



Seirbhís Phríosúin
na hÉireann
Irish Prison Service



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

OIP Recommendations Action Plan

Proposed Recommendation from the Inspector of Prisons investigation report on
Death in Custody of prisoner Mr L in Limerick Prison on 15.11.2020

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.

Recommendation	IPS Response	Action Required	IPS Action Owner	Timeline
In cases where it is suspected that a prisoner may be concealing drugs internally (for example, if they continue to display signs of intoxication but 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. A similar recommendation was made in the Inspectorate's report on the death in custody of Mr. I 2020 and accepted by the IPS.	Accepted	Procedures for the care and management of prisoners suspected of internally concealing any prohibited article or substance are included in the SOP for Close Supervision Cells. It should be noted that the final decision on supervision is a statutory power reserved by the Governor of the prison.	Care & Rehabilitation / Operations	Complete



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<p>If it is deemed necessary to isolate a person from the general prison population, because of a suspicion that that they have internally concealed 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 reasons for the placement of a prisoner in one of these cells . This recommendation was made in the Mr. I 2020 report and was partly accepted by the IPS.</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>The SOP for Close Supervision Cells outlines that a determination on the requirement for medical special observations in accordance with Prison Rule 102 will be made by the member of the Prison Healthcare Team who assesses the prisoner. Otherwise, the prisoner will remain on Rule 64 security monitoring with clinical review at intervals determined by the Prison Healthcare Team.</p>	<p>Care & Rehabilitation / Operations</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>There is no systematic justification or rationale for the routine placement of prisoners in refractory clothing, irrespective of whether they are accommodated in a SOC or a CSC cell. Such a measure could only be justified if a prisoner placed in a SOC is considered to be at risk of suicide, and it should not applied if a prisoner is placed in a CSC for security reasons. The Inspectorate recommends that this practice be brought to an immediate end. This Inspectorate recommendation is fully consistent with the views of the Council of Europe’s European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CPT) on this subject.</p>	<p>Not Accepted</p>	<p>Prisoners are placed in safety clothing in line with the requirements of the CSC SOP. Decisions on the use of safety clothing are made by both Prison Healthcare and the Prison Governor.</p>	<p>Care & Rehabilitation / Operations</p>	<p>Closed</p>



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In order to enhance the effectiveness of the healthcare 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. This recommendation was made in the Mr. I 2020 report and was accepted by the IPS.	Accepted - already in place	<p>A multi-disciplinary working group was established in 2024 to examine the possibility of implementing signs of life technology.</p> <p>Two prisons, namely Cloverhill and Limerick, have been identified as sites for a potential pilot project.</p> <p>Market research is currently underway to identify a product which can provide minimally invasive monitoring of prisoner life signs.</p>	Care and Rehabilitation Directorate	Ongoing
The Irish Prison Service should introduce a healthcare focused policy to respond to the threats and safety risks posed by the internal concealment of drugs and other items of contraband. This policy should clarify the roles and responsibilities of management, prison officers, and healthcare staff. This new policy should provide for a central role for healthcare professionals in decision making regarding the supervision and care of a person where there is a suspicion of internal concealment of drugs and other items of contraband. All such decisions should include a recorded risk assessment. This recommendation was made in the Mr. I 2020 report and was accepted by the IPS.	Accepted - already in place	<p>Procedures for the care and management of prisoners suspected of internally concealing any prohibited article or substance and associated healthcare interventions are included in the SOP for Close Supervision Cells.</p> <p>It should be noted that the final decision on supervision is a statutory power reserved by the Governor of the prison.</p>	Care & Rehabilitation / Operations	Complete



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<p>The Irish Prison Service should intensify its efforts to physically prevent contraband from entering prisons and to detect its presence once on the premises, including through technological means . This recommendation was made in the Mr. I 2020 report and was accepted by the IPS.</p>	<p>Accepted - already in place</p>	<p>See recommendation no. 4 above.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Irish Prison Service Operational Support Group (OSG) are engaging with Comreg, IIAA and a number of companies regarding Drone incursions. Discussions have also taken place with European colleagues on other forms of technology to target contraband, and OSG continue to lead in this area for IPS.</p> <p>In addition, an MOU has been agreed between the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána. As a result, there are ongoing and successful joint operations between IPS and An Garda Síochána to counter contraband entering a prison.</p>	<p>Operations</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>The Irish Prison Service should engage with other relevant stakeholders to develop a multi-agency 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 traffic drugs and other contraband into a prison . This recommendation was also made in the Mr. I 2020 report and was accepted by the IPS.</p>	<p>Accepted - already in place</p>	<p>See recommendations no. 4 and 6 above.</p>	<p>Operations</p>	<p>Complete</p>



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