

Questionnaire to Conduct a COVID-19 Survey on Irish Prison Service Staff

Survey Response Period

Start Date: 30 April 2021

End Date: 16 May 2021

Office of the Inspector of Prisons 24 Cecil Walk Kenyon Street Nenagh Co. Tipperary Tel: + 353 67 42210

OIP-Administered COVID-19 Survey for IPS Staff

Introduction

The Office of the Inspector of Prisons (OIP) is conducting an online survey of staff currently working in the Irish Prison Service (IPS). This survey complements the OIP's ongoing Thematic Inspections, and is designed to learn about your experience working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey is for all IPS staff, and has a specific section for people who work in a prison setting (or undertake frequent work-related prison visits).

The OIP would appreciate if you could complete this 15-minute survey in one sitting by Sunday, 16th May 2021 at 11:59pm.

Participation is voluntary and all answers will be kept anonymous and confidential. Only the OIP will see your answers and the published report will contain aggregated responses - this means we will group information in ways that ensure you cannot be identified.

You can skip questions, but the OIP would like to encourage you to complete each question, if it is applicable to you.

The OIP would like to thank you for your participation in the COVID-19 IPS Staff Survey!

Methodological Information

I: Gather information about experience of working in an IPS

Primary objectives of facility during COVID-19 pandemic restrictions

the study: 2: Gather information about experience of working with prisoners

during COVID-19 pandemic restrictions

Data collection Survey

Online via Qualtrics with the link posted on www.oip.ie and survey

password sent to the emails of all IPS staff

Sample size: c. 3,200

Participants: All staff employed by the IPS

Contact method: IPS staff email

Recruitment Notification to be displayed on PRISM and emailing all staff.

procedures:

instrument:

Mode:

Period: 30th April – 16th May 2021

Part 1: Demographics		
Question	Respon	ise set
Q1.1 What is your gender?	О	Male
	o	Female
	О	Other (please specify)
	О	Prefer not to say
Q1.2 How many years have you worked in the		
Irish Prison Service?	0	Less than 1 year
	0	1 year to less than 2 years
	0	2 years to less than 5 years
	0	5 years to less than 10 years
	0	10 years to less than 15 years
	О	15 years to less than 20 years
	О	20 years to less than 30 years
	О	30 years or more
Q1.3 Which facility within the IPS is your current		
work location?	0	Arbour Hill
	0	Castlerea
	0	Cloverhill
	0	Cork
	0	Limerick (Male & Female)
	0	Loughan House
	0	Midlands
	0	Mountjoy (Male)
	0	Mountjoy (Female) - Dóchas Centre
	0	Portlaoise
	O	Shelton Abbey
	О	Wheatfield
	О	PSEC
	О	OSG
	o	BSD
	О	IPSC
	o	IPS HQ
	0	Co-located Unit
Q1.4 How many years have you worked in this		
facility?	0	Less than 1 year
	0	1 year to less than 2 years
	0	2 years to less than 5 years
	0	5 years to less than 10 years
	0	10 years to less than 15 years
	0	15 years to less than 20 years
	0	20 years to less than 30 years
	0	30 years or more

Part 1: Demographics	
Question	Response set
Q1.5 Are you assigned to work in other IPS facilities? o Yes o No	o Yes o No
Skip To: Q1.7 If Are you assigned to work in other IPS facilities? = No	
Display This Question:	0 2
If Are you assigned to work in other IPS	o 3
facilities? = Yes	o 4
Q1.6 How many facilities (or sites) does your	o 5
role cover?	o 6
	o 7
	o 8
	o 9
	o 10
	o 11
	o 12
	o 13
	o 14 or more
Q1.7 Which of these options best matches your role?	o Recruit Prison Officer, Prison Officer, Work Training Officer, Trades Officer, Industrial Training Instructor, Assistant Industrial Supervisor & Equivalents
	o Chief Officer, Assistant Chief Officer, Chief Trades Officer, Industrial Supervisor, Industrial Manager & Equivalents (excludes Chief Nurse Officer)
	o Governor/ Assistant Governor (all grades)
	o Healthcare Staff (includes Healthcare Nurse Manager, Chief Nurse Officer, Nurse Officer, Doctor, Psychologist, Dentist, Addiction Counsellor and Others)
	o Administrative Staff (all grades, includes Professional and Technical staff)
	o Other (includes Chaplain, Volunteer, Teacher, Probation Officer, Other Community In-reach Worker, All Other Unlisted Roles)

Part 2: Staff COVID-19 Related	Issues					
Question	Response s	et				
Q2.1 Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
The IPS COVID-19 related restrictions and policies are clear to me	0	0	0	0	0	0
I feel involved in the decision- making processes related to COVID-19 in this facility	o	0	0	O	O	0
I am informed of changes in COVID-19 related restrictions and policies	0	O	0	0	0	0
Q2.2 Please indicate your level of						
agreement or disagreement with the following statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
I have access to adequate supply of hand sanitisers in all areas of the facility as needed	o	0	0	0	O	0
I have access to adequate supply of liquid hand wash/soap for staff in all areas as needed	0	0	0	0	0	0
The PPE equipment supplied to me provides reasonable protection from the risks of COVID-19 in this facility	0	O	0	0	0	0
Q2.3 Please select a response for each of the following statements	Vas		No. Not Amel	iaabla		
	Yes		No Not Appl	icable		
I have enough masks provided to me by the IPS	o		0 0			
I have enough disposable gloves provided the IPS	o		0 0			
Display This Question: If Please select a response for each of the following statements = I have enough masks provided to me by the IPS [No] Or Please select a response for each of the following statements = I have enough disposable gloves provided to me by the IPS [No]						
Q2.4 I have brought my own gloves and/or masks to work on occasions because of shortages	o Yes o No	3				

Part 2: Staff COVID-19 Related	Issues							
Question	Respon	se set						
Q2.5 Since the start of the pandemic, how often have you been working with the same cohort of staff? (Please use an estimate to select the best response option) Q2.6 Since the start of the pandemic, how often have you been working in the same part of the facility? (Please use an estimate to select the best response option)	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	More Betwee About 25% t Less Not A	than 75% een 51% a t 50% of the to 49% of than 25% pplicable than 75%	of the time of the time of the time and 75% of the time				
	0 0 0	o Less than 25% of the time						
Q2.7 Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements	Strong Agree		Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable	
I feel safe in my place of work since the emergence of COVID-19	0		0	0	0	0	0	
The IPS has implemented reasonable measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission	0		0	0	0	0	0	
I feel safe with the COVID-19 screening measures in place for staff on entry to the facility for work	0		0	o	0	0	0	
Q2.8 Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement on physical distancing	Strong Agree		Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable	
The majority of staff have strictly adhered to physical distancing guidelines at work	0		0	o	0	0	0	
Q2.9 Have you ever had to self-isolate because you were identified as a COVID-19 close-contact?	0	Yes No						

Part 2: Staff COVID-19 Related	Issues
Question	Response set
Display This Question: If Have you ever had to self-isolate because you were identified as a COVID-19 close-contact? = Yes Q2.10 How satisfied or dissatisfied were you of the length of time you were required to isolate at home?	 Very Satisfied Satisfied Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied
Q2.11 Have you ever tested positive for COVID-19? Skip To: Q2.13 If Have you ever tested positive for COVID-19? = No	o Yes o No
Display This Question: If Have you ever tested positive for COVID-19? = Yes Q2.12 What was the level of organisational support you received when you were recovering from COVID-19?	o 0 Not Very Supportive o 1 o 2 o 3 o 4 o 5 o 6 o 7 o 8 o 9 o 10 Very Supportive
Q2.13 Do you worry about bringing COVID-19 home from work and infecting your family?	o 0 Not Worried At All o 1 o 2 o 3 o 4 o 5 o 6 o 7 o 8 o 9 o 10 Very Worried

Part 2: Staff COVID-19 Related	Issues				
Question	Response set				
Q2.14 Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, how many times have you been tested for COVID-19?	 0 1 - 2 tin 0 3 - 5 tin 0 6 - 10 tin 0 11 - 20 	nes			
Q2.15 Have you availed of any support from the Employee Assistance Service during this pandemic?	o Yes o No o Not App	blicable			
Q2.16 Has there been any COVID-19 related changes to the following statements in comparison to your work before the onset of the pandemic?	Decreased Significantly	Decreased Moderately	Remained similar	Increased Moderately	Increased Significantly
Your average workload	0	0	0	0	0
The average number of staff in the facility	o	0	0	o	o
Q2.17 Please rate the overall quality of your working life since the onset of the COVID-19	 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 5 0 6 0 7 0 8 0 9 	Poor Quality			
Q2.18 Please rate your current level of work-related stress before the onset of COVID-19	 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 5 0 6 0 7 0 8 0 9 	Low Stress Level			

Part 2: Staff COVID-19 Related	Issues
Question	Response set
Q2.19 Please rate your level of work-	o 0 Very Low Stress Level
related stress since the onset of COVID-	o 1
	o 2
	o 3
	o 4
	o 5
	o 6
	o 7
	o 8
	o 9
	o 10 Very High Stress Level
	, ,
Q2.20 Please rate the effectiveness of IPS COVID-19 Infection Control training	o 0 Very Ineffective
in a devila to integral control training	o 1
	o 2
	o 3
	o 4
	o 5
	o 6
	o 7
	o 8
	o 9
	o 10 Very Effective
Q2.21 Please select up to three options	□ Working from home
you think help prevent and control COVID- 19 staff infections	☐ Regularly cleaning and disinfecting staff mess, canteen and other shared facilities
	□ Avoiding car-pooling
	□ Wearing full PPE while interacting with new committals and people in isolation
	□ Performance of in-prison contact tracing team
	□ Adequate time off work for symptomatic staff
	□ Screening of staff and other individuals entering the facility
	□ Testing and quarantining new committals to the facility
	☐ Halting visits of family/friends and other visitors to the facility
	□ Restricting out-of-cell time for prisoners
	□ Reducing authorised structured activities
	□ Isolating/cocooning vulnerable prisoners
	□ Reducing the population of prisoners in custody
	☐ Effectively communicating COVID-19 infection control procedures/protocols
	□ Other (Please specify)

Part 3: COVID-19 Priso	oner-Related Issues
Question	Response set
Q3.1 Do you work in a prison or pay frequent work visits to prisoners? (Selecting the No response will take you to the penultimate question of the survey)	o Yes o No
Skip To: Q3.18 If Do you work in a prison or pay frequent work visits to prisoners? (Selecting the No response will take you to the penultimate question of the survey)= No	
Display This Question:	o 0 Very Poor Access
If Do you work in a	o 1
prison or pay frequent work visits to prisoners? (Selecting	o 2
the No response will take you to the penultimate	o 3
question of the survey)= Yes	o 4
	o 5
Q3.2 Please rate the access to out-of-cell time for	o 6
prisoners in quarantine	o 7
	o 8
	o 9
	o 10 Very Good Access
Q3.3 Please rate the access	o 0 Very Poor Access
to out-of-cell time for prisoners in isolation	o 1
(symptomatic or COVID-19	o 2
positive)	o 3
	o 4
	o 5
	o 6
	o 7
	o 8
	o 9
	o 10 Very Good Access

Part 3: COVID-19 Priso	oner-Related Issues
Question	Response set
Q3.4 Please rate the effectiveness of Red Cross	o 0 Very Ineffective
Prisoner Volunteers in	o 1
sharing COVID-19	o 2
information with prisoners	o 3
	o 4
	o 5
	o 6
	o 7
	o 8
	o 9
	o 10 Very Effective
Q3.5 Please rate the support	o 0 Very Little Support
available for prisoners at risk of self-harm and suicide	o 1
or sen-narm and surouc	o 2
	o 3
	o 4
	o 5
	o 6
	o 7
	o 8
	o 9
	o 10 Very Good Support
Q3.6 How do you perceive	a O Very Dagy Ovelity
the overall quality of video	o 0 Very Poor Quality
calls' provision for prisoners?	o 1 o 2
	0 3
	o 4
	o 5
	0 6
	o 7
	o 8
	o 9
	o 10 Very Good Quality
	, ,

Part 3: COVID-19 Prise	oner-Relate	d Issues			
Question	Response set				
Q3.7 Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements on physical distancing	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am able to maintain the required distance between myself and others when working with prisoners in the general population	0	0	0	0	0
I am able to maintain the required distance between myself and others when working with prisoners in quarantine or isolation	0	0	0	0	0
Q3.8 Please indicate your level of disagreement or agreement with the following statements The use of in-cell phones and video calls by prisoners should be	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agre nor Disagre	Δαree	Strongly Agree
continued after the COVID-19 pandemic The restriction placed on out-of-cell time has been a proportionate response to prevent COVID-19 transmission	0	0	o	o	0
Q3.9 Please indicate from your experience whether there has been a decrease or increase to each of the following statements since the pandemic The frequency of interactions between staff and prisoners	Decreased Significantly o	Decreased Moderately o	Remained the Same	Increased Moderately S	Increased Significantly o
The duration of interactions between staff and prisoners	0	0	0	0	0
The quality of interactions between staff and prisoners	0	o	0	O	0

Part 3: COVID-19 Priso	oner-Related	d Issues				
Question	Response set					
Q3.10 Please indicate from your experience whether there has been a decrease or increase to each of the following statements since the pandemic	Increased Significantly	Increased Moderately	Remained the Same	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Significantly	
Disciplinary issues among prisoners	0	O	0	0	O	
The use of drugs among prisoners	0	O	O	O	o	
Staff empathy towards prisoners	0	O	0	0	0	
Q3.11 Please indicate whether there has been a decrease or increase to each of the following statements during this pandemic The number of prisoners requiring addiction	Decreased Significantly o	Decreased Moderately	Remained the Same	Increased Moderately	Increased Significantly o	
services The number of prisoners requesting psychology services	O	o	0	o	o	
The number of prisoners requiring menta l healthcare services	O	0	0	o	o	
Q3.12 Please indicate whether there has been a decrease or increase to each of the following statements during this pandemic The number of prisoners requesting general healthcare services	Increased Significantly o	Increased Moderately o	Remained the Same	Decreased Moderately o	Decreased Significantly o	
The number of prisoners requesting chaplaincy services	0	0	0	0	O	

Part 3: COVID-19 Prise	Part 3: COVID-19 Prisoner-Related Issues						
Question	Response s	et					
Q3.13 Please indicate your							
level of disagreement or							
agreement with each	Strongly	Б:	Neither Agree		Strongly		
statement	Disagree	Disagree	nor Disagree	Agree	Agree		
The effort of the IPS			•		•		
to increase prisoner							
family contact							
through telephone							
and video calls has	0	0	0	0	0		
been adequate							
The effort of the IPS							
to increase prisoner							
access to legal							
representatives							
through telephone			•		•		
and video calls has	0	0	0	0	0		
been adequate							
boon adoquate							
Q3.14 Please indicate your							
level of agreement or							
disagreement with the	Strongly		Neither Agree		Strongly		
following statements	Agree	Agree	nor Disagree	Disagree	Disagree		
COVID-19 has	Agree		nor bisagree		Disagree		
negatively impacted							
management of							
Incentivised	o	0	0	О	0		
Regimes		Ü	· ·	Ü	Ŭ		
00/45 40							
COVID-19 restrictive							
measures create							
more time for individual prisoner							
support by prison	О	0	0	0	0		
officers							
Onicers							
Frontline staff							
should be more							
involved in the							
Integrated Sentence	О	0	0	0	0		
Management plans							
of prisoners							
	ĺ						

Part 3: COVID-19 Prisoner-Related Issues					
Question	Response set				
Q3.15 Given the current COVID-19 restrictions, please indicate your level of disagreement or agreement with the following statements Prisoners are provided with	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
adequate education services	0	0	0	0	0
Prisoners are provided with adequate work & training programmes	0	0	0	o	0
Q3.16 Given the current COVID-19 climate, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements Healthcare staff in this facility are equipped	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
to handle the mental health requirements of prisoners	0	0	0	O	0
More resettlement support is required for high-risk prisoners being released	o	o	0	0	0
Q3.17 Please select up to three options you think have helped in controlling prisoner infections with COVID-19	Regular cleaning and disinfection of shower rooms, gym and other communal facilities Wearing face masks during out-of-cell time Performance of in-prison contact tracing team Testing and quarantining new committals to the facility Halting in-person visits of family/friends and other visitors to the facility Restricting out-of-cell time for prisoners Reducing authorised structured activities Isolating/cocooning vulnerable prisoners Reducing the population of prisoners in custody Effectively communicating COVID-19 infection control procedures/protocols Physical distancing of prisoners in different cells Other (Please specify)				

Question	oner-Related Issues Response set			
	Nesponse set			
Q3.18 In general, how would you rate your perceived impact of COVID-19 on prisoners' wellbeing?	o 0 \	/ery Low Impact		
	o 1			
	o 2			
	o 3			
	o 4			
	o 5			
	o 6			
	o 7			
	o 8			
	o 9			
	o 10'	Very High Impact		
Q3.19 Please provide any				
other COVID-19 related information you may want to				
share anonymously with the				
Office of Inspector of Prisons				
(OIP), or any measures taken				
during the pandemic you would like the IPS or your				
prison to maintain post-				
COVID				

Thank you for your time!

All of the information you shared with us today is anonymous and confidential. The Office of the Inspector of Prisons would like to thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The information you shared will be used to inform the Inspectorate's report, which will be submitted to the Minister for Justice