

| No. | Recommendation | Response (e.g. accepted, not accepted) | Action Required | Action Owner | Timeline |
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| IPS Director General | | | | | |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: DG22-2</u> | Repeat Recommendation: The Director General of the Irish Prison Service should take steps to ensure that all multi-occupancy cells across the estate are equipped with fully-partitioned sanitary facilities. | Not accepted | <p>It is not possible to introduce fully partitioned sanitary areas as to do so would significantly impact on the availability of living space within cells.</p> <p>Additional efforts to identify a modesty curtain to provide enhanced privacy have not been successful due to operational and prisoner safety issues.</p> <p>Such partitions are being considered as part of all future cell design projects.</p> | IPS Director General | |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: CHCT5 (2021)</u> | Repeat Recommendation: The Irish Prison Service must ensure that all sanitary facilities in multi-occupancy cells are fully partitioned and that multi-occupancy cells meet, at least the minimum CPT cell size requirements. | Not accepted | <p>It is not possible to introduce fully partitioned sanitary areas as to do so would significantly impact on the availability of living space within cells.</p> <p>Such partitions are being considered as part of all future cell design projects.</p> <p>The Irish Prison Service is currently managing an unprecedented number of prisoners in the system. The Irish Prison Service must accept all prisoners committed to prison custody by the courts. The need for an upper limit on the number of prisoners that can be held, in order to observe a minimum standard in terms of living space, has been communicated also by the State Claim Agency based on their input to a Taskforce established to conduct a prisoner overcrowding risk assessment for the Irish Prison Service.</p> | IPS Director General | |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: DG22-3</u> | Repeat Recommendation: In the ongoing review of the Prison Rules 2007-2020, consideration should be given to amendment of Rule 27(1)(a) to increase the minimum amount of out-of-cell time, in line with the CPT's Decency Threshold for Prisons (2021), which sets out a goal of at least eight hours out-of-cell time engaged in purposeful activities for people in prison. Particular consideration should be given to safeguarding the minimum out-of-cell time for prisoners on restricted regimes. | Partially accepted | <p>Every prison utilises their Regime Management Plan to maximise availability of out of cell time and purposeful activity for prisoners. Given the level of overcrowding across the estate, the Irish Prison Service is not in a position to increase out of cell time for prisoners beyond that which is currently prescribed for.</p> <p>The number of prisoners on restricted regimes fluctuates daily and the length of time spent on a restricted regime varies greatly as the level of threat and perceived threat changes. Prisoners on a restricted regime may be permitted to mix with other prisoners in different risk groups and therefore are not necessarily deprived of an 'out-of-cell' regime. Out-of-cell time, regimes, services and family contact are offered to prisoners on a restricted regime insofar as operationally feasible, however delivery of services is impacted by the current level of overcrowding across the estate.</p> | Irish Prison Service Director General | Ongoing |

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| Repeat Rec.: CHCT3 (2021) | Repeat Recommendation: Scheduling of meal times at Cloverhill Prison should be amended to ensure meals are served at reasonable intervals and at times that correspond to those in the community. | Not accepted | Prison meal times are scheduled to facilitate both effective delivery of the prison regime and required break times for prison staff. Revisions made to meal times throughout 2022 and 2023 have resulted in a more substantial meal being made available to prisoners later in the afternoon. | IPS Director General | |
| DG23-7 | IPS Headquarters should conduct a review of the working/management culture at Cloverhill Prison with a view to identifying the underlying reasons for reported levels of low morale amongst certain staff. The review should also examine whether the operation in practice of current grievance procedures is dissuading staff and/or prisoners from pursuing legitimate complaints. | Accepted - in progress | Prison Management believe that the culture in Cloverhill Prison is broadly positive, despite the significant pressures associated with the current levels of overcrowding. The Irish Prison Service has engaged an external consultant, Inclusio, to undertake a culture audit. It is hoped the audit will commence in 2025, subject to the availability of resources. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Ongoing |
| DG23-2 | To ensure the protection of prisoners' personal data, and to facilitate effective communication, the Irish Prison Service should embed within its policies and procedures, ready access to interpretation and translation services. These should not only be provided "on request", but should be offered to prisoners at committal, and on an ongoing basis to ensure prisoners are able to communicate over the course of their imprisonment. | Accepted - in progress | The Irish Prison Service currently provides a contracted translation service to all prisoners in custody. In addition, a pilot of a handheld translation device which is capable of instantly translating over ninety languages in three prisons commenced in June 2025. It is hoped that following this pilot, the device will be approved for use across the Prison Estate. Appropriate policies and procedures will be put in place to support this rollout. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Ongoing |
| DG23-8 | To promote effective handover processes, documentation of incidents in prisons, and notification and completion of restricted regime reviews, efforts should be made across the estate to digitalise all records and log books; this will require development and integration of digital technologies accessible to staff throughout the prison. | Accepted - in progress | One of the Pillars of the Irish Prison Service Strategic Plan 2023-2027 is to develop and enhance Digital Platforms within the service. The digitisation of Prison Journals is priority project under this pillar. The Digitisation Project commenced in Q3 2025. This will improve record keeping across the estate through both enhancing the quality of records being kept and limiting the risk of falsification. Successful implementation of this project will be subject to the availability of resources. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Ongoing |

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| <p>Repeat Rec.: DG22-6</p> | <p>Repeat Recommendation: The Director General of the Irish Prison Service should set out and make public a strategy to reduce the number of people accommodated under Rule 63 of the Prison Rules 2007-2020. This strategy should consider implementation of alternative measures, such as conflict mediation and restorative justice practices, to reduce prisoner tensions and concerns for safety. As part of this strategy, a review of the mechanisms by which prisoners sign-on and off protection should be conducted to ensure these processes are comprehensive and risk-assessed.</p> | <p>Accepted - in progress</p> | <p>The number of prisoners on Rule 63 fluctuates daily and the length of time spent on Rule 63 varies greatly as the level of threat and perceived threat changes. Prisoners on Rule 63 may be permitted to mix with other prisoners on Rule 63 in different risk groups and therefore are not necessarily detained on '22-hour lock-up' or considered to be in 'solitary confinement'.</p> <p>Out of cell time, regimes, services and family contact are offered to prisoners on Rule 63 insofar as is operationally feasible, however delivery is impacted by the current level of overcrowding across the estate.</p> <p>As part of the ongoing review and amendments of the Prison Rules 2007, it is the recommendation of the Irish Prison Service that a prisoner's request to be kept separate from other prisons will be subject to risk assessment by the relevant Governor. It is expected that this will result in a considerable reduction in the number of prisoners on Rule 63.</p> <p>In addition, work has commenced on an Irish Prison Service Violence Reduction Strategy, which will formally consider alternative measures outlined in this recommendation.</p> | <p>Irish Prison Service Director General</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>DG23-9</p> | <p>In line with the National Strategy on Drugs 2025-2027, and the Irish Prison Service's commitment to support and treat people with substance use issues, the Inspector urges the Prison Service to increasingly adopt a harm reduction and health-led approach to respond to drug prevalence in prisons.</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The IPS Drug Strategy 2023-2026 mirrors the National Strategy and places significant emphasis on providing education and care for prisoners who use drugs. The 3 pillars of the IPS Drug Strategy are: 1. Inform and Educate. 2. Detect and Reduce. 3. Support and Treat. In the past year, the IPS has appointed a National Clinical Lead for Addiction and Mental Health and they have made considerable strides towards realising the vision outlined in the IPS Drug Strategy.</p> | <p>IPS Director General</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>DG22-9 (also made to Cloverhill Governor CH23-11)</p> | <p>The Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Governor of Cloverhill Prison should ensure a clear demarcation between an incident recording system and the P19 (disciplinary sanction) recording system.</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>There are robust measures in place both locally and at HQ level into the management of P19 disciplinary reports. Management at Cloverhill regularly review the administration of disciplinary sanctions.</p> <p>In addition, training has been delivered to all Prisons to ensure effective and appropriate recording of incidents on the National Incident Management System (NIMS).</p> <p>An incident reporting pilot is underway in two prisons to identify opportunities for more efficient and effective incident reporting.</p> | <p>Irish Prison Service Director General Governor of Cloverhill Prison</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |

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| <u>Repeat Rec.: DG22-4</u> | Repeat Recommendation: To ensure accurate and effective record-keeping, the Director General of the Irish Prison Service should review the organisation of compliance functions across the prison estate. | Accepted | The Irish Prison Service is currently developing self-audits in all areas to enhance compliance. Self-audits are currently in place for the National Infection Control Team and the Psychology Service. Additional self-audit checks in respect of a number of additional business areas are currently being planned. This recommendation will be considered as part of the planning process. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Ongoing |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: MHT1</u> | Repeat Recommendation: It is recommended that the vacancies for IPS nursing staff in Cloverhill Prison be urgently filled (by recruitment or initially, partially, by redeployment). Recruitment may be enhanced by targeted recruitment events. | Accepted - already in place. | Nursing vacancies have been filled. The Irish Prison Service regularly recruits Healthcare staff to fill existing vacancies. | IPS Director General | Closed |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: MHT8</u> | Repeat Recommendation: It is recommended that further formal training regarding the recognition, assessment, and treatment of prisoners with mental disorder, including regarding communication and risk issues, is offered to prison officers | Accepted - already in place. | All recruit prison officers currently receive a one day training module on Mental Health Awareness. This recommendation will be kept under consideration in the context of ongoing review of the Irish Prison Service's CPD programmes and delivery methods. | IPS Director General | Ongoing |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: MHT10</u> | Repeat Recommendation: It is recommended that occupational therapists be employed by the Irish Prison Service, tasked with offering occupational therapy to mentally disordered prisoners. This will, of course, require them to be appropriately trained and there to be areas where they can safely work (including with sufficient prison officer presence to address safety issues). | Accepted - already in place. | An Occupational Therapist Manager has been in post since July. This post is initially assigned to the HSU/D2 Landing and will be responsible for setting up /developing a national Occupational Therapy Service over time, subject to the availability of necessary resources. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Closed |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: CHCT10</u> | Repeat Recommendation: The Inspectorate reiterates the requirement for appropriate care and treatment for persons who are detained in Cloverhill Prison who require mental health care and treatment in an appropriate therapeutic environment. | Accepted | The Irish Prison Service is working on a multi agency basis towards the implementation of recommendations in the High Level Task Force (HLTF) on Mental Health and Addiction. In addition, the National Forensic Mental Health Service has progressed a business case which proposes to enhance the resources of the existing Prison In Reach Court Liaison Service team in Cloverhill, as well as expanding the service to other prisons. | IPS Director General | Ongoing |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: DG23-6</u> | Repeat Recommendation: The healthcare service should ensure the development of an appropriate orientation programme for new medical staff, including locum doctors, and continued professional development, for example in the area of chronic disease identification and management. | Accepted - already in place. | Since Q1 2024, the Irish Prison Service has been providing 5 days of induction training for newly appointed healthcare staff and this has been well received. Induction training for locum doctors is challenging given the potentially transient nature of their employment. However, an improved vetting process for new locums and a locum doctor information booklet have been put in place. Prison doctors must undertake CPD as part of their yearly registration renewal and receive a CPD grant for this purpose. Irish Prison Service nursing staff will begin receiving a defined CPD programme provided by the Irish Prison Service Training College in Q4 2025. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Closed |

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| <u>Repeat Rec.: HQEDWT4</u> | Repeat Recommendation: The Irish Prison Service should ensure that all prison officer posts are maximised to ensure access to and engagement with purposeful activity for all persons in custody. Prison officer posts and associated tasks should be sufficiently flexible and to allow Governors to respond to changes in staffing structures. | Accepted - already in place. | Resource allocation is reviewed on an ongoing basis by Irish Prison Service Workforce Planning. Each prison utilises a Regime Management Plan to maximise access to and engagement with purposeful activity for all persons in custody. This is subject to operational constraints, e.g. overcrowding, management of restricted regimes and provision of Court and Hospital escorts. | IPS Director General | Closed |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: HQEDWT5</u> | Repeat Recommendation: The Irish Prison Service should review and update its Prisoner Gratuities and Private Cash Policy to ensure it aligns with Rule 28.4 and Rule 105.4 of the revised European Prison Rules. [See also, DOCT-5 (2021)] | Accepted - already in place. | In April 2024 the Irish Prison Service implemented a 15% increase on the maximum daily gratuity a prisoner can receive, increasing to a daily rate of €2.54. Prisoner payments (gratuity + working gratuity) are currently subject to an overall weekly limit which also increased to €21.28. An additional supplement payment may be paid to female prisoners from hardship funds under the "Bangkok Rules". Prison Governors also have a general hardship fund to assist prisoners where required. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Closed |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: HQEDWT7</u> | Repeat Recommendation: The Irish Prison Service should ensure that all prisoners have access to externally accredited qualifications in all work training areas. Certification offered to prisoners should be labour-market tested and should be recognised by employers to improve employment prospects upon release. | Partially Accepted | A number of new accredited training courses have been introduced for prisoners to help meet industry shortages (NZEB, Catering) and prison staff have been trained to deliver these courses. Irish Prison Service expect to have accredited training in place by Q3 2025 for all areas identified for priority in 2023: Industrial Cleaning, Laundry, Catering, Waste Management, Gym. Talks are ongoing with Solas and other bodies to bring forward apprenticeship/traineeship qualifications. | IPS Director General | Q4 2025 |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: HQEDWT9</u> | Repeat Recommendation: The Irish Prison Service should remove the name of prisons on certification obtained by persons in custody. This will increase a prisoner's ability to earn a living after release in line with Rule 26.3 of the Revised European Prison Rules. | Accepted | A reminder will issue to Cloverhill to ensure the name of the prison is removed from Certification. | IPS Director General | Q4 2025 |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: HQEDWT10</u> | Repeat Recommendation: In order to provide a consistent approach to managing education provision across the prison estate, the Irish Prison Service should develop a policy on education and training in collaboration with all of the relevant stakeholders. | Accepted - In progress | A multidisciplinary policy on education and training will be developed in conjunction with the Irish Prison Service Strategy which will incorporate work training and education. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Ongoing |
| DG23-10 | The Irish Prison Service should review the practice of blanket screened visits in Cloverhill Prison taking into consideration of the rights of prisoners, as well as the rights of their children and their families. | Partially accepted | The management of contact on visits is reviewed by the Governor on a dynamic basis having regard to a risk and security information available. The Governor is also obliged under the Prison Rules to mitigate the risk of contraband entering the prison, including taking a decision to deploy physical barriers/screened visits to maintain safety of the prison population. | IPS Director General | Ongoing |

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| <u>Repeat Rec.: DG22-13</u> | Repeat Recommendation: In order to facilitate and strengthen the right to family contact, the Irish Prison Service should increase the length of phone calls. | Accepted | Family visits via videolink have been extended to 20 minutes with the option of two five minute extensions. In addition to current phone call entitlements, a project is underway to introduce an inbound telephony system for prisoners. Once introduced, it is intended that the inbound telephony system will offer two inbound telephone calls of 10 minutes in duration to each prisoner. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Ongoing |
| <u>Repeat Rec.: DG22-14</u> | Repeat Recommendation: The Irish Prison Service should review the application in practice of the Prison Rules 2007- 2020, Rules 35(3) and 46(4) across the prison estate, to ensure the rights of unconvicted prisoners are fulfilled, particularly with respect to telephone calls and visits. | Accepted | <p>See DG22-13</p> <p>Every effort is made to ensure prisoner access to calls and visits in line with entitlements. However, in the current space of unprecedented overcrowding decisions need to be taken daily to adjust the regime and ensure that access to all services is distributed fairly within the capacity available.</p> <p>Family visits via videolink have been extended to 20 minutes with the option of two five minute extensions. In addition to current phone call entitlements, a project is underway to introduce an inbound telephony system for prisoners. Once introduced, it is intended that the inbound telephony system will offer two inbound telephone calls of 10 minutes in duration to each prisoner.</p> | Irish Prison Service Director General | Ongoing |
| DG23-11 | In collaboration with the Courts Service, action should be taken to study: (i) the impact of remote court proceedings on resources, particularly potential staffing implications involved in holding remote court sessions; (ii) challenges in place that limit the efficacy of engagement between the Courts Service and Irish Prison Service in carrying out in-person and remote court proceedings; and (iii) the difference, if any, and impact of in- person remote court proceedings on sentencing, including prevalence of alternative sanctions. | Partially accepted | <p>The Irish Prison Service continues to work in partnership with the Courts Service to support and develop the use of videolink for Court and reviewing data on staffing, benefits and efficacy is part of that ongoing process. Each videolink to court is at the discretion of the presiding judge. There are ongoing conversations across all stakeholders to improve understanding of the benefits of videolink to court from prison. It is considered that the Irish Prison Service would need at least 3 full years of data post-COVID arrangements to appropriately inform any substantive research but the IPS is retaining detailed data to feed into such an evaluation in the future.</p> | IPS Director General | Ongoing |
| DG23-12 | Resettlement services should be formally extended to support (i) people held on remand, and (ii) people serving short sentences. | Not accepted | The Irish Prison Service will keep this recommendation under consideration in the context of prisoners serving short sentences, but implementation of this recommendation is not currently possible in the context of overcrowding. | Irish Prison Service Director General | Closed |
| Governor of Cloverhill Prison | | | | | |
| CH23-1 | Every prisoner should be provided with daily access to a shower in the interests of both personal and prison hygiene. | Accepted - already in place. | Management at Cloverhill Prison have confirmed that every prisoner has daily access to a shower. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Closed |
| CH23-2 | The Governor should take all the necessary steps to ensure people in Cloverhill Prison are facilitated to wear their own clothing, including by making laundry facilities available to prisoners to wash their clothing. | Accepted - already in place. | <p>Prisoners receive their own clothing once it has been processed by Cloverhill Prison reception.</p> <p>Kit change and laundry days are then managed by rota. Where a Prisoner does not have their own clothing, they are issued with clothing by the prison.</p> | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Closed |

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| CH23-3 | Prison managers should conduct regular and ongoing recorded audits of the availability of bedding, and where necessary, ensure the replacement of mattresses, duvets and pillows. All prisoners should each have a mattress in a good state-of-repair, a clean duvet, sheet, pillow and pillowcase, and a sufficient number of towels to meet their needs. . | Accepted - already in place. | Prisoners are issued bedding on committal to Cloverhill. Management are currently (Q3/4 2025) conducting a review of bedding inventory with a view to replacing as necessary. Prisoners can also request replacement items and these will be processed as quickly as possible. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Closed |
| CH23-4 | Prison management should develop a recording mechanism to ensure that actual out-of-cell time is properly recorded for all prisoners in custody, with a particular emphasis on restricted regimes and out-of-cell time record-keeping. [see also, Recommendation CH23-9] | Accepted | Recording of out-of-cell time will form a further phase of the Digitisation Project outlined in DG23-8. This phase is currently at the ICT scoping stage. Successful implementation of this phase of the project will be subject to the availability of resources. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-5 | Cloverhill Prison should provide tuck shop pricing to prisoners and ensure prisoners are able to easily and privately access their financial accounts information. | Partially accepted | Prices are outlined on the tuck shop list distributed to prisoners. It is not possible for prisoners to privately access their accounts information. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-6 | In line with Rule 75(3) and Rule 86(1)(b) of the Prison Rules 2007-2020, the Governor of the prison and all staff should maximise opportunities to interact with prisoners in a manner that is meaningful and supports their general welfare. | Accepted - already in place. | Engagement between staff and prisoners in the Cloverhill happens daily through informal interactions, governor parades and visits to areas within the prison. All prisoners can request to see the Governor through their Class Officer. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Closed |
| CH23-7 | A Governor grade staff member should conduct the daily Governor's Parade; delegation of this function to Assistant Chief Officers should cease. | Not accepted | It is not operationally feasible for daily parades to be conducted by a Governor grade. A member of the management team at Governor grade meets each prisoner during the committal parade. Daily parades are conducted by ACOs and requests to meet a Governor grade are facilitated through this process as required. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | |
| CH23-8 | In line with Section 42 of the Public Sector Duty, the prison should work towards eliminating all forms of discrimination within Cloverhill Prison, with due consideration to, inter alia, (i) clear communication of staff obligations under the Duty, (ii) provision of reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility, (iii) and means to allow for the expression of one's identity and beliefs. | Accepted | Cloverhill Management have issued reminders to all staff of their obligations under Section 42 of the Public Sector Duty. Management and staff are committed to provision of reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility and means to allow for the expression of one's identity and beliefs, subject to operational and security constraints. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-9 | Records should be kept in relation to all restricted regimes, including in instances where prisoners are separated from the general population on a temporary basis. Records should be (i) comprehensive and detailed; (ii) maintained in sequential order in distinct log books; and (iii) include thorough explanations for the (ongoing) placement of prisoners on restricted regimes, as well as the services and supports offered to and availed of by prisoners during their placement on a restricted regime. It is axiomatic that every use of force and control and restraint must be scrupulously recorded and the Inspectorate would like to receive confirmation that this is now the case. | Accepted | All removals from general population are managed under the provisions of the Prison Rules, and the required procedures must be followed to maintain accurate and auditable record for review. The Director General has established a working group to review existing Rule 62 procedures and to develop a national Standard Operating Procedure for the management of prisoners detained under Rule 62. This recommendation will be taken into account when developing the SOP. Cloverhill Prison Management have confirmed that they continue to embed robust processes around Use of Force recording. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |

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| CH23-10 | There is a duty of care on prison managers to ensure that all persons held in prison are kept safe. Increased efforts should be made to promote safe interactions in Cloverhill Prison, including application of conflict mediation and restorative practices to ease tensions amongst prisoners and staff. | Accepted - already in place. | <p>De-escalation is a priority for dealing with incidents where possible. Irish Prison Service uniformed staff receive mandatory 'Control and Restraint' training, incorporating the appropriate use of 'Rule 93 -Use of Force' as part of basic training. Each staff member then receives CPD training on an annual basis to ensure compliance and skills competence, with a significant emphasis on de-escalation.</p> <p>In addition, work has commenced on an Irish Prison Service Violence Reduction Strategy, which will formally consider conflict mediation and restorative justice practices.</p> | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-11 <i>(also previously made to Irish Prison Service DG: DG22-9)</i> | The Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Governor of Cloverhill Prison should ensure a clear demarcation between an incident recording system and the P19 (disciplinary sanction) recording system. | Accepted - already in place. | <p>There are robust measures in place both locally and at HQ level into the management of P19 disciplinary reports. Management at Cloverhill regularly review the administration of disciplinary sanctions.</p> <p>In addition, training has been delivered to all Prisons to ensure effective and appropriate recording of incidents on the National Incident Management System (NIMS).</p> <p>An incident reporting pilot is underway in two prisons to identify opportunities for more efficient and effective incident reporting.</p> | Irish Prison Service Director General Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-12 | Senior management should regularly conduct and record audits of P19 sanctions to ensure consistency of approach and application of sanctions. To facilitate this audit process, the PIMS system should be reviewed and amended to reduce compartmentalised effects of siloed record-keeping and ensure appropriate safeguards are put in place. | Not Accepted | <p>There are robust measures in place both locally and at HQ level into the management of P19 disciplinary reports. Management at Cloverhill Prison regularly review the administration of disciplinary sanctions.</p> | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | |
| CH23-13 | The effectiveness of the ventilation system in Cloverhill Prison should be reviewed in order to provide a cleaner air environment. In the meantime, consideration should be given to accommodating smoking and non-smoking prisoners in different cells in order to reduce the risks associated with passive smoking. | Not accepted | <p>No issues have been reported in respect of the Cloverhill ventilation system, which undergoes Planned Preventative Maintenance at required intervals.</p> <p>Due to unprecedented levels of overcrowding, it is not currently possible to split cells into smoking and non-smoking accommodation. Where a prisoner is particularly concerned about exposure to passive smoking, a request to move will be considered by Prison management.</p> | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | |
| CH23-14 | Ensure a clear roster for an out-of-hours General Practitioner service is in place. The roster should make clear the clinical responsibility of nurse and General Practitioner cover, particularly for out-of-hours and weekend shifts. | Accepted - already in place. | <p>All nursing staff work to a roster. Out-of-hours attendance is provided for in the IPS General Practitioner contracts.</p> | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Closed |

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| CH23-15 | To meet the needs of the prisoner population, Cloverhill Prison should make efforts to improve access to the following healthcare services: in-reach physiotherapy, a dedicated phlebotomy service and occupational therapy. Routine care and review should be provided to a greater extent to people living with chronic diseases. Additionally, Cloverhill Prison should explore the implementation of additional harm minimisation strategies, such as provision of condoms and needle exchange programmes. | Accepted, excluding needle exchange programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phlebotomy – several of the current contingent of prison nurses at Cloverhill are trained and experienced at undertaking phlebotomy despite this often proving to be technically difficult amongst the prisoner cohort. In addition, Irish Prison Service Healthcare are exploring the possibility of developing a tender for an external phlebotomy provider to assist when Irish Prison Service staff cannot meet the demand. • Occupational Therapy – The Irish Prison Service has recently recruited an Occupational Therapy Manager whose role will include developing an occupational therapy service for prisoners across the estate, subject to the availability of resources • A review of routine care and chronic disease management will form part of the HNA implementation plan which is being currently developed. This will also include standardising and regularising in-reach services such as physiotherapy. • Condoms – are not freely available in prisons due to security concerns however they are available to prisoners upon request from a member of the healthcare team. • Needle Exchange – There have been no confirmed reports of needle use among Irish prisoners for many years so there is no requirement to introduce such a programme. Needle exchange would represent a significant security concern to the Irish Prison Service. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-16 | Delivery of addiction services in Cloverhill Prison should be enhanced in such a way that waitlists to access counsellors and treatment are reduced, prisoners are provided with tandem medical and psychological supports and clear links are established with community drug treatment programmes to support sustainable continuity of care for people on release from prison. Consideration should be made to ensuring regular allocation of an addiction nurse to Cloverhill Prison. | Accepted | <p>The Irish Prison Service appointed a National Clinical Lead for Mental Health and Addiction in 2024.</p> <p>The National Clinical Lead for Mental Health and Addiction and the Head of the Psychology Service are currently reviewing the model of service delivery by MQI to expand its range of interventions to include group programmes and to improve the clinical governance in place to ensure a high standard of care, including waiting list management. A number of protocols will be put in place to ensure consistency of service provision across the estate.</p> <p>This will seek to address waiting lists, to provide a more responsive service to all people in custody regardless of sentence length and to provide the best care for those in custody with addiction issues.</p> | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-17 | Efforts should be made to ensure compliance with Rule 11(1) of the Prison Rules 2007-2020; all committals to Cloverhill Prison should be examined on the day of their admission to the prison, “save in the most exceptional circumstances”. | Accepted - already in place. | The IPS can confirm that Cloverhill is in compliance with Rule 11(1) of the Prison Rules. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Closed |
| CH23-18 | The Governor of the Prison should strive to increase access to work and training opportunities in the prison, in particular by developing sustainable collaborative initiatives with the school and external programmes and services. | Accepted | Each prison utilises a Regime Management Plan to maximise access to and engagement with purposeful activity for all persons in custody. This is subject to operational constraints, e.g. overcrowding, management of restricted regimes and provision of Court and Hospital escorts. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |

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| Repeat Rec: CHCT21 | Repeat Recommendation: The Inspectorate recommends that efforts be made to include green spaces in and around the yards. | Not accepted | It is not possible to introduce green spaces in Cloverhill Prison due to security considerations, however murals were completed in the summer of 2023 in a number of yards & landings. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | |
| CH23-19 | Prisoners accommodated under Rule 63 of the Prison Rules 2007-2020, should be facilitated to attend the gym facility at least every other day; access to the gym for protection prisoners is particularly essential as a measure to counter the often extensive periods of time these prisoners are locked back in their cells. | Accepted - already in place. | Out-of-cell time, regimes, services and family contact are offered to prisoners on Rule 63 insofar as operationally feasible, however delivery of services are impacted by the current level of overcrowding across the estate. Access to each service is assessed dynamically by the Governor having regard to the risks and the resources available to mitigate those risks. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Closed |
| CH23-20 | The Cloverhill Prison RMP should be reviewed to prioritise the availability of prison staff to engage in interactions with prisoners that amount to meaningful human contact. In particular, prison officers working on the landings should be actively encouraged to engage with prisoners in a more meaningful way. | Partially accepted | Each prison utilises a Regime Management Plan to maximise access to and engagement with purposeful activity for all persons in custody. This is subject to operational constraints, e.g. overcrowding, management of restricted regimes and provision of Court and Hospital escorts. Regime Management Plans are regularly reviewed by both Prison Management and with support from the Irish Prison Service Operations Directorate. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-21 | The Governor should ensure that, in line with Section 42 of the Public Sector Duty, foreign national prisoners have easy access to communicate with family, for example through the provision of information and materials in other languages to enable non-English speaking prisoners to set up their phone cards. This should be done alongside recommendation DG23-2, in which the Inspectorate recommends the Irish Prison Service should, within its policies and procedures, provide ready access to interpretation and translation services. | Accepted | Prisoner Information Booklets are available in English, Irish and nine other languages across the Estate. These booklets details the process to set up phone cards. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-22 | The video pods acquired in late 2022 to facilitate access for prisoners to video calls with their relatives and legal representation should be brought into use. | Partially accepted | The Videopods have been designated specifically for use for remote courts and to improve access to professional legal consultation and are in active use for this purpose. A test-and-learn initiative to centralise the booking of professional video-visits will be trialled in Q3/Q4 2025 to maximise the capability of these soundproofed videopods. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-23 | Immediate practical steps should be taken to promote best release outcomes, including (i) the establishment of a private, calm and secure area for pre-release discussions, (ii) charging mobile phones of prisoners immediately prior to release; and (iii) provision of opaque bags to prisoners that are discreet and suitable for transporting their belongings in a dignified way. | Partially accepted | Cloverhill Management will work to ensure an appropriate environment and appropriate supports are in place for prisoners leaving custody, insofar as is practicable. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Ongoing |
| CH23-24 | All prisoners, irrespective of their legal status, should be provided with a release pack (i.e., map, transport timetables) at the time of release. | Accepted - already in place | This information is available to all prisoners released from the Prison. | Governor of Cloverhill Prison | Closed |
| Requests for Information | | | | | |

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| Repeat Req.: DGREQ23-1 | <p>Repeat Information Request: The Inspectorate requests status updates on recommendations made based on findings from the 2023 Thematic Inspection: An Evaluation of the Provision of Psychiatric Care in the Irish Prison System, particularly those that were identified by the Irish Prison Service as requiring commitment and action from other bodies, including the National Forensic Mental Health Service. These recommendations are: MHT5, MHT6, MHT7, MHT11, MHT14, MHT23, MHT24 and MHT25.</p> | <p>The Irish Prison Service reiterates agreement with the referenced recommendations, but cannot accept or implement those recommendations due to their ownership resting with another body.</p> | Director General of the Irish Prison Service | |
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