



OIP Recommendations Action Plan

Proposed Recommendation from the Inspector of Prisons investigation report on Death in Custody of prisoner Mr Q 2024 in Mountjoy Prison on 18/07/2024

The Recommendations submitted by the OIP have been review 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.	Recommendation	IPS Response	Action Required	IPS Action Owner	Timeline
1	Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a particular prisoner is intoxicated, a prompt and proportionate search of their person and their cell should be conducted in line with established security protocols. If multiple prisoners present with similar symptoms of intoxication, a general search of cells should be considered. Operational guidance should clarify the threshold for initiating such searches and emphasise the importance of timely action to prevent harm.	Accepted - already in place	Rule 53 allows for a prisoner and cell to be searched at any time. The Governor determines the escalation from a cell to a wing, to the whole prison - based on the threat presenting and ultimately resources and the impact on the prison day. A General Search SOP cannot capture a level of threat or need for a hugely time-consuming General Search - common sense and available intelligence are the determining factors. However, the Governor of Operations will issue a reminder that relevant cells should be searched as a matter of course following the intoxication of prisoners.	Operations	Ongoing



2	<p>From a preventive standpoint, it is crucially important that prison management and healthcare staff have rapid access to reliable information about the composition of any drugs found in a prison. Samples of drugs found in prisons should be swiftly analysed and the results communicated to prison management and healthcare staff in a timely manner. The OIP welcomes the rapid action that was taken by the IPS in this case. The OIP would add only that if the analysis is conducted by, or on behalf of, An Garda Síochána, clear channels of communication between the IPS and AGS should ensure that the results are equally quickly made known to prison management and healthcare staff.</p>	Partially Accepted	<p>Analysis of contraband is available in circumstances associated with an adverse clinical outcome only. This is available through the National Drugs Treatment Centre.</p>	Care and Rehabilitation & Operations	Closed
3	<p>The Irish Prison Service should further intensify its efforts to physically prevent contraband from entering prisons and to detect its presence once on the premises, including through physical and technological means. In this regard, the OIP welcomes the recent installation of new and more effective anti-drone netting on certain exercise yards at Mountjoy Prison, and at other prisons in Ireland.</p>	Accepted	<p>The Irish Prison Service continues to advance a series of goals under the Drugs Strategy 2023-2026 to deter, detect and reduce the prevalence and harm of substances of abuse in the prison environment.</p>	Operations	Ongoing



4	<p>The Irish Prison Service should continue to engage with other relevant stakeholders, especially with An Garda Síochána, to further develop a multi-agency strategy to counter contraband entering a prison. This strategy should examine the use of technology, architectural disruptions, as well as how to prevent exploitation and coercion being used as a means to traffic drugs and other contraband into a prison.</p>	Accepted - already in place	<p>The Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána work in close partnership to prevent contraband entering prisons, supported by an evolving Memorandum of Understanding that adapts as new threats emerge.</p>	Operations	Ongoing
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