



IOP Recommendations Action Plan

Proposed Recommendation from the Inspector of Prisons investigation report on
Death in Custody of prisoner “Mr A” 12/02/2020

The Recommendations submitted by the IOP have been review and considered. The table below is a summary of proposed actions based on the investigation of the IOP in respect of the Irish Prison Service. The table also suggest timelines and action owners for completing the necessary actions.

No.	IOP Recommendations	Irish Prison Service Response	Action Required	Action Owner	Timeline
1	Decisions for compassionate temporary release, especially where end of life care is being administered, should be decided expeditiously to respect dignity in death for the prisoner and for a family to be allowed privacy. Once an application is made by a Governor, policy should dictate the timeframes for responses and escalation where delays occur.	Not Accepted	<p>“Compassionate temporary release on grounds of health and health related humanitarian grounds”, requires the gathering of a wide range of information from multiple sources and with a number of checkpoints along the way. In addition, each case must be treated on its merits and the decision making must reflect the prisoner’s sentence, time in custody, nature of offence and other criteria. This recommendation is being rejected because placing timelines could lead to poor decision making as the policy.</p> <p>From a Healthcare perspective, it is also unrealistic to</p>	Operations Directorate	



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			<p>impose a strict deadline on this kind of process. Clarification on the relevant details would generally be required. Therefore a measure of flexibility would be necessary to ensure all the details have been collated and considered appropriately. However it is the case that staff will always endeavour to achieve an outcome as soon as is feasible.</p> <p>Depending on the sentence type the final decision maker is the Minister or the Director General of the Irish Prison Service and so in main there is no further escalation point. As such, the inclusion of timelines is not considered appropriate.</p>	Healthcare Directorate	
2	<p>Every effort should be made to ensure that all those involved in the incident participate in the debriefing sessions to ensure they are afforded an opportunity to process the event and reflect on its impact.</p>	Accepted	<p>The Irish Prison Service Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) titled 'Critical Incident Reporting and Debriefing Procedures' came into effect on 1 July 2020 now reflects this requirement</p>	Operations Directorate	
3	<p>When temporary release is permitted on compassionate grounds, such as end of life care, the conditions attached to CTR should be proportionate, and reflect the situation of the prisoner and respect sensitivities of the family.</p>	Accepted	<p>Compassionate Temporary Release Policy can be reviewed and amended to reflect this. It should be noted that the standard conditions of temporary release are governed by S.I. No. 680/2004 - Prisoners (Temporary Release) Rules 2004</p>	Operations Directorate	Q2 2022



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4	The IPS should establish an end of life and palliative care policy.	Accepted	The Irish Prison Service has circulated the End of life Ethical Framework document to all prison Governors.	Healthcare Directorate	Completed.
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