



Seirbhís Phríosúin  
na hÉireann  
Irish Prison Service



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,  
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce  
Department of Justice,  
Home Affairs and Migration

## OIP Recommendations Action Plan

Proposed Recommendation from the Inspector of Prisons investigation report on  
Death in Custody of prisoner Mr D in Cloverhill Prison on 04/02/2022

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 OIP in respect of the Irish Prison Service. The table also suggest timelines and action owners for completing the necessary actions.

No.	Recommendation	IPS Response	Action Required	IPS Action Owner	Timeline
1	This report on the death of Mr. D reinforces the findings and recommendations made by the OIP in its Thematic Inspection Report - An Evaluation of the Provision of Psychiatric Care in the Irish Prison System published on 20 February 2024. These include a recommendation that: “urgent consideration be given to the systemic changes that are required to facilitate the swift transfer of minor offenders who have mental disorders to local psychiatric hospitals. As this is likely to require the development and opening of long discussed, appropriately secure, intensive care facilities/designated beds in civil psychiatric hospitals, this calls for	Accepted	The Irish Prison Service fully recognises the particular vulnerabilities of people in custody who experience mental illness however, Irish prisons are not mental health facilities. The Irish Prison Service remains committed to ensuring that all individuals in our custody are treated with dignity, provided with appropriate healthcare, and managed in a manner that prioritises their safety and wellbeing. Healthcare in Irish prisons is delivered by the Irish Prison Service and we work in close partnership with the	Care and Rehabilitation	Ongoing



Seirbhís Phríosúin  
na hÉireann  
Irish Prison Service



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,  
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce  
Department of Justice,  
Home Affairs and Migration

a multi-agency approach”.

In its report on a full unannounced inspection of Cloverhill Prison in May 2023, the OIP also reiterated its previous (2021) recommendation to the Director General of the Irish Prison Service that persons detained in Cloverhill Prison who require mental health care must receive it in an appropriate therapeutic environment.

On 13 January 2025, the Chief Inspector of Prisons wrote to the Governor of Cloverhill Prison, after a follow-up inspection of Cloverhill Prison from 9 to 11 December 2024, indicating that the “situation on D2, which is housing a number of prisoner-patients who simply should not be in prison, remains critical. Mr D was committed to prison despite his history of mental illness and, in the short time he spent in custody before his death, he displayed clear symptoms of psychiatric disturbance, coupled with neglect of his personal hygiene. Notwithstanding the efforts of prison officers, health care staff and the PICLS team, D2 at Cloverhill Prison did not provide him with the therapeutic environment that he required. Urgent action is required to implement

National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS), the HSE, the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and other agencies to ensure that people with acute mental health needs receive appropriate assessment, treatment and, where required, transfer to designated centres.

It was not determined that Mr. D required transfer to a psychiatric hospital.



Seirbhís Phríosúin  
na hÉireann  
Irish Prison Service



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,  
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce  
Department of Justice,  
Home Affairs and Migration

	the OIP's long-standing recommendations in relation to the care of people with mental disorders admitted to prison.				
2	The OIP acknowledges the dedication of the prison staff who work in the very challenging conditions in D2 in Cloverhill Prison. Nonetheless, it is of concern that officers who noticed the deterioration in Mr. D's physical wellbeing on 22 January 2022 did not report this incident to a doctor or nursing staff until the next day. It is recommended that any noticeable changes in the physical or mental status of a prisoner on the D2 landing be reported in real time to medical staff for immediate assessment.	Not Accepted	The Irish Prison Service healthcare teams in each prison act on any report by an officer. Operational staff provide significant support to prison healthcare teams, but are not clinicians and cannot be expected to provide the same observations as a clinician.	Care and Rehabilitation	Ongoing
3	While it is recognised that all checks, as per current standards, were conducted on Mr. D's cell throughout the previous night, it is clear from the CNO's decision not to commence CPR that Mr. D had been dead while some of these cell checks were conducted. To enhance the effectiveness of the healthcare monitoring of such persons, the Inspectorate recommends that the IPS explore the potential of employing remote monitoring of vital signs technology in prisons in Ireland. This was	Accepted	Tendering is currently live in Q1 2026 and Signs of Life technology will be piloted in Cloverhill and Limerick Prisons.	Care and Rehabilitation	Q4 - 2026



Seirbhís Phríosúin  
na hÉireann  
Irish Prison Service



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,  
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce  
Department of Justice,  
Home Affairs and Migration

	accepted as a recommendation in response to the OIP's investigation report in the case of Mr. K 2024.				
4	The Office of Inspector of Prisons endorses the observation submitted by Chief B in his report of 10 March 2022 in relation to the usefulness of a chest compression machines to assist with the delivery of CPR. This recommendation was previously made in the OIP's report on its investigation into the death of Mr. E 2020 and the corresponding IPS Action plan confirmed, in its most recent update (Q2 2024), that the IPS was in the process of purchasing five machines. It is recommended that this process be finalised and that Cloverhill Prison be equipped with such a machine.	Accepted	The prison estate has purchased five LUCAS machines which are currently being trialled on a pilot bases in a number of locations. There will be a review of availability and training of existing machines before a rollout to Cloverhill is considered.	Care and Rehabilitation	Ongoing