



Seirbhís Phríosúin
na hÉireann
Irish Prison Service



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

IOP Recommendations Action Plan

Proposed Recommendation from the Inspector of Prisons investigation report on
Death in Custody of prisoner Mr I in Limerick Prison on 19.07.2020

The Recommendations submitted by the IOP 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.	IOP Recommendations	Irish Prison Service Response	Action Required	Action Owner	Timeline
1	In cases where it is suspected that a prisoner may be concealing drugs, a thorough search of the cell in which they are accommodated should be conducted without delay. This search should be fully documented and information regarding the nature of any drugs found should be communicated to the prison's healthcare team. This requirement should be set out in an Irish Prison Service	Accepted	<p>A national SOP will be drafted as soon as possible to support prisons in cases where a prisoner is removed from his/her cell following a suspected overdose. Documented cell searches will be required under the SOP.</p> <p>The SOP will also consider operational and/or accommodation issues which may impact decision making and actions taken, as well as outlining requirements for communication with healthcare.</p>	Operations Directorate	Summer 2024



	Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).				
2	<p>If it is suspected that a prisoner may be concealing drugs internally (for example, if they continue to display signs of intoxication but no drugs have been found during a thorough cell search), health care professionals should take the lead in decision making regarding the supervision and care of that person. All such decisions should include a recorded risk assessment.</p>	Accepted	<p>Procedures for the management of prisoners suspected of internally concealing any prohibited article or substance and associated healthcare interventions are included in the redrafted SOP for Close Supervision Cells.</p> <p>The formation of a new healthcare SOP document underpinning the redrafted CSC SOP to cater for prisoners suspected of internally concealing contraband has begun. This will include a risk assessment carried out by healthcare staff and a treatment plan determined by this assessment which will include healthcare monitoring of the prisoner and eliciting a response from the prisoner overnight.</p>	Operations & Care and Rehabilitation Directorate	<p>CSC SOP June 2024</p> <p>Healthcare SOP Q3 2024</p>



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			It should be noted that the final decision on supervision is a statutory power reserved by the Governor of the prison		
3	<p>If it is deemed necessary to isolate a person from the general prison population, because of a suspicion that that they have internally secreted drugs or other items of contraband they should be subject to health care, not security observation – including at night – irrespective of whether they are held in a Special Observation Cell (SOC), Close Supervision Cell (CSC) or separation cell.</p> <p>In this regard, the Inspectorate endorses the view of the Council of Europe’s European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) that the most effective approach would be to do away with the current differentiation between a CSC and a SOC and instead focus on</p>	Partially Accepted	See response to recommendation 2.	Operations & Care and Rehabilitation Directorate	June 2024



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	the reasons for the placement of a prisoner in one of these cells.				
4	In order to enhance the effectiveness of the health care 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.	Accepted	A sub-group of officials in the IPS has been established to examine remote monitoring. The group has met with European colleagues and further discussions are planned.	Operations/Care and Rehabilitation/ICT Directorates	Ongoing
5	The Irish Prison Service should introduce a health care focused policy to respond to the threats and safety risks posed by the internal secretion of drugs and other items of contraband. This policy should clarify the roles and responsibilities of management, prison officers, and healthcare staff. This new policy should provide for a central role for health care professionals in decision making regarding the	Accepted	See response to recommendation 2.	Care and Rehabilitation Directorate	Ongoing



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	supervision and care of a person where there is a suspicion of internal secretion of drugs and other items of contraband. All such decisions should include a recorded risk assessment.				
6	The Irish Prison Service should intensify its efforts to physically prevent contraband from entering prisons and to detect its presence once on the premises, including through technological means.	Accepted	<p>The Irish Prison Service published a new Drug Strategy in 2023 with a renewed focus to address substance abuse in prisons. The Strategy identifies 3 essential areas of focus: Inform & Educate, Detect & Reduce, Support & Treat. Each heading confirms a set of practical goals to mitigate against the harmful effects of drugs in prisons including commitments to work strategically and collaboratively with An Garda Síochána, addiction and other services to reduce the demand and supply of drugs in the prison environment.</p> <p>Security reviews have been carried out in all closed prisons over the past 24 months and a number of recommendations to restrict the flow of contraband have been made.</p>	Operations Directorate	Ongoing



			<p>OSG are also engaging with Comreg, IIAA and a number of companies regarding Drone incursions.</p> <p>Discussions have also taken place with European colleagues on other forms of technology and OSG continue to lead in this area for IPS.</p>		
7	The IPS should engage with other relevant stakeholders to 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.	Accepted	<p>The Irish Prison Service published a new Drug Strategy in 2023 with a renewed focus to address substance abuse in prisons. The Strategy identifies 3 essential areas of focus: Inform & Educate, Detect & Reduce, Support & Treat. Each heading confirms a set of practical goals to mitigate against the harmful effects of drugs in prisons including commitments to work strategically and collaboratively with An Garda Síochána, addiction and other services to reduce the demand and supply of drugs in the prison environment.</p> <p>A group has been established comprising of representatives from both the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána. The first meeting of the group convened on 10th April, the group will meet biannually</p>	Operations Directorate	Ongoing



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		<p>and have committed to further collaboration on sharing intelligence, strategic planning of joint operations on throw overs, and support in enhancing current infrastructure, e.g. anti-drone technology.</p> <p>Irish Prison Service engagement with An Garda Síochána has resulted in a number of successful operations, for example at Wheatfield/Cloverhill complex there were 75 arrests during the period 20/02/2023 – 16/03/2024. These operations are dependent on An Garda Síochána resources being available.</p> <p>Research into equipment suitable for use in a prison environment is ongoing. OSG continue to carry out random and intelligence led searches to detect and deter contraband entry. Engagement with local An Garda Síochána liaisons is ongoing in this regard.</p>		
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