



Seirbhís Phríosúin
na hÉireann
Irish Prison Service



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthai 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 H in Midlands Prison on 08/03/2024

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	The investigation into Mr. H's death has indicated that the lines of communication between different agencies, teams and specialities that operate within the criminal justice system are not always clear. This was evident on two occasions in relation to Mr. H. The first was when the Probation Service was not notified that Mr. H had passed away, despite Mr. H having an allocated probation officer. The subsequent establishment of a notification process, between IPS and the Probation Service, regarding a death in custody, is a welcome development. The second occasion was during the IPS healthcare team's interaction with psychology regarding the referral process	Partially Accepted	People can self-refer to Psychology, however, they rely on a staff member to relay this to Psychology. All client referrals are required to be electronic referrals by any staff member, supported by a referral form. A protocol is in place for all staff setting out how to make a referral to Psychology (SOP No. 21-091 S006). High priority referrals can be flagged appropriately through multidisciplinary team meetings and supported by an electronic referral/referral form. All interactions between allied health professionals should be documented on PCTS/PHMS.	Care and Rehabilitation	Closed



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	<p>in June 2023. Records indicate that Mr. H was to self-refer for psychology assistance, however psychology management has indicated this is not standard practice.</p> <p>The OIP recommends that clear guidance to be issued by the IPS Director of Care and Rehabilitation in relation to the referral process to psychology services. The guidance should include a requirement to document all relevant interactions between health care staff and psychology services insofar as they relate to the well-being of persons in custody.</p>				
2	<p>In a published Death in Custody Report, Mr. I 2019, the OIP made a recommendation for the IPS to consider including Basic Life Support (BLS) training for recruit prison officers during the early part of their training and refresher courses for established staff. This recommendation was rejected by the IPS; however, it should be reconsidered as a matter of urgency. Unfortunately, Mr. H did not survive, despite the administration of early CPR by the officers who first attended to him. Yet, this case evidences how the swift actions of first responders provided Mr. H with the best chance of survival and at the very least, allowed</p>	Not accepted	<p>The referenced response in Mr. I 2019 is maintained by the Irish Prison Service. The below information was also provided in Mr. I 2019:</p> <p>Considerations for rolling out First Responder training were also based on the principle of equivalency. The response time from the prison healthcare team to a prisoner is likely to be much less than the response time from the HSE to an ambulance call-out.</p> <p>First responder training is provided to Gym Officers, PSEC Staff and Open Centre staff.</p>	HR (IPSC)	Closed



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	<p>time for his family to say goodbye to him. Officers trained in BLS could lead to more positive outcomes in the future.</p> <p>The OIP again recommends that the IPS include Basic Life Support (BLS) in training for recruit prison officers during the early part of their training and introduce refresher courses for established staff.</p>		<p>It should be recognised that in the prison setting, a nurse is one of the first members of staff on the scene in an emergency situation. Basic Life Support and First Responder Training is a core element of the skillset of all nurses employed in the prison service.</p>		
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