students and teachers shared high levels of mutual respect.

### 3 Key IPS Recommendations

- IPS should **develop an Education and Work Training policy** in collaboration with all of the key stakeholders.
- **Certification** offered to prisoners should be **labour market tested** and should be recognised by employers to improve employment prospects upon release.
- A **centralised data recording system** should be put in place to accurately identify, track and report on engagement with purposeful activity.

### Recommendations



All recommendations were accepted or partly accepted by the IPS, and an Action Plan was developed to address the recommendations. The OIP monitors implementation of IPS Action Plans over time and publishes status updates.