



Seirbhís Phríosúin
na hÉireann
Irish Prison Service



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

IOP Recommendations Action Plan

Proposed Recommendation from the Inspector of Prisons investigation report on
Death in Custody of prisoner Mr K in Cork Prison on 14.03.2024

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	The OIP welcomes the IPS Drugs Strategy 2023 – 2026. In keeping with the objectives set out in that Strategy, it recommends that, in all cases where a prisoner is removed from his/her cell following a suspected overdose, a thorough search of the cell should immediately be conducted, in order to ascertain if any drugs	Accepted	A national SOP will be drafted as soon as possible to support prisons in cases where a prisoner is removed from his/her cell following a suspected overdose. Documented cell searches will be required under the SOP. The SOP will also consider operational and/or accommodation issues which may impact decision making and actions taken, as well as outlining	Operations Directorate	Summer 2024



	<p>remain hidden there. This search should be fully documented and information regarding the nature of any drugs found should be communicated to the prison's healthcare team and, if the prisoner concerned remains hospitalised, to the hospital concerned. This requirement should be set out in an Irish Prison Service Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).</p>		<p>requirements for communication with healthcare.</p>		
2	<p>Where a prisoner is removed from a cell following a suspected overdose, the prisoner concerned should never be returned to the same cell unless a thorough search of that cell has been conducted and fully documented.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>See response to recommendation 1.</p>	<p>Operations Directorate</p>	<p>Summer 2024</p>



3	<p>If it is suspected that a prisoner removed from a cell following a suspected overdose may be concealing drugs internally (for example, because no drugs have been found during a thorough cell search), health care professionals should take the lead in decision making regarding the supervision and care of that person. All such decisions should include a recorded risk assessment.</p>	Accepted	<p>Procedures for the management of prisoners suspected of internally concealing any prohibited article or substance and associated healthcare interventions are included in the redrafted SOP for Close Supervision Cells.</p> <p>The formation of a new healthcare SOP document underpinning the redrafted CSC SOP to cater for prisoners suspected of internally concealing contraband has begun. This will include a risk assessment carried out by healthcare staff and a treatment plan determined by this assessment which will include healthcare monitoring of the prisoner and eliciting a response from the prisoner overnight.</p> <p>It should be noted that the final decision on supervision is a statutory power reserved by the Governor of the prison .</p>	Operations & Care and Rehabilitation Directorates	<p>CSC SOP June 2024</p> <p>Healthcare SOP Q3 2024</p>
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4	<p>If it is deemed necessary to isolate a person from the general prison population because of a suspicion that that they have internally secreted drugs or other items of contraband, they should be subject to health care, not security observation – including at night – irrespective of whether they are held in a Special Observation Cell (SOC), Close Supervision Cell (CSC) or separation cell. In this regard, the Inspectorate endorses the view of the Council of Europe’s European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT that the most effective approach would be to do away with the current differentiation between a CSC and a SOC and instead focus on the</p>	Partially Accepted	See response to recommendation 3.	Operations & Care and Rehabilitation Directorate	June 2024
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	reasons for the placement of a prisoner in one of these cells.				
5	In order to enhance the effectiveness of the health care monitoring of such persons, the Inspectorate recommends that the IPS explore the potential of employing remote monitoring of vital signs technology in prisons in Ireland.	Accepted.	A sub-group of officials in the IPS has been established to examine remote monitoring of vital signs technology. The group has met with European colleagues and further discussions are planned.	Care and Rehabilitation/Operations/ICT Directorates	Ongoing
6	In the event that a prisoner dies in a multiple-occupancy cell, all the other occupants of that cell should be immediately relocated to different cell. Prisoners should never be obliged to remain in, or be returned to, a cell in which they have witnessed a death.	Partially Accepted	Where a prisoner dies in a multi-occupancy cell, it is standard practice that all other prisoners are removed from the cell and the cell is then master locked pending an investigation by AGS. The IPS SOP referenced in the response to recommendation 1 will provide for relocation of prisoners insofar as is operationally feasible.	Operations Directorate	Q2 2024



	This should be made clear to Prison Governors by the Director General of the Irish Prison Service.				
7	All prisoners who attend hospital following a serious incident, such as a suspected drug overdose, should be medically reviewed by a prison doctor on their return to prison or at the earliest opportunity thereafter.	Not accepted.	All prisoners ordinarily have timely access to the prison healthcare team. Doctor referrals are made as required.	Care & Rehabilitation Directorate	Complete
8	It is frequently deemed necessary to remove a person from prison to hospital for medical intervention. The OIP recommends that protocols be established between the IPS and HSE to ensure that medical treatment and adequate aftercare is provided to prisoners before they are	Not Accepted.	The HSE are statutorily responsible for providing prisoners with appropriate medical treatment and aftercare before returning them to a prison setting.	Care & Rehabilitation Directorate	Complete



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<p>returned to a prison setting. Implementation of this recommendation will require close cooperation between the Department of Justice and the Department of Health.</p>				
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