



OIP Recommendations Action Plan

Proposed Recommendation from the Inspector of Prisons investigation report on
Death in Custody of prisoner Mr. J in Cloverhill Prison on 28/09/2020

The Recommendations submitted by the OIP have been reviewed and considered. The table below is a summary of proposed actions based on the investigation of the IOP in respect of the Irish Prison Service. The table also suggest timelines and action owners for completing the necessary actions.

No.	OIP Recommendations	Response	Action Required	Action Owner	Timeline
1	The IPS should review its control and restraint training programme to ensure that all officers called upon to perform restraint duties remain fully trained in the techniques and are aware of the risks and dangers associated with C&R. In particular, all prison officers called upon to engage in the restraint of prisoners should receive ongoing awareness training on the risks of positional asphyxia and excited delirium associated with the use of C&R.	Accepted – already in place.	The Irish Prison Service is satisfied that the current control and restraint programme is sufficient and that officers called upon to perform C&R are trained and aware of the risks associated with C&R. The current training programme is currently a one-day programme with four hours dedicated to C&R. Within this programme positional asphyxia, excited delirium, psychosis and sickle cell disease are all addressed. In addition, the Control and Restraint manual was reviewed and updated in 2023 by an expert internal group led by the Governor 1 Operations.	Operations	n/a



2	To be certified as competent in C&R, an Not officer should pass a technical and written examination to ensure officers performing C&R techniques fully understand the dangers in restraining prisoners in the prone position and the importance of seeking healthcare advice when considering restraining prisoners with physical and/or mental illness.	Not accepted	<p>During CPD training, C&R Instructors deliver training and monitor staff throughout a four-hour C&R basic refresher in which they observe staff demonstrating these techniques before moving through the syllabus. Basic C&R refresher modules are physical participation modules and at this time, we do not believe that a written/technical examination would be an addition as it could take from the limited time available for these modules. It could also potentially reduce the limited time available for other forms of CPD and training, which has to be provided over the course of a year. The revised C&R manual also covers the dangers of restraining prisoners in a prone position.</p> <p>During all planned relocations, the C&R supervisor will seek healthcare advice. This is one of their responsibilities as outlined in the C&R manual.</p>	Operations	n/a
3	Where a prisoner with a mental health illness is non-cooperative, the advice of healthcare staff should be sought, if possible, before C&R techniques are applied. However, if a prisoner has a recognised mental health illness and/or has PICLS oversight, that prisoner should be risk assessed for any potential moves which may necessitate C & R.	Partially accepted	<p>Medical staff should always be contacted prior to a planned C&R removal.</p> <p>However, an additional risk assessment has the potential to delay a C&R removal and increase the level of risk to both staff and prisoners. It should be noted that every year, C&R trained staff move and relocate hundreds of prisoners using C&R techniques some of whom have mental health issue/illness without any detrimental effect on the prisoner being moved.</p>	Care & Rehabilitation / Operations	n/a



4.	The IPS should accelerate its programme of upgrading CCTV in Irish prisons, with a view to eradicating remaining “blind spots” in the coverage of communal areas, including stairwells.	Accepted – already in place.	Significant investment has taken place over the past number of years upgrading the CCTV system for the Irish Prison Service estate. Since 2014, over €6m has been invested in the CCTV systems and this investment will continue over the coming years. Placement of CCTV cameras will be determined in line with the scope and location of these works.	Operations/ Estates	Complete
5.	Before chairing Critical Incident Review Meetings, Governors should seek to establish the basic facts regarding the incidents concerned, in order that they can highlight any shortcomings that need to be addressed as well as commending any good practices identified.	Accepted – already in place.	The Governor I Prison Support and Development has reviewed the template with relevant stakeholders and a standard template has been developed to support the structure of critical incident meetings and the gathering of relevant information.	Operations/ Corporate Services	Complete