



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 C on 27/04/2021

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 Irish Prison Service should introduce a health care focused policy to respond to the threats and safety risks posed by the internal secretion of drugs and other items of contraband. This policy should clarify the roles and responsibilities of management, prison officers, and healthcare staff.	Accepted.	The Irish Prison Service is working on an SOP to manage prisoners who are suspected to have drugs/contraband secreted internally to ensure that they are monitored appropriately from both a healthcare and operational point of view. The SOP will aim to provide clear guidance to both healthcare staff, prison officers and prison management. It is hoped that this SOP will be in place by the end of Q3 of this year, subject to engagement with relevant stakeholders.	Care & Rehabilitation / Operations	Q3 2024



2.	This new policy should provide for a central role for health care professionals in decision making regarding the supervision and care of a person where there is a suspicion of internal secretion of drugs and other items of contraband. All such decisions should include a recorded risk assessment.	Accepted.	The SOP referenced above will provide for a central role for healthcare professionals in the assessment and subsequent management of prisoners who are suspected of secreting drugs/contraband to ensure that the appropriate level of care and supervision is provided for such prisoners.	Care & Rehabilitation / Operations	Q3 2024
3.	If it is deemed necessary to isolate a person from the general prison population because of a suspicion that they have internally secreted drugs or other items of contraband, they should be isolated in a Safety Observation Cell (SOC) under medical supervision, not in a Close Supervision Cell (CSC) under security observation.	Not accepted.	It is imperative that SOCs are reserved for use only in exceptional cases for prisoners who are psychiatrically unwell and represent a clear risk to themselves and/or others as a result of severe psychiatric illness or psychological disturbance. Prisoners who are suspected of secreting drugs/contraband internally will continue to be accommodated in a CSC, however, with the addition of healthcare monitoring as provided for in the revised CSC SOP and/or healthcare SOP as referenced above.	Care & Rehabilitation / Operations	Q3 2024
4.	The Irish Prison Service should intensify its efforts to physically prevent contraband from entering the prisons and to detect its presence once on the premises, including through technological means.	Accepted.	The Irish Prison Service published a new Drug Strategy in 2023 with a renewed focus to address substance abuse in prisons. The Strategy identifies 3 essential areas of focus: Inform & Educate, Detect & Reduce, Support & Treat. Each heading confirms a set of practical goals to mitigate against the harmful effects of drugs in prisons including commitments to work	Operations	Closed.



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		<p>strategically and collaboratively with An Garda Síochána, addiction and other services to reduce the demand and supply of drugs in the prison environment.</p> <p>A group has been established comprising of representatives from both the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána. The first meeting of the group convened on 10th April, the group will meet biannually and have committed to further collaboration on sharing intelligence, strategic planning of joint operations on throw overs, and support in enhancing current infrastructure, e.g. anti-drone technology.</p> <p>Irish Prison Service engagement with An Garda Síochána has resulted in a number of successful operations, for example at Wheatfield/Cloverhill complex there were 75 arrests during the period 20/02/2023 – 16/03/2024. These operations are dependent on An Garda Síochána resources being available.</p> <p>Research into equipment suitable for use in a prison environment is ongoing. OSG continue to carry out random and intelligence led searches to detect and deter contraband entry. Engagement with local An Garda Síochána liaisons is ongoing in this regard.</p>		
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5.	The Irish Prison Service should intensify its engagement with other relevant stakeholders, including An Garda Síochána, to develop a multi-agency written strategy to counter contraband entering a prison. This strategy should examine the use of technology, architectural disruptions, as well as how to prevent exploitation and coercion being used as a means to bring drugs and other contraband into a prison.	Accepted.	See recommendation 4.	Operations	Ongoing.
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