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 21/02/2024

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 OIP has repeatedly highlighted the dangers of nursing under-staffing at night, especially in large committal prisons such as Cloverhill. Mr D experienced an – ultimately fatal – medical crisis at night, while the one nurse on duty was intermittently otherwise engaged in reviewing new committals in reception. These are precisely the kinds of circumstances that have previously led the OIP to recommend that nursing cover at night in Cloverhill Prison be increased. It recommends that the IPS ensure that a minimum of two nurses are on duty in Cloverhill Prison every night.	Accepted	The Irish Prison Service review nursing cover at night as part of the Joint Task Review process. This process is ongoing across the Estate.	Care and Rehabilitation	Ongoing

| 2 | Another potentially life-saving measure that has been repeatedly recommended by the OIP is that all prison staff, including recruit prison officers, should receive cardiac first responder training. This recommendation has been made in a number of OIP death in custody reports, including the report on the death of Mr. I 2019 but has yet to be accepted by the IPS. Noting that this issue was also highlighted by local management at the Critical Incident Review Meeting following Mr D's death, the OIP calls upon the Director-General of the Irish Prison Service to implement this recommendation. | Not Accepted | The referenced response in Mr. I 2019 is maintained by the Irish Prison Service. The below information was also provided in Mr. I 2019:

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 that the response time from the HSE to an ambulance call-out.

First responder training is provided to Gym Officers, PSEC Staff and Open Centre staff.
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. | Director General / HR (IPSC) | Closed |

3	The IPS should improve its procedures for the monitoring and supervision for prisoners who show signs of serious medical decline, especially if they exhibit symptoms such as difficulty breathing, distress, or a history of requesting medical attention repeatedly. Continuous health care observation of prisoners with worsening health could lead to quicker recognition of the severity of the issue. This should include a standardised emergency response procedure for airway obstruction and respiratory distress; if a respiratory issue cannot be not dealt with by providing a prescribed inhaler, a nurse should monitor the prisoner and, if no rapid improvement is discernible, a doctor should be called or a transfer to hospital arranged.	Accepted - already in place	The Irish Prison Service Healthcare team provide 24/7 care to all prisoners in custody. Continuous observation and emergency responses are provided for as required.	Care and Rehabilitation	Closed