

No.	Recommendation	Response	Action Required	Action Owner	Timeline
IPS Director General					
<p><b>Repeat Rec.: DOCT7 (2021)</b> <i>(also made to Dóchas Governor, see below)</i></p>	<p><b>Repeat Recommendation:</b> In line with international human rights standards, the Dóchas Centre and the Irish Prison Service should take positive measures to respect the dignity of women by ensuring that all women have ready access to gender-specific and period products.</p>	Accepted - This is already in place.	<p>A variety of gender-specific products are issued free of charge to women in the Dóchas centre, including shampoo, conditioner, deodorant and shower gel. Hair treatments are provided by Dóchas hairdressers. Make up packs are also issued three times per year.</p> <p>Wall mounted period product dispensers are available in reception and outside class offices in houses for women to take as needed. Period products are also available to purchase in the tuck shop.</p>	<p>IPS Director General</p> <p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	Complete
<p><b>Repeat Rec.: DG22-3</b></p>	<p><b>Repeat Recommendation:</b> 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.</p>	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, but delivery of services is impacted by the current level of overcrowding across the estate.</p>	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<p><b>Repeat Rec.: DOCT3 (2021)</b></p>	<p><b>Repeat Recommendation:</b> In line with the Nelson Mandela Rules, Rule 22 and European Prison Rules, Rule 22.4, the Inspectorate recommends that the scheduling around meal times be amended to ensure meals are served at reasonable intervals and at normal times: lunch (midday) and dinner (evening).</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	Closed
<p><b>Repeat Rec.: DOCT5 (2021)</b></p>	<p><b>Repeat Recommendation:</b> The Irish Prison Service should ensure that procured tuck shop items are marked at a price that is affordable to prisoners, and should consider assessing the daily gratuity rates received by prisoners to ensure they are able to purchase items in the tuck shop at a reasonable price. [see also HQEDWT5]</p>	Accepted	<p>Gratuity and Hardship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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.</li> <li>•An additional supplement payment may be paid to female prisoners from hardship funds under the "Bangkok rules".</li> <li>•Prison Governors also have a general hardship fund to assist prisoners where required.</li> </ul> <p>Prison Shop and Other Supports</p> <p>The Irish Prison Service is mindful of the affordability of products and has taken steps to alleviate the cost of tuck shop items for prisoners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•A decision was taken by the Prison Service to change sales prices for all non-tobacco products from 1 February 2021, products in the Shop are now sold at a cost plus 5% markup (therefore less than RRP).</li> <li>•Tobacco products are the only product sold at Regular Retail Price (RRP). The Irish Prison Service supported by the Red Cross offers supports to prisoners to quit smoking at no cost to the prisoner.</li> <li>•The Irish Prison Service availed of an exemption from passing on to prisoners, the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) charge on all plastic bottles.</li> <li>•Female care packs are issued to the female prisoners as required to meet hygiene and basic beauty need requirements e.g. shampoos and conditioners etc.</li> </ul>	IPS Director General	Complete
<p><b>Repeat Rec.: DOCT13 (2021)</b> <i>(also made to Dóchas Governor, see above)</i></p>	<p><b>Repeat Recommendation:</b> In line with Rule 49 of the European Prison Rules, the Dóchas Centre and the Irish Prison Service should develop a plan to address bullying in the prison. Robust governance (the consistent filling of senior staffing vacancies) and leadership, in tandem with the establishment of a prisoner council and increased access to structured and purposeful activities may prove effective strategies by which to address these issues.</p>	Accepted	<p>Vacancies at management level in the Dóchas Centre have been filled, facilitating greater oversight of staff-prisoner dynamics.</p> <p>Information sessions are run twice per month for staff to discuss and review relevant issues with management, e.g bullying.</p> <p>A number of programmes are being delivered to the women in custody at the Dóchas, for example the Alternatives to Violence Programme (AVP) and the STEPS Programme, which focus on personal development and conflict resolution.</p> <p>A Prisoner Council has recently been advertised in the Dóchas school magazine, with a view to affording women in Dóchas a platform to advocate for their own needs.</p>	<p>IPS Director General</p> <p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	Complete
<p><b>DG23-13</b> <i>[see also DOCT9 (2021) and LMCT18 (2021)]</i></p>	<p>The Irish Prison Service must ensure that a clear policy on the treatment and management of transgender persons is put in place, and that it aligns with the standards set out in the 2024 CPT Standards on Transgender Persons in Prison</p>	Partially accepted	<p>The Irish Prison Service is continuing its work towards finalising a policy document for the management of prisoners who are transgender, and has extended the project to consider the supports for gender diversity in the prison environment more broadly. This work has included consultation with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, consideration of submissions received from interest groups, consultation with the Office of the Inspector of Prisons, and consideration of guidelines published by the Committee for Prevention of Torture, and Inhumane or Degrading Treatment &amp; Punishment (CPT). The IPS is currently engaging with internal stakeholders to gain learning and insight into the mapping of practical steps necessary to implement the policy before finalising the policy provisions.</p>	IPS Director General	
<p><b>DG23-14</b></p>	<p>The Inspectorate urges the Irish Prison Service to fully implement its 2022 decision to cease the practice of no longer accepting drop-off of packages by family and friends at the prison gate; this practice puts an additional financial cost on families and friends to send items by post.</p>	Accepted	<p>This was an infection control measure introduced for COVID-19. The waiting room should accept property ( on designated days when visits are scheduled- or an alternative date when visits are not scheduled).</p>	IPS Director General	Complete

<b><u>Repeat Rec:</u> DG23-2</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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	The Irish Prison Service will commence a pilot of a handheld translation device which is capable of instantly translating over ninety languages in three prisons in June 2025.  It is hoped that following a short pilot, the device will be approved for use across the prison Estate.	IPS Director General	Q4 2025
<b><u>Repeat Rec:</u> DG23-8</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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	The Digitisation Project is expected to commence in Q3 2025. The project is being supported by the Dept of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, who have provided a Business Analyst resource. Successful implementation of this project will be subject to the availability of resources.	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b><u>Repeat Rec:</u> DG22-4</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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.	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b><u>Repeat Rec:</u> DG22-5</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> The Director General of the Irish Prison Service should take immediate action to implement the 2017 Policy for Elimination of Solitary Confinement, and in line with Rules 43 and 44 of the UN Mandela Rules (2015), should with immediate effect, cease the practice of prolonged solitary confinement.	Accepted	There a number of reasons for the restriction to a person's regime while in custody. This includes for safety or protection reasons, on the grounds of order and to protect the prison population from the spread of infection. The Irish Prison Service has taken steps to bring the Irish prison system into line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (known as 'Mandela Rules') in respect of solitary confinement. This included the introduction of Statutory Instrument 276 of 2017 which amended Rule 27 of the Prison Rules 2007 and which provides for prisoners to be allowed to spend a minimum period of 2 hours out of his or her cell daily. This Statutory Instrument is implemented through the Irish Prison Service Policy on the Elimination of Solitary Confinement. The imposition of a restricted regime is closely monitored by the Irish Prison Service and the status of each prisoner on restricted regime within the prison system is regularly reviewed. Out-of-cell time, regimes, services and family contact are offered to prisoners on restricted regimes insofar as operationally feasible, but delivery of services is impacted by the current level of overcrowding across the estate.	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b>DG23-15</b>	The committal interview and induction process across the prison estate requires review and amendment to ensure all prisoner placements are based on a formal rigorous and reviewable risk assessment process.	Partially accepted	Due to current levels of overcrowding, it is not possible to ensure each prisoner placement is based on a formal, rigorous and reviewable risk assessment.  The Irish Prison Service continues to engage with An Garda Síochána to progress the approval and roll out of the revised C63 form, which will provide significantly more detailed information on prisoners transferred to custody and facilitate a more informed committal assessment.  In addition, a revised Healthcare Committal Process Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been considered by the Irish Prison Service Prisons' Leadership Team and it is hoped that this SOP will be approved and implemented by Q3 2025.	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b><u>Repeat Rec:</u> DG23-9</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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.	Accepted	The Irish Prison Service Drug Strategy 2023-2026 mirrors the National Strategy on Drugs and places significant emphasis on providing education and care for prisoners who use drugs.  The 3 pillars of the Irish Prison Service Drug Strategy are: 1. Inform and Educate. 2. Detect and Reduce. 3. Support and Treat.  In 2024, the Irish Prison Service appointed a National Clinical Lead for Addiction and Mental Health and they are tasked with realising the vision outlined in the Irish Prison Service Drug Strategy.	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b><u>Repeat Rec:</u> DOCT8 (2021)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> In line with Rule 81.3 of the European Prison Rules (2020), all prison staff should be required to undertake comprehensive and continuous gender-specific training; this training should be developed in consultation with stakeholders working in the areas of gender, sexual and gender-based violence and deprivation of liberty.	Accepted - This is already in place.	Management at the Dóchas Centre, with support from Irish Prison Service HQ and College, developed and delivered specific training for staff working with women in custody in 2024.  This training module is in addition to the standard Irish Prison Service offering of annual CPD and is currently being reviewed with a view to delivering again in 2025. Information sessions are run twice per month for staff to discuss and review matters arising, new and updated SOPs, etc. with management	IPS Director General Governor of the Irish Prison Service College	Complete
<b><u>Repeat Rec:</u> DG22-9</b> <i>(also made to Prison Governor DO23-14)</i>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> The Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Governor of the Dóchas Centre should ensure a clear demarcation between an incident recording system and the P19 (disciplinary sanction) recording system.	Accepted	There are robust measures in place both locally and at HQ.level into the management of P19 disciplinary reports. Management at the Dóchas regularly review the administration of disciplinary sanctions to ensure consistent and proportionate application.  In addition, training has been delivered to all Prisons to ensure effective and appropriate recording of incidents on the National Incident Management System (NIMS).	IPS Director General	Complete
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> MHT22 (2023)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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

<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> MHT8 (2023)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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	<p>All recruit prison officers currently receive a one day training module on Mental Health Awareness.</p> <p>This recommendation will be kept under consideration in the context of ongoing review of the Irish Prison Service's CPD programmes and delivery methods.</p>	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> MHT9 (2023)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> It is recommended that the provision of individual and/or group psychological support sessions (e.g., monthly) are offered to prison officers, with particular emphasis on those staff working in areas where the level of mental disorder is more acute, such as the special units where such prisoners are accommodated.	Partially accepted	<p>The Irish Prison Service Psychology Service does not currently have the resources to provide monthly group psychological support sessions to staff. Training is provided to all RPOs, and bespoke specialist training is provided to staff on Cloverhill D2, the HSU in Mountjoy and A block in Portlaoise, which includes input on well being.</p> <p>In addition, all prison based and HQ staff can access the Irish Prison Service Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) through text, phone, email or by engaging a Staff Support Officer (SSO). Extensive information on the services provided by the EAP is readily accessible through the Irish Prison Service intranet PRISM.</p>	IPS Director General	Complete
<b>DG23-16</b>	It is recommended that the nurse staffing complement in the Dóchas Centre is augmented to provide adequate cover on night duty, and to ensure that night cover is not staffed by just one individual.	Partially accepted	<p>Irish Prison Service Healthcare and Workforce Planning will complete a nocturnal workload analysis to determine whether there is a requirement for more than one night time nurse in the Dóchas Centre.</p> <p>An augmentation of the staffing complement would then be requested through the Estimates Process.</p>	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b>DG23-17</b>	It is recommended that, in line with the Irish Prison Service (2011) Healthcare Standards, administrative support staff are employed alongside clinical staff to support in the delivery of essential healthcare services.	Accepted	<p>The assignment of healthcare administrative support is considered and reviewed on a case by case basis as part of Irish Prison Service Workforce Planning Joint Task Reviews across the Estate.</p> <p>Provision of healthcare administrative support has traditionally been provided by prison clerical staff. In a number of larger prisons with greater healthcare provision needs, agreement through Joint Task Review has resulted in a prison officer being assigned to healthcare administrative support. This allows prison management to prioritise the post on their Regime Management Plan.</p>	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b>DG23-18</b>	Policies for dental care should be reviewed to, at a minimum, align entitlements for remand prisoners to that of sentenced prisoners and to promote equivalence of healthcare services with those available in the community.	Partially accepted	<p>The Irish Prison Service is in the process of tendering for a contracted dental provider. As part of this contract, prisoners will be able to avail of the same dental services as provided in the community under the GMS.</p> <p>In certain circumstances, when prolonged dental treatment is required, it may be difficult to initiate this treatment in a remand setting due to uncertainty regarding the prisoner's length of stay. however, in the main, every effort is made to ensure that the prisoners on remand have access to the same dental treatment options as sentenced prisoners.</p>	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b>DG23-19</b>	In line with the 2015 New Connections report, and international best practice, improved linkages between IPS Psychology, community-based services and step-down initiatives should be explored.	Accepted	The Irish Prison Service has initiated engagement with the HSE to develop an MOU to ensure improved linkages with community-based services and step-down initiatives. It is expected that progress will be made during 2025 & 2026.	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b>DG23-20</b>	An immediate review of the wait list management procedures for addiction services should be undertaken. An agreed written policy should be developed between MQI and IPS that explicitly addresses efforts to engage women on shorter and recurring sentences.	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>	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> EDWT1 (2022)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> A centralised and integrated data recording system should be put in place to accurately identify, track and report on engagement with purposeful activity. This data should be shared with the Inspectorate of Prisons and made publically available on a regular basis.	Accepted - This is already in place.	The new Work Training Management System will go live on 1st July 2025. Work Training statistics for publication will be agreed at 'go live' and published half yearly. Work is ongoing on Education statistics to be published on the Irish Prison Service website every 6 months.	IPS Director General	End Q2 2025
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> EDWT4 (2022)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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. [See also, DG22-8]	Accepted - This is already in place.	<p>Resource allocation is reviewed on an ongoing basis by Irish Prison Service Workforce Planning.</p> <p>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.</p>	IPS Director General	Ongoing

<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> EDWTS (2022)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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, DOCT5 (2021)]	Accepted - This is already in place.	<b>See DOCT-5</b>  Gratuity and Hardship •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.  Prison Shop and Other Supports The Irish Prison Service is mindful of the affordability of products and has taken steps to alleviate the cost of tuck shop items for prisoners: •A decision was taken by the Prison Service to change sales prices for all non-tobacco products from 1 February 2021, products in the Shop are now sold at a cost plus 5% markup (therefore less than RRP). •Tobacco products are the only product sold at Regular Retail Price (RRP). The Irish Prison Service supported by the Red Cross offers supports to prisoners to quit smoking at no cost to the prisoner. •The Irish Prison Service availed of an exemption from passing on to prisoners, the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) charge on all plastic bottles. •Female care packs are issued to the female prisoners as required to meet hygiene and basic beauty need requirements e.g. shampoos and conditioners etc.	IPS Director General	Complete
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> EDWT7 (2022)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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 (NZE, 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
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> EDWT10 (2022)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> DG22-13</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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. A project to introduce an inbound telephony system for prisoners is well advanced. Once introduced, it is intended that the inbound telephony system will offer two inbound telephone calls of 10 minutes in duration to each prisoner located in an area where the calls can be technically supported.	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> DG22-14</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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	<b>See DG22-13</b> 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. A project to introduce an inbound telephony system for prisoners is well advanced. Once introduced, it is intended that the inbound telephony system will offer two inbound telephone calls of 10 minutes in duration to each prisoner located in an area where the calls can be technically supported.	IPS Director General	Ongoing
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> DG23-12</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> 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, but implementation of this recommendation is not possible in the context of overcrowding.	IPS Director General	Closed
<b><u>Repeat Rec.:</u> DOCT21 (2021)</b>	<b><u>Repeat Recommendation:</u></b> In line with the Mandela Rules and the European Prison Rules, and the need to strengthen, operationalise and apply the Integrated Sentence Management process, ISM officers should be provided with laptops/tablets so that they may more readily engage in regular meetings with prisoners.	Accepted	The Irish Prison Service will provide tablets to ISM Officers in Castlereagh Prison as part of a pilot project due to commence in Q3 2025. If this pilot is successful, it is hoped that tablets can be provided to ISM Officers across the Estate. Successful implementation of this project will be subject to the availability of resources.	IPS Director General	Q4 2025
<b>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</b>					
<b>DO23-1</b>	The recreation and kitchenette areas in all houses at the Dóchas Centre should be furnished, equipped and utilised to allow women to engage in recreation, purposeful activity, and meaningful human contact	Accepted	A programme of refurbishment is ongoing at the Dóchas Centre, and is subject to availability of capacity to relocate women whilst refurbishment works are carried out.  New couches, dining tables and chairs were delivered to houses in November 2024.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Ongoing
<b>DO23-2</b>	Specifically designed committal cells in the Healthcare / Committal Unit should not be used to accommodate women with serious mental health issues on a long-term basis. [See also, Recommendation MHT25176]	Accepted	The Irish Prison Service is exploring a number of options that will address both the material conditions of the Committal Unit in the Dóchas Centre and will also address the needs of the women accommodated there. Consultation and engagement has commenced with a number of key stakeholders within the Prison Service, to ensure a considered plan is achieved that will provide a long-term solution to the issues highlighted in the Committal Unit.  In light of a recommendation made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) in 2024, both cell 5 and cell 6 are no longer utilised as accommodation. They are utilised as committal cells only. New committals are assigned to these cells where no other cell is available, however, the prisoner is then accommodated in the general population the next day.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Ongoing

<p><b>Repeat Rec.: DOCT7 (2021)</b> <i>(also made to IPS DG, see above)</i></p>	<p><b>Repeat Recommendation:</b> In line with international human rights standards, the Dóchas Centre and the Irish Prison Service should take positive measures to respect the dignity of women by ensuring that all women have ready access to gender-specific and period products.</p>	<p>Accepted - This is already in place.</p>	<p>A variety of gender-specific productes are issued free of charge to women in the Dóchase centre, including shampoo, conditioner, deodorant and shower gel. Hair treatments are provided by Dóchas hairdressers. Make up packs are also issued three times per year.</p> <p>Wall mounted period product dispensers are available in reception and outside class offices in houses for women to take as needed. Period products are also available to purchase in the tuck shop.</p>	<p>IPS Director General Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><b>DO23-3</b></p>	<p>Prison management should develop a recording mechanism to ensure that <i>actual</i> 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 DO23-8]</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Recording of out-of-cell time will form a further phase of the Digitisation Project outlined in <b>DG23-8</b>. 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.</p>	<p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>DO23-4</b></p>	<p>The Governor should ensure women in the Dóchas Centre are able to store perishable foods in a safe way, for example in house kitchens, and that women have appropriate space and seating to eat their meals in a humane way.</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>A programme of refurbishment is ongoing at the Dóchas Centre, and is subject to availability of capacity to relocate women whilst refurbishment works are carried out.</p> <p>Due to both overcrowding levels and the staffing levels in the Dóchas Centre, communal dining is only available to women in Elm and Phoenix Houses.</p>	<p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Repeat Rec.: DOCT13 (2021)</b> <i>(also made to IPS DG, see above)</i></p>	<p><b>Repeat Recommendation:</b> In line with Rule 49 of the European Prison Rules, the Dóchas Centre and the Irish Prison Service should develop a plan to address bullying in the prison. Robust governance (the consistent filling of senior staffing vacancies) and leadership, in tandem with the establishment of a prisoner council and increased access to structured and purposeful activities may prove effective strategies by which to address these issues.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Vacancies at management level in the Dóchas Centre have been filled, facilitating greater oversight of staff-prisoner dynamics.</p> <p>Information sessions are run twice per month for staff to discuss and review relevant issues with management, e.g bullying.</p> <p>A number of programmes are being delivered to the women in custody at the Dóchas, for example the Alternatives to Violence Programme (AVP) and the STEPS Programme, which focus on personal development and conflict resolution.</p> <p>A Prisoner Council has recently been advertised in the Dóchas school magazine, with a view to affording women in Dóchas a platform to advocate for their own needs.</p>	<p>IPS Director General Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><b>DO23-5</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Accepted -This is already in place.</p>	<p>Engagement between staff and prisoners in the Dóchas happens daily through informal interactions, governor parades, visits to areas within the prison and ISM engagements.</p> <p>The reinstatement of the Dóchas Prisoner Council will further enhance opportunities for interaction.</p>	<p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><b>DO23-6</b></p>	<p>Strong and stable leadership is required in order to address elements of a negative staffing culture in the prison. Forums should be established by the Governor to facilitate direct communications, engagement and feedback between prison management and staff, as well as relevant training to provide staff with a fundamental insight into supporting women who have a unique set of needs in custody.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Vacancies at management level in the Dóchas Centre have been filled, facilitating greater governance, leadership and oversight of staff-prisoner dynamics.</p> <p>Information sessions are run twice per month for staff to discuss and review relevant issues with management.</p> <p>A Prisoner Council has recently been advertised in the Dóchas school magazine, with a view to affording women in Dóchas a platform to advocate for their own needs.</p> <p>Management at the Dóchas Centre, with support from Irish Prison Service HQ and College, developed and delivered specific training for staff working with women in custody in 2024.</p> <p>This training module is in addition to the standard Irish Prison Service offering of annual CPD and is currently being reviewed with a view to delivering again in 2025.</p>	<p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><b>DO23-7</b></p>	<p>In line with Section 42 of the Public Sector Duty, the prison should work towards eliminating all forms of discrimination within the Dóchas Centre, 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.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Dóchas 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>	<p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>DO23-8</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The Director General has established a working group to review Rules 62 and 63 to ensure that all necessary procedures are being followed. Standard Operating Procedures have been drafted to improve governance in respect of provision of regime and record keeping. Work is also underway to design a purpose built mechanism into PIMS to streamline administration.</p>	<p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Repeat Rec: DOCT14 (2021)</b></p>	<p><b>Repeat Recommendation:</b> The Inspectorate recommends that the Dóchas Centre ensure that removal of any person from the general population is done in accordance with the Irish Prison Rules, 2007-2020, and that any such removal is subject to continuous and substantial review. All persons who are to be removed from the general prison population should be clearly identified on the "Special Feature" list, irrespective of where in the prison they are being accommodated.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p><b>See DO23-8</b></p>	<p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>DO23-9</b></p>	<p>Senior management should conduct regular audits of temporary lock-backs carried out under Chief's Order 02/2023 with a view to guaranteeing fair application and consistent review.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Chief's Order 02/2023 has been reviewed by Dóchas Management.</p> <p>Any 'lock-backs' must be managed under the provisions of the Prison Rules, such as Rule 62,63 or 64 and the required procedures must be followed to maintain accurate and auditable records for review.</p>	<p>Governor of the Dóchas Centre</p>	<p>Complete</p>

DO23-10	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 the Dóchas Centre, including application of conflict mediation and restorative justice practices to ease tensions amongst prisoners and staff.	Accepted - This is already in place.	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.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Ongoing
DO23-11	A review of staffing allocation should be conducted to ensure adequate staffing availability during the week, rather than a surplus of staffing on weekend periods when prisoner activities and services are limited and courts are not in session.	Not accepted	Dóchas is staffed in line with the Irish Prison Service joint task review process to incorporate access to services, operational requirements and security considerations. Staffing allocations do not provide for surpluses on weekends.  Absences and escort requirements have varying impacts on weekdays and weekend days.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Closed
DO23-12	To address prisoner reports of low confidence in the complaints system, senior management should take visible steps to promote engagement with the complaints system, which may include (i) making available sealable envelopes in close proximity to complaint forms and boxes; (ii) installation of secure complaint boxes that are clearly labelled and of the same type across the prison; (iii) regular notification to complainants of the status of their complaints; and (iv) daily collection of submitted complaints by Chief Officers.	Accepted	In July 2024, a circular and accompanying training materials and information for prisoners were issued to remind all staff of obligations for the management of Rule 44 correspondence to external oversight bodies, and to highlight the installation of dedicated mailboxes for confidential materials - Green for General Post, White for Complaints, and Black for Rule 44. All Prisoner Complaints Liaisons received refresher training and support on the prisoner complaints process in Q1 2025.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Ongoing
DO23-13	Clearly marked Rule 44 post boxes should be immediately installed in common areas and landings to allow women to submit confidential correspondence to all bodies covered under Rule 44 of the Irish Prison Rules 2007-2020.	Accepted	In July 2024, a circular and accompanying training materials, and information for prisoners, including an information video for prisoner in-cell TV, were issued to remind all staff of obligations for the management of Rule 44 correspondence to external oversight bodies, and to highlight the installation of dedicated mailboxes for confidential materials - Green for General Post, White for Complaints, and Black for Rule 44.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Complete
DO23-14 <i>(also made to IPS DG: DG22-9)</i>	The Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Governor of the Dóchas Centre should ensure a clear demarcation between an incident recording system and the P19 (disciplinary sanction) recording system.	Accepted	<b>See DO23-13</b>  There are robust measures in place both locally and at HQ level into the management of P19 disciplinary reports. Management at the Dóchas regularly review the administration of disciplinary sanctions.  In addition, training has been delivered to all Prisons to ensure effective and appropriate recording of incidents on the National Incident Management System (NIMS).	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Complete
DO23-15	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	There are robust measures in place both locally and at HQ level into the management of P19 disciplinary reports. Management at the Dóchas regularly review the administration of disciplinary sanctions.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	<del>Complete</del>
DO23-16	The Inspectorate urges the healthcare team to extend invitations to preventive health screenings, in particular for cervical and breast checks, to women on remand.	Accepted - This is already in place.	All women, regardless of sentence/remand status are invited to avail of national screening programmes such as BreastCheck and CervicalCheck	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Complete
DO23-17	The healthcare team should examine opportunities for building positive patient relations and trust with women in prison. This may entail focussing on opportunities to enhance communication (ie. Health promotion, preventive healthcare offerings, engagement with external speakers) and to increase engagement with women in prison (ie. Women's health forums, events and external speakers, informal mental health and addiction support).	Accepted	The healthcare team at the Dochas are committed to providing a patient centred, trauma-informed service for the women accommodated there. Privacy and confidentiality are ensured where possible to provide a caring and safe healthcare environment.  Engagment with external speakers is ongoing throughout the year at the Dóchas Centre. In 2024 this included talks for menopause, breast cancer awareness, mental health, addiction and motivational speakers. Health promotions take place during the year, and Mental Health Awareness week is promoted annually with attendance by relevant speakers.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Complete
DO23-18	The Inspectorate recommends that areas of shelter should be provided for women in the big and small yard, and that women should be permitted to return to their rooms from the yard at all times.	Accepted	Women have access to recreation rooms and their own rooms during periods of outdoor exercise whether the weather conditions are inclement or not.  Additional shelters, including staff observation posts are being considered as part of the ongoing refurbishment works.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Ongoing
DO23-19	The Inspectorate recommends that contact between women in prison and their visitors be allowed during physical visits (as per Rule 28 of the Bangkok Rules), and that any decision to disallow contact should be clearly documented and reasoned on the grounds of individual risk.	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.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Complete
DO23-20	Immediate practical steps should be taken to promote best release outcomes, including providing facilities to charge mobile phones and make calls from a landline, and the issuance of travel vouchers.	Accepted	Travel Vouchers are available for women who wish to avail of same or money may be provided from the prison. Phonecalls prior to release are facilitated if required. Charging facilities are available in reception.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	Complete
Requests for Information					
Repeat Req.: DGREQ23-1	<b>Repeat Request:</b> 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.		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.	IPS Director General	

DGREQ23-2	The Inspectorate requests information on the progress to- date in the development and carrying out of the “culture audit” and the subsequent development of a “culture roadmap”, as committed to in the Irish Prison Service 2023- 2027 Strategic Plan.		The Irish Prison Service has engaged an external consultant, Inclusio, to undertake the culture audit. It is hoped the audit will commence in Q4 2025, subject to the availability of resources.	IPS Director General	
DOREQ23-1	The Inspectorate requests information on the status of the prison-wide renovation plans to renovate and refurbish all houses in the Dóchas Centre.		This information is being prepared and will be shared with the OIP once approved.	Governor of the Dóchas Centre	