



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 C in Limerick Prison on 12.01.2023

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
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 also made in the OIP's report on the death in custody of Mr. I 2020 and partly accepted by the IPS.	Partially Accepted	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.	Care & Rehabilitation / Operations	Complete



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There is no systematic justification or rationale for the routine placement in refractory clothing of prisoners accommodated in a CSC cell. The Inspectorate recommends that this practice is brought to an end immediately. 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.	Not Accepted	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.	Care & Rehabilitation / Operations	Closed
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. Kicking the bottom of a cell door is not a reliable method to verify signs of life. This recommendation was also made in the OIP's report on the death in custody of Mr. I 2020 and accepted by the IPS.	Accepted - already in place	A multi-disciplinary working group was established in 2024 to examine the possibility of implementing signs of life technology. Two prisons, namely Cloverhill and Limerick, have been identified as sites for a potential pilot project. Market research is currently underway to identify a product which can provide minimally invasive monitoring of prisoner life signs.	Care and Rehabilitation Directorate	Ongoing



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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 OIP's report on the death in custody of Mr. I 2020 and accepted by the IPS.	Accepted - already in place	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. 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
From a preventive standpoint, it is crucially important that prison management and healthcare staff have rapid access to reliable information about the composition of any drugs found in a prison. Samples of drugs found in prisons should be swiftly analysed and the results communicated to prison management and healthcare staff in a timely manner. If the analysis is conducted by, or on behalf of, An Garda Síochána, clear channels of communication should be put in place to ensure that the results are quickly made known to prison management and healthcare staff.	Not accepted	The Irish Prison Service will bring this recommendation to the next high level meeting with An Garda Síochána for consideration. It should be noted that in the event of an overdose, a facility is in place to allow for rapid testing of substances when it is believed there is a risk to life.	Operations Directorate	Ongoing



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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 also made in the OIP's report on the death in custody of Mr. I 2020 and accepted by the IPS. The IPS advised that they had established a sub-group to examine remote monitoring of vital signs technology. The group has met with European colleagues and further discussions are planned.	Accepted - already in place	See recommendation no. 3 above. 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. 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. 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.	Operations	Complete
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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 OIP's report on the death in custody of Mr. I 2020 and accepted by the IPS.	Accepted - already in place	See recommendations no. 3 and 6 above.	Operations	Complete
The Irish Prison Service should ensure that staff understand the importance of accurate records and the consequences of creating an inaccurate record/report of their duty. Regular audits should be carried out by line management to ensure compliance. A Similar recommendations have been made in the past in OIP's reports on the deaths in custody of Messrs A 2012, H 2014, I 2018 and G 2021. As regards, more specifically, the recording of special observations of prisoners, the Inspectorate recommends that the relevant record books be amended to require prison officers to record the actual time at which they carry out each such observation.	Accepted	Staff who are found to falsify records are sanctioned in line with the Code of Discipline. One of the pillars of the Irish Prison Service's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 is to develop and enhance Digital Platforms within the Service. The digitisation of prison journals is a priority project under this pillar.	Corporate Services	Ongoing