

No.	Recommendation	Response	Action Required	Action Owner	Timeline	Directorate
IPS Director General						
DG22-2	The Director General of the Irish Prison Service should take steps to ensure that all multi-occupancy across the estate are equipped with fully-partitioned sanitary facilities.	Not accepted	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. Such partitions are being factored into all future cell design projects. Additional efforts to identify a modesty curtain to provide enhanced privacy have not been successful due to operational and prisoner safety issues. Such Partitions are being considered as part of all future cell design projects.	IPS Director General		
Repeat Rec.: DG22-3	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. [see also, CKCT13 (2021)].	Partially accepted	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. 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.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	
Repeat Rec: DG22-4	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.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	

Repeat Rec: DG22-6	<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>	Accepted - in progress	<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 recommendations of the Irish Prison Service that a prisoner's request to be kept separate from other prisoners 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>	IPS Director General	Ongoing	
Repeat Rec: DG22-9	<p>The Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Governor of Cork Prison should ensure a clear demarcation between incident recording and the P19 (disciplinary sanction) recording system.</p>	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>	IPS Director General Governor of Cork Prison	Closed	
Repeat Rec.: CKCT3 (2021)	<p>Repeat Recommendation: Scheduling of meal times at Cork Prison should be amended to ensure meals are served at reasonable intervals and at times that correspond to those in the community.</p>	Not accepted	<p>Prison meal times are scheduled to facilitate both effective delivery of the prison regime and required break times for prison staff.</p> <p>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.</p>	IPS Director General		

DG23-1	IPS Headquarters should conduct a review of the working/management culture at Cork 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 Cork 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.	IPS 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. [See also, CKCT18].	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.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	
<u>Repeat Rec.:</u> MHT22	Repeat Recommendation: It is recommended that the lack of mutual access to clinical records and documentation between psychology and other clinical disciplines is overcome. Even if certain information is deemed highly confidential and remains restricted, broader mutual access to certain core information should be facilitated, particularly when it relates to key risks to self and others.	Accepted	In 2024 a decision was taken to facilitate sharing of core information from the Healthcare Management IT system to the Psychology Management IT system. A DPIA for the change project is currently under review.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	C&R
DG23-3	The Director General of the Irish Prison Service should ensure an adequate complement of healthcare staff is in place to meet the needs of the prisoner population. In relation to Cork Prison, this should include increasing the hours of presence of the GP. Alternative arrangements should be put in place to avoid the GP having to complete a 500km round trip to provide healthcare at Castlerea Prison. There is also a need for additional nurse staffing on night periods, an increase in psychology and addiction service staffing and systemic planning to ensure staff shortages are addressed [see also MHT3 (2023)].	Accepted - already in place	There is an Irish Prison Service GP in place in Cork Prison 5 days per week. This GP no longer has responsibility for providing services at Castlerea Prison.	IPS Director General	Closed	C&R
DG23-4	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	Since Q1 2024, the IPS 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. IPS nursing staff will begin receiving a defined CPD programme provided by the IPS Training College in Q4 2025.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	C&R
<u>Repeat Rec.:</u> MHT8 (2023)	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	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	C&R
<u>Repeat Rec.:</u> HQEDWT4 (2022)	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 - This is 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.:</u> HQEDWT5 (2022)	<u>Repeat Recommendation:</u> 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 - This is 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.	IPS Director General	Closed	
<u>Repeat Rec.:</u> HQEDWT7 (2022)	<u>Repeat Recommendation:</u> 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.	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. C&R expect to have accredited training in place by end 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 qualifications.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	C&R
<u>Repeat Rec.:</u> HQEDWT10 (2022)	<u>Repeat Recommendation:</u> In order to provide a consistent approach to managing education provision across the prison estate, the IPS should develop a policy on education and training in collaboration with all of the relevant stakeholders.	Accepted	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.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	C&R
<u>Repeat Rec.:</u> DG22-13	<u>Repeat Recommendation:</u> 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.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	
<u>Repeat Rec.:</u> DG22-14	<u>Repeat Recommendation:</u> The Irish Prison Service should review the application in practice of the Prison Rules 2007-2020 across the prison estate to ensure the rights of unconvicted prisoners are fulfilled, particularly with respect to telephone calls and visits.	Accepted	See DG22-13 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. 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.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	
DG23-5	Given the employment, training and resettlement support needs of prisoners in Cork Prison, consideration should be made to increasing the complement of IASIO officers operating in the prison.	Accepted	The Irish Prison Service will consider this recommendation when preparing the next submission for the estimates process. A Resettlement Coordinator from Limerick is travelling to Cork on a trial basis (Q3/4 2025) to provide additional support.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	C&R

DG23-6	The Irish Prison Service should support Cork Prison Resettlement Services to identify and develop Memoranda of Understanding, and associated Standard Operating Procedures with external partner agencies, in particular, housing authorities, in order to facilitate a structured and seamless reintegration programme.	Accepted	<p>The Irish Prison Service and Tosú have an agreement with the Dept of Social Protection for access to welfare, with the National Medical Card Unit for medical cards and with a number of Local Authorities for housing provisions.</p> <p>The Irish Prison Service continues to engage with local authorities and agencies to ensure prisoners who are in custody are supported in applying for housing before release.</p>	IPS Director General	Ongoing	C&R
Repeat Rec.: DG22-15	Repeat Recommendation: In collaboration with the Probation Service, the Irish Prison Service should prioritise reviewing the operation in practice of the Community Return and Community Support schemes, particularly because these programmes are central to the Government’s strategy to alleviate overcrowding in prisons.	Accepted - in progress	The criteria for participation in the Community Return and Community Support Schemes were reviewed In 2023 and additional prisoners are now eligible for assessment for suitability to participate on these structured and supported schemes. A further review of eligibility criteria is underway, however final decision on any amendments will be subject to Ministerial approval.	IPS Director General	Ongoing	C&R
Governor of Cork Prison						
CK23-1	The “three-set” clothing policy in Cork Prison should be replaced by a clothing policy that does not have a discriminatory impact on specific groups of prisoners.	Not accepted	<p>The three-set rule for clothing is standard. All prisoner property is subject to a degree of control regarding the amount retained in cell and in storage. Approximate guidelines will be that 3 sets of normal clothing and sufficient training clothing (if attending gym) is permissible.</p> <p>Extra items may be stored in allocated lockers in the Reception on condition all the items fit comfortably within allocated locker size. Any excess must be signed out to family or friends.</p>	Governor of Cork Prison		
CK23-2	Prison managers should conduct ongoing recorded audits of the availability of bedding, and where necessary, ensure the replacement of all mattresses, duvets and pillows. All prisoners should each have a clean duvet, sheet, pillow and pillowcase, as well as a sufficient number of towels to use across the course of the week’s activities.	Already in place	Prisoners are issued bedding on committal to Cork. Prisoners can request replacement items and these will be processed as quickly as possible.	Governor of Cork Prison	Closed	
CK23-3	Cork Prison should provide tuck shop pricing to prisoners and ensure prisoners are able to easily and privately access their financial accounts information.	Partially accepted	<p>Prices are outlined on the tuck shop list distributed to prisoners.</p> <p>It is not possible for prisoners to privately access their accounts information.</p>	Governor of Cork Prison	Ongoing	
CK23-4	In line with Section 42 of the Public Sector Duty, the prison should work towards eliminating all forms of discrimination within Cork 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	<p>Cork Management have issued reminders to all staff of their obligations under Section 42 of the Public Sector Duty.</p> <p>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.</p>	Governor of Cork Prison	Ongoing	C&R

CK23-5	All information materials and forms, including committal, complaints and resettlement documentation, should be developed and readily available in all applicable languages spoken by people in custody. In addition, as is being developed in Cloverhill Prison, Cork Prison (and all committal prisons across the estate) should create an introductory committal video, available in all necessary languages. [See also, CKCT5 and Mr C 2022, Recommendation 4]	Partially accepted	<p>See DG 23-2</p> <p>In addition, Prisoner Information Booklets are available in English, Irish and nine other languages across the Estate. These booklets provided detailed information for prisoners to support their access to supports and services during their time in custody.</p>	Governor of Cork Prison	Ongoing	C&R
CK23-6	The Governor of Cork Prison must ensure that both electronic and paper-based record-keeping are comprehensive, accurate, timely and transparent in all key areas, in compliance with various provisions of the Prison Rules 2007-2020, and that ensuring good record-keeping is embedded in the prison amongst all staffing ranks.	Accepted - in progress	<p>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 a priority project under this pillar.</p> <p>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.</p>	Governor of Cork Prison	Ongoing	
CK23-7 (also made to IPS DG: DG22-9)	The Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Governor of Cork Prison should ensure a clear demarcation between incident recording and the P19 (disciplinary sanction) recording system	Accepted	<p>There are robust measures in place both locally and at HQ level into the management of P19 disciplinary reports. Management at Cork 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>	Governor of Cork Prison	Ongoing	
CK23-8	The effectiveness of the ventilation system in Cork 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 Cork 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 Cork Prison		C&R
CK23-9	To meet the needs of the prisoner population, Cork Prison should make efforts to improve access to the following healthcare services: in-reach physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietician services, services to support prisoners with physical and intellectual disabilities and Alcoholics Anonymous. Additionally, Cork Prison should explore the implementation of additional harm minimisation strategies, such as provision of condoms and needle exchange programmes.	Partially accepted	<p>The Irish Prison Service continues to engage with the HSE, NFMHS and other agencies to seek the delivery of healthcare and support services in prisons.</p> <p>There is no requirement to provide needle exchange programmes as, there have been no substantiated reports of IV drug use within Irish prisons for many years.</p>	Governor of Cork Prison	Ongoing	C&R

Repeat Rec.: 2020K2 (2023)	Repeat Recommendation: Identification of potential ligature points and items of potential self-harm to those at risk should form part of “daily inspections” and policy in all prisons, as agreed in the National Strategy for Prevention of Suicide.	Not accepted	<p>It is not possible to remove all potential ligature points from cells as they are the living accommodation of prisoners.</p> <p>Prisoners who are considered to pose a risk to themselves or who notify prison staff of any intention to self-harm are referred to appropriate services in the prison and may be placed on special monitoring.</p> <p>Prisoners placed on special monitoring may be relocated to Special Observation Cells, which are designed to be ligature free.</p>	Governor of Cork Prison		C&R
CK23-10	Consultation with healthcare staff should be improved, as it would benefit the development of technologies and services in Cork Prison, as well as across the prison estate. In particular, increased consultation with healthcare staff would be of benefit in relation to provision of food, sanitation and exercise for prisoners, as well as in the development of healthcare facilities and infrastructure and in the improvement of referral and linkage approaches, such as through the Prisoner Healthcare Management System and with community and hospital-based teams.	Accepted	Management at Cork Prison continue to work with the prison and HQ Healthcare teams to identify opportunities for improvement in the context of communication and service delivery.	Governor of Cork Prison	Ongoing	C&R
CK23-11	In line with Rule 26.16 of the European Prison Rules (2020), all prisoners carrying out essential work in Cork Prison should be offered at least one full rest day each week.	Already in place	Management at Cork Prison have confirmed rest days are available to all prisoners participating in work & training in waste management, industrial cleaning, kitchen and laundry.	Governor of Cork Prison	Closed	
CK23-12	Opportunities for prisoner engagement with purposeful activity should be increased. Cork Prison should build on the success of the Open Door initiative and other collaborative programmes to embed a strategy of cross- departmental identification and development of work training, education, prison services and community-based initiatives.	Already in place	<p>Programmes and initiatives such as the Open Door initiative are delivered in Cork Prison when it is feasible to do so from an operational and security perspective.</p> <p>In March 2025 Cork Prison and Cork Education and Training Board (ETB) celebrated 25 years of collaboration on the Dillon's Cross Project, which has provided educational and social support to the partners and families of prisoners, addressing the often overlooked challenges they face.</p>	Governor of Cork Prison	Closed	C&R
CK23-13	The Governor should ensure that the library is consistently open, and that prisoners who do not attend school are facilitated to access library services on a consistent basis. [See also, CKCT15 (2021)]	Accepted	Library services are available to prisoners subject to staffing levels and escort demands. Due to unprecedented levels of overcrowding, delivery of services and regimes may be affected.	Governor of Cork Prison	Ongoing	C&R
CK23-14	The sports hall in the prison should be immediately brought back into service and made accessible to all people living in the prison. The utility of this facility should be maximised to ensure consistent and equitable access to meaningful and structured activity, such as fitness classes, education programmes and organised games.	Already in place	Management at Cork Prison have confirmed the sports hall is in use and that Cork are in the process of increasing the capacity of the sports hall through the purchase of gym equipment.	Governor of Cork Prison	Closed	C&R
CK23-15	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.	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 Cork Prison	Closed	C&R

CK23-16	The 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 Cork Prison	Ongoing	C&R
CK23-17	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	Cork Management will work to ensure an appropriate environment and appropriate supports are in place for prisoners leaving custody, insofar as is practicable.	Governor of Cork Prison	Ongoing	C&R