

## Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Chnoc an Earbhair 2011.

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Coiste Cuairte Phríosún Chnoc an Earbhair – Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2011.

A Chara

Istigh leis seo gheobhaidh tú an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil um Choiste Cuairte ar Phríosún Chnoc

an Earbhair don bhliain dar críoch 2011.

An Coiste Cuairte

Bhí naoi mball ar an gCoiste Cuairte ar Phríosún Chnoc na Earbhair (ag tús 2011): an tUas.

Martina Coombes, an tUas. Angela O'Connor, an tUas. Philip Cantwell, an tUas. Wilhelmina

Daly, an tUas. Cathal Finucane, an tUas. Ita Green, an tUas. Rita Hayes, an tUas. Eithne

Killeen & an tUas. Charles O'Connor. I rith na bliana (mí Aibreáin) chailleamar trí bhall [an

tUas. Coombes, an tUas. Finucane & an tUas. O'Connor] a raibh a dtéarma oifige éagtha; ag

laghdú an Choiste mar sin go dtí sé dhuine go díreach. I mí na Samhna d'éag téarma oifige

ceithre bhall eile, [an tUas. Hayes, an tUas. Cantwell, an tUas. Daly & an tUas. Killeen] a

chiallaigh nach raibh fágtha ach dhá bhall [Angela O'Connor and Ita Green] in situ ag

tarraingt ar dheireadh na bliana.

Bhuail an Coiste le chéile gach mí agus rinne dhá bhall ar a laghad de chuid an Choiste

Cuairte cuairteanna gan fhógra ar an bpríosún gach mí. Thug an Coiste

Cuairte cuairt ar an

bpríosún fosta roimh na cruinnithe míosúla agus bhí rochtain acu ar gach cuid den phríosún.

Tá tús áite tugtha ag an gCoiste maidir leo féin a bheith ar fáil le haghaidh comhchomhairle

le daonra an phríosúin agus cuairt a thabhairt ar an bpríosún le ceisteanna ar bith a

thiocfadh chun cinn a phlé.

Le linn na gcruinnithe míosúla bhuail an Coiste leis an nGobharnóir Dowling a chuir

ceisteanna laethúla in iúl dóibh a bhaineann le feidhmiú an phríosúin agus leas na

bpríosúnach atá coinnithe laistigh de Chnoc an Earbhair.

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'Cuairteanna' an Choiste Cuairte.

Thug baill an Choiste Cuairte cuairt ar an bpríosún roimh na cruinnithe míosúla agus thug

dhá bhall ar a laghad den Choiste Cuairte cuairt gan fhógra gach mí. Bhí na tuairiscí ón na

'cuairteanna' moltach i ndáil leis an caighdeán an-ard cúraim a bhí á chur ar fáil dóibh siúd



atá curtha sa phríosún sa tsaoráid seo. Tá an caighdeán sláinteachais agus glaineachta i ngach cuid den phríosún sármhaith. Fuair an chistin i gCnoc an Earbhair an DÁMHACHTAIN

EMERALD; [an 4ú bliain as a chéile] is é seo an leibhéal is airde atá le fáil (ar bhonn náisiúnta) san E.I.Q.A.

Bia

Tá an caighdeán bia a chuirtear ar fáil do na príosúnaigh thar barr agus freastalaítear

ar roinnt riachtanas éagsúil maidir le haiste bhia, cultúr agus creideamh. Tá plean

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aiste bia rothlach 28 lá i bhfeidhm – agus tá ullmhú an bhia ar an gcaighdeán is airde

– mar is léir trí na dámhachtainí atá faighte sa rannóg lónadóireachta:

2008 dámhachtain Sapphire EIQA – buaiteoir náisiúnta.

2009 dámhachtain Emerald EIQA

buaiteoir náisiúnta. 2010 dámhachtain

Emerald EIQA - buaiteoir náisiúnta.

2011 dámhachtain Emerald EIQA - Buaiteoir

Náisiúnta.

Is leor a rá gurb é leas na bpríosúnach príomhábhar is cúram na bainistíochta agus na

foirne i bPríosún Chnoc an Earbhair agus ba léir é seo i ngach tuairisc ó na cruinnithe

míosúla. Coinnítear timpeallacht fhisiceach an phríosúin ar an gcaighdeán is airde, le

bliain anuas rinneadh an príosún go hiomlán (ar an taobh istigh) a phéinteáil agus

rinneadh an láthair chuairte a athfheistiú agus a athmhaisiú go hiomlán.

Cuairteanna ar Phríosúnaigh

Déantar cuairteanna ar phríosúnaigh ag Cnoc an Earbhair a éascú trí choinne amháin: (10-00 AM to 12 Nón + 2-00 PM to 4-00 PM Dé Luain, Dé Máirt, Dé Céadaoin, Dé

hAoine & Dé Sathairn. Ní bhíonn cuairteanna ar bith ann Déardaoin nó Dé Domhnaigh). Tá saoráidí súgartha i seomra feithimh na gcuairteoirí le haghaidh páistí

atá ag fanacht le cuairt a dhéanamh agus tá tae/ caife ar fáil fosta.

Cuairteanna agus uirill Príosúnach leis an gCoiste

Bhí roinnt príosúnach a rinne uirill leis an gCoiste Cuairte le linn na bliana, agus

coinníodh leo agus déileáladh leo go cuí. Is é seo feidhm an-tábhachtach de chuid an

Choiste agus bhí rochtain le fáil ar an gCoiste go foirmiúil agus ag an gcruinniú

míosúil araon; agus go neamhfhoirmiúil le linn cuairteanna le déileáil le ceist ar bith



a chuirfeadh daonra an phríosúin as a gcomhair. Tá sé an-tábhachtach go bhfuil saoráid neamhspleách gearáin ag na príosúnaigh, d'aineoinn cé cinéal bunúis a bheadh ag an ngearán, tá sé tábhachtach go mbeadh measúnóir neamhspleách ann agus go bhfuil siad siúd atá curtha sa phríosún ag an stát gan bealach le gearán a dhéanamh atá neamhspleách uaidh siúd a bhfuil siad faoina gceannas. Ceardlanna agus Oiliúint

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D'aineoinn an bhrú dhosheachanta atá ann i ngeall ar an laghdú i líon na foirne agus an méadú i ndaonra an phríosúin, tá éiteas oibre agus athshlánaithe an phríosúin fós i réim. Tá béim an phríosúin seo ar oiliúint, athshlánú agus rannpháirtíocht san obair agus/nó oideachas gach príosúnaigh go han-mhaith ar fad. Ar gach cuairt chonaiceamar go raibh an-ghníomhaíocht ag dul ar aghaidh i gceardlanna agus scoil an phríosúin, iad lán díograis agus saothrachta! Tá sé réimse oibre faoi leith ann:-

Priontaí.

Ábhar priontaí le haghaidh líon rannóga rialtais a chuireann obair agus oiliúint ar fáil do suas le naoi bpríosúnach.

Fabraic.

Táirgtear línéadach leaba sa cheardlann fabraice a theastaíonn laistigh de sheirbhísí an phríosúin. Déantar braillíní dófhriotaíocha agus clúdaigh philiúir a dháileadh ar fud na tíre ón tsaoaráid seo.

Braille.

Teagasctar Braille sa seomra Braille agus déantar leabhair agus tréimhseacháin a thras-scríobh go Braille don lucht lagéisteachta. Is é seo an t-aon cheardlann dá leithéid sa tír agus an t-aon áit in Éirinn ina ndeísítear “Innill Braille”. Tá an saineolas agus an tiomantas a fheictear anseo ar fheabhas.

Admadóireacht.

Cuirtear troscán ar fáil sa cheardlann admaid le haghaidh roinnt carthanachtaí agus le haghaidh an phríosúin é féin corruair. Rinneadh an cheardlann seo a uasghrádú d'fhonn obair agus oiliúint a chur ar fáil do na príosúnaigh atá curtha anseo. Áiríodh ar thionscadail i mbliana:-

Troscán cillíní a uasghrádú.

Troscán le haghaidh Chaisleán Barretstown.

Troscán le haghaidh Chaisleán Dharú. [cosúil le Caisleán Barretstown].

Tacaíocht feasachta ar an timpeallacht le haghaidh comhlachtaí carthanúla agus

poiblí. [Boscaí Éan, Boscaí Ialtóg srl].

Troscán le haghaidh áiteanna eile i gcampas an phríosúin – más cuí.

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### Bainistíocht Dramhaíola.

Ceantar mór is ea láthair na Bainistíochta Dramhaíola a dhéanamh dramhaíl an phríosúin (lena n-áirítear dramhaíl leictreach ó láithreacha eile in eastát an phríosúin) a athchúrsáil agus soláthraíonn sé oiliúint agus obair luachmhar do roinnt príosúnach. Bhí tionchar diúltach ag an moratóir ar earcaíocht ar an láthair seo, agus dá réir sin ní bhíonn sé ag feidhmiú go hiomlán i gconaí. Táthar ag súil leis an láthair seo a bheith ag feidhmiú go hiomlán arís amach anseo mar ní hamháin go gcuireann sé fostaíocht ar fáil, ach san am a chuaigh thart chuidigh sé le roinnt príosúnach fostaíocht a fháil i ndiaidh a scaoilte amach.

### An Chistin.

Déanann foireann an phríosúin an Rannóg Lónadóireachta a bhainistiú, le cuidiú ó roinnt príosúnach, cuid acu atá i mbun oiliúna deimhnithe. Soláthraíonn sé deiseanna luachmhara oiliúna le haghaidh na rannpháirtithe. Déanann an Bainisteoir Tionscail i gcomhair leis an rannóg oideachais cáilíochtaí gairmiúla agus oiliúint arna creidiúnú ag FETAC a chomhordú agus a chur i bhfeidhm do rannpháirtithe. Tá feidhmíocht na láithreach lónadóireachta arna n-aithint ag na dámhachtainí EIQA réamhluaite ar fheabhas ar fad. Tá éagsúlacht, cáilíocht agus folláine an bhia atá ar fáil iontach; gan gnáthsholáthar sainaistí bia le freastal ar riachtanais chultúrtha, chreidimh agus leighis a lua.

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### Oideachas

Tá an soláthar oideachais ar cheann de na huirlisí athshlánaithe atá ar fáil laistigh de Phríosún Chnoc an Earbhair. Déanann Coiste Gairmoideachais Bhaile Átha Cliath an Rannóg Oideachais a bhainistiú. Cuireann sé deiseanna foghlama ar fáil ó leibhéal Litearthachta go dtí leibhéal Céime agus thairis sin. Tá na cúrsaí atá ar fáil creidiúnaithe ag an Roinn Oideachais agus cuimsíonn siad an Teastas Sóisearach agus an Ardteistiméireacht. Tá cúrsaí FETAC agus HETAC creidiúnaithe ar fáil fosta. Glacann céadatán ard (75%)



príosúnach páirt sna cúrsaí sa Rannóg Oideachais. Cé go bhféadfadh sé gur tháinig laghdú air seo ón mbliain seo caite ní hionann é seo agus easpa suime ach is léiriú é ar an méadú príosúnach ag teacht anseo go sonrach d'fhonn an Clár Building Better Lives (Ciontóirí Gnéis) a dhéanamh agus ag cuimhneamh go bhfuil an clár measartha dian agus go maolaíonn sé i gcoinne staidéir nó oiliúna eile ag an am céanna go minic.

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Tá leabharlann dea-stocáilte ar fáil le haghaidh príosúnach le staidéar a dhéanamh agus le léamh le haghaidh caitheamh aimsire. De bharr easpa foirne agus lena chinntiú nach gcuirtear isteach ar uaireanta oscailte na leabharlainne i ngeall ar shrianta soláthair foirne, tá sí á feidhmiú ag príosúnach ar a cuireadh oiliúint i Seirbhís Leabharlainne DCC.

Building Better Lives

Lainseáladh an Clár Building Better Lives in 2009 agus tá sé in ionad an bhun-Chláir

Chóireála le haghaidh Ciontóirí Gnéis a bhí ar fáil sa phríosún roimhe seo. Tá an clár bunaithe ar Shamhail Cheanadach agus tá sé cruthaithe go himpiriciúil gur idirghabháil éifeachtúil é maidir le próifíl an phríosúnaigh ar ciontóir gnéis é.

Tá Príosún Chnoc an Earbhair ina ionad barr feabhais maidir le cóireáil agus athshlánú ciontóirí gnéis faoi láthair. Is é an rannóg síceolaíochta a sheachadann an clár. Tá ceithre shíceolaí bainteach faoi láthair i gcur i bhfeidhm an chláir theiripigh seo. Tá an líon rannpháirtithe sa BBL i bhfad níos airde ná an clár roimhe sin agus tá os cionn céad príosúnach rannpháirteach ann anois! Críochnaíonn an clár le cruinniú trí bhealach sa chás go nglacann an tSeirbhís Promhaidh ceannas ag féachaint do scaoileadh amach tacaithe agus go minic maoirsithe trína dtabharfar an deis is fearr maidir le himeascadh réidh isteach sa phobal arís.

Cláir agus Seirbhísí Cóireála eile atá ar Fáil

Chomh maith leis an gclár BBL soláthraítear modúil chóireála eile i nCnoc an Earbhair le cuidiú le scileanna saoil agus sóisialta tábhachtacha a fhorbairt amhail cláir um Bainistíocht Feirge, Maireachtáil Rathúil, Ullmhú le haghaidh Maireachtáil Neamhspleách, scileanna



Grúpa, Scileanna Smaointeoireachta agus Comhroghanna ar Fhoréigean.

Soláthraíonn

Uinseann de Pól, Legion of Mary, A.A., GROW & Na Samáraigh seirbhísí tacaíochta luachmhara chomh maith.

Clár na nÉisteoirí.

Is é seo seirbhís thabhdhachtach a chuireann príosúnaigh thoilteanacha agus oilte ar

fáil dá bpiair. Cuirtear oiliúint ar 'Na hÉisteoirí' le héisteacht le buarthaí, ceisteanna,

agus eagla ar bith i dtimpeallacht rúnda. Cuireann na Samáraigh an oiliúint ar fáil;

cuireann an tseirbhís seo taca mothúchánach ar fáil le haghaidh comhphríosúnach

agus tá an-seans ann go gcuidíonn sé leis an leibhéal íseal d'fhéinghortú ag an

tsaoráid seo.

Seirbhísí Leighis

Áirítear ar sheirbhísí leighis cumhdach giolla liachta 24 uair a chloig/altranais 24 uair

a chloig, cúram fiacloireachta, Síciatraí cuairte/ Altra Síciatrach, Síciteiripeoir, Síceolaithe, Coslia, agus seirbhísí optúla más cuí. Sonraíonn an Coiste go bhfuil líon

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príosúnach atá an-sean agus an-lag a bhfuil aird leighis agus tacaíocht ard leighis de

dhíth orthu i gcónaí.

Seomra Breathnóireachta Speisialta

[Cuid d'fheidhm an Choiste Cuairt ná monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar úsáid an tSeomra Breathnóireachta Speisialta].

Rinneadh é a úsáid cúig uair déag le linn na bliana; maidir le naoi bpríosúnach éagsúla.

5 Le haghaidh breathnóireacht leighis.

5 Ar a n-iarratas féin.

5 Ath-fhéinghortú (bhagair siad é nó tharla sé).

D'úsáid príosúnach amháin an Láthair Breathnóireachta Speisialta (nó cuireadh

isteach iad ann) ceithre huaire, triúir eile le haghaidh dhá uair an duine. Ní dhéantar

an tsaoir a úsáid choíche i gcomhthéacs pionósach.

Bás príosúnach faoi Choimeád.

Táimid an-sásta a shonrú nach bhfuair príosúnach ar bith bás i bpríosún Chnoc an

Earbhair i mbliana.

Féinmharú

Tá an Coiste sásta a shonrú nár tharla iarrachtaí féinmharaith ar bith i mbliana!

Níor bhain féinghortú ach le ceithre phríosúnach go díreach;[ceithre theagmhais] bhí dhá cheann acu ina mionteagmhais; bhí an dá cheann eile níos tromchúisí ach ní raibh siad bagrach don bheatha. Is othair shíciatracha iad an cheithre phríosúnach agus tá a meabhairshláinte ina



hábhar is cúram fós. Cuireadh cóireáil leighis ar bheirt acu san Ospidéal Lárnach Mearbhaill.

Nós Imeachta Gearán.

Is féidir le príosúnach ar bith foirm gearán a iarraidh ó bhaill foirne ar bith ag am ar

bith. Déantar gach foirm gearán a uimhriú agus a thaifeadadh; dá réir sin a luaithe is

a ndéantar an fhoirm a chur sa leabhar ní mór coinneáil leis an 'ngearán' go dtí go

réiteofar é agus é a choinneáil do Chigire na bPríosún le hiniúchadh a dhéanamh air

nó údarás príosúin eile a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag iarraidh é a fheiceáil.

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Seirbhís Promhaidh

Tá seirbhís promhaidh réamhghníomhach follasach i bPríosún Chnoc an Earbhair.

Oibríonn siad le príosúnaigh ina n-aonar nó le chéile maidir le raon leathan ceisteanna a phlé.

Cuirtear agallamh ar gach cimiú úr laistigh de 3 lá oibre ó theacht isteach sa phríosún.

Obair chiona aonair le príosúnaigh (deonach).

Obair ghrúpa, Bainistíocht Feirge, Scileanna Smaointeoireachta Grúpa a éascú.

Tuarascálacha Bord Parúil, aisdúichithe / aistrithe agus príosúnach a dhéanamh.

Obair réamhsaoilte amach, lena n-áirítear atreorú, fógra agus nasc le seirbhísí do

dhaoine gan dídean.

Cruinnithe AA agus GROW a chomhordú.

Idirchaidreamh a dhéanamh leis an teaghlach sa chás go mbíonn an caidreamh faoi

theannas nó mífhaidhmiúil.

Príomh-rannpháirtithe maidir leis an *mBainistíocht Pianbreitheanna Comhtháite* a

sheachadadh.

D'aineoinn gach rud thuas leanann an tSeirbhís Promhaidh de chuidiú le príosúnaigh

a n-am faoi choimeád a bhainistiú, á spreagadh le páirt a ghlacadh sna cláir oideachais agus athshlánaithe agus ag cur tacaíochta ar fáil dóibh le himeascadh

isteach sa pobal arís. Ina theannta sin déanann siad measúnú ar an riosca féideartha

a d'fhéadfadh na príosúnaigh aonair a chur os comhair na sochaí agus i bhfad níos

minice caithfidh siad maoirseacht a fhorchuireann an chúirt a chur ar fáil nó a eagrú,

le haghaidh mórán blianta i ndiaidh scaoilte amach corruair.

Bainistíocht Pianbhreitheanna Comhtháite (BPC)



I ndiaidh treoirthionscadail ina raibh fiche príosúnach bainteach atá sínithe anois go dtí gach cimiú {ó bhí 1/1/09} agus anois tá os cionn 140 príosúnach nó beagnach ár daonra príosúin ar fad bainteach ann. Tá Plean Forbartha Pearsanta ag gach duine a chuirtear san BPC ina bhfuil spriocanna sonraithe dá am faoi choimeád agus soláthar maidir le meantóireacht/tacaíocht mar aon le hathbhreithniú tréimhsiúil. Tá na príosúnaigh a roghnaíodh bainteach go gníomhach ina bplean féin a fhorbairt agus a athbhreithniú. Tá pearsanra ó Oibríochtaí na bPríosún, Síceolaíocht, Oideachas agus Promhadh in éineacht le foireann thiomanta ó Chnoc an Earbhair bainteach go gníomhach i gcur i bhfeidhm an BPC. Tá an clár seo tábhachtach toisc gur meicníocht é maidir le pianbhreith príosúnaigh a bhainistiú; déantar measúnú ann ar rioscaí agus riachtanais na bpríosúnach, éascaítear forbairt clár bainistíochta le haghaidh príosúnach d'fhonn an leas is fearr a bhaint as a n-am sa phríosún agus cuidítear leo ina n-athimeascadh sa tsochaí. Tá an BPC go háirithe tábhachtach i bPríosún Chnoc an Earbhair toisc go nascann sé leis an gClár Building Better Lives.

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Arís i mbliana, ba mhaith leis an gCoiste a mbuarthaí a chur in iúl faoi nach bhfuil foireann nó acmhainní faoi leith leithdálte ar an BPC d'ainneoin thábhacht an tionscnaimh seo!

Príosú Saor ó Dhrugaí!

Soláthraíonn próifíl phríosúnaigh, an t-éiteas atá i réim agus forairdeall na bainistíochta agus na foirne i bPríosún Chnoc an Earbhair do shaoráid saor ó dhruaí.

Déantar dianmhonatóireacht ar chuairteanna agus déantar

dlúthmhonatóireacht ar

phríosúnaigh chomh maith lena chinntiú nach bhfuil mí-úsáid drugaí ar bith laistigh

den phríosún. Tá tástáil randamach drugaí mar chuid den ghnáthamh laethúil i gCnoc

an Earbhair agus tá a fhios ag na príosúnaigh go maith más mian leo leas a bhaint as

an mórán seirbhísí iontacha atá ar fáil i gCnoc an Earbhair, go bhfuiltear ag súil leo a

bheith 100% saor ó dhruaí. Tá sé spreagúil a fheiceáil go bhfuil formhór dhaonra an

phríosúin an-toilteanach tacú leis an gcur chuige seo!

Soláthar foirne.

Tá laghdú tagtha ar iomlán an leibhéil foirne go dtí 101 (*Noll 2011*) ó 114: is ábhar imní é seo; go háirithe nuair a bhreathnaítear air i gcomhthéacs méadú



daonraí ó 139 to 150+. Admhaímid go bhfuil deacrachtaí leanúnacha cruthaithe maidir leis an bhfoireann agus an mbainistíocht atá anseo fós de bharr an cháis seo. Tá siad le moladh as go gcoinnítear seirbhísí uile an phríosúin a chothabháil agus a fheidhmiú mar is gnách.

#### Aitheasc an Chathaoirligh

Ar an gcéad dul síos ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt d'obair agus do thacaíocht an Chathaoirligh roimhe seo, an tUas. Martina Coombes ar tháinig mise

ina hionad in Aibreán 2011. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le gach ball den

Choiste Cuairte as an n-ionchur, a gcúram, a gcuariteanna agus a rannpháirtíocht in

obair an Choiste Cuairte chomh maith. Déantar Príosún Chnoc an Earbhair a reáchtail

go heifeachtúil; cothaítear éiteas de thacaíocht chuidiúil i dtimpeallacht chiúin agus

chomhbhách. Cé go bhfuil an caidreamh idir an fhoireann agus na príosúnaigh

gairmiúil is léir gur caidreamh an-chomhbhách atá ann chomh maith. Bhí modh

daonnachtúil agus táirgiúil bhainistíocht agus fhoireann uile Chnoc an Earbhair follasach sna tuairiscí míosúla a sheachaid na baill don Choiste Cuairte.

Coinnítear an

timpeallacht fhisiceach ar chaighdeán an-ard agus tá sé seo soiléir tríd an mórán

dámhachtainí Náisiúnta atá bainte amach sa phríosún. Is tionscnaimh thábhachtacha

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iad an Clár Building Better Lives agus an Clár um Bainistíocht

Pianbhreitheanna

Comhtháite ní hamháin i bPríosún Chnoc an Earbhair, ach i Seirbhís Príosún na

hÉireann ar fad – agus don phobal i gcoitinne.

Baineann an cheist aonair is mó atá os comhair gach duine ag Cnoc an Earbhair le

daoine a bhfuil téarmaí fada curtha isteach acu i gcúram coinneála agus atá anois

réidh le scaoileadh amach i bpobal áit nach bhfuil fáilte rompu sa chuid is fearr de

agus ina lán cásanna bíonn an-tóir orthu agus faigheann siad ciapadh ó dhaoine a

bhíonn ag lorg ceannlínte. Is iad na meáin chlóite a bhíonn i gceist go príomha. Tá

freagracht eitneach agus mhorálta ar shochaí shibhialta ar bith roinnt soláthar a



dhéanamh maidir le cúram agus tacaíocht daoine dá leithéidí go díreach i ndiaidh dóibh a fháil scaoilte amach ó thréimhse fhada faoi choimeád. “Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty ” [Mother Theresa]. Tá soláthar tacaí dá leithéidí ina fhachtóir ríthábhachtach maidir le hatitimeachas a laghdú agus soláthraíonn sé meicníocht trínar féidir ‘riosca’ a bhainistiú agus léireodh an fhianaise ar fad atá ar fáil, go ndéantar an riosca a laghdú go mór. Faoi láthair déantar Cáschomhdhálacha a sceidealú (faoi chathaoirleacht an Ghobhanóra) tréimhse mhaith roimh ‘scaoileadh amach’ dá leithéid; tugtar cuireadh do na páirtithe leasmhara uile, ach toisc nach bhfuil bonn reachtúil nó reachtach ar bith ag baint leis an tionscnamh seo bíonn uaireanta ann go ndiúltaíonn príomhsheirbhísi ag a bhfuil príomhfreachtaí a bheith bainteach! D’ainneoin seo tá moladh le tabhairt do Chnoc an Earbhair gur éirigh leo cóiríocht a aimsiú agus teagmháil a thosú leis an Leas Pobail i ngach cás; ina theannta sin ina lán cásanna d’éirigh leo raon tacaí éagsúla ar fud speictream leathan riachtanas a fháil; e.g. riachtanais Theiripeacha, Shíceolaíocha, Shíciatracha agus Leigheas Ginearálta. Tá moladh le tabhairt don tSeirbhís Promhaidh as a bhfuinneamh agus a saothracht maidir le hidirchaidreamh a dhéanamh le heagraíochtaí seachtracha / carthanúla agus go simplí gan iad siúd ní bheifí ábalta a lán den tacaíocht iarscaoilte amach reatha a chur ar fáil. I roinnt cásanna tá iarphríosúnaigh ag baint leasa as an “Maoirseacht Dheonach” a sholáthraíonn an tSeirbhís Promhaidh. Is léiriú é seo ar an leibhéal ‘eagla agus aonraithe’ atá á mothú ag a lán iarphríosúnach agus iad ag dul isteach sa phobal arís. Ag tagairt don easpa seo mothaímid go gcaithfimid ceist a chur cá huair a thabharfar acmhainní d’fhonn freastal ar an ngá suntasach seo. Ní bhainfeadh iarmhairt mhór le costas soláthair dá leithéid i gcomhthéacs iomlán na mbuiséad Ceartais/Leasa. Go deimhin, is cosúil go bhfuil láithreáin fholmha ann faoi cheana laistigh d’eastát an phríosúin a bheadh idéalach le haghaidh Cóiríocht Mhaoirsithe/Tacaithe a sholáthar.



Chuirfeadh forbairt den sórt sin deireadh ar deireadh leis an ‘roithleagán ró’ maidir

le cé atá freagrach, nó nach bhfuil freagrach as cúram daoine dá leithéidí i ndiaidh a

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scaoilte amach. Mar shochaí chomhbhách nílimid i dteideal na daoine sin a bhíonn

go minic leochaileach agus leo féin a thréigean. Go deimhin is rud é a rachadh chun

leasa dúinn go gcuirfí struchtúr éigin i bhfeidhm le tacú le daoine dá leithéidí – agus

tríd é seo a dhéanamh dhéanfaí an seans is fearr is féidir a thairiscint dóibh maidir le

hathshlánú agus athimeascadh rathúil isteach sa phobal. Is coincheap iontach é

Bainistíocht Pianbhreithanna Comhtháite ach gan struchtúr tacaíochta iarscaoilte

amach feidhmiúil táimid faoi theorainn maidir leis an méid is féidir linn a bhaint amach!

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil leis an nGobharnóir agus lena fhoireann as a

gcomhoibriú agus a gcuidiú agus a dtoilteanas agus a mian, córas pléisiúrtha agus

comhbhách a chruthú agus a choinneáil. Ní chuirfí tuarascáil bhliantúil ar bith i gcrích

gach aitheantas a thabhairt don mhodh tiomanta, daonnachtúil agus gairmiúil inar

chaith an fhoireann go léir leis na cónaithe. Is creidiúint iad don tseirbhís agus ar a

lán bealaí is na “loachra gan mholadh” iad ar rud a chreidimid a bheith ina shaoráid

choinneála measartha uathúil. Ba mhian leis an gCoiste Cuairte go mór, go leanfaidh

Príosún Chnoc an Earbhair sa todhchaí, agus amhlaidh á dhéanamh, go gcoinneofar a

atmaisféar, a dhaonnacht agus a éiteas.

Conclúid.

Ar deiridh ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le gach uile ball den Choiste seo as a

dtoilteanas méid dearfach a chur le rud ar comhpháirt thábhachtach é i riarachán ár

gcóras coinneála. D’ainneoin an cháinte a fhaightear go minic ó na meáin agus ag cur

san áireamh go mb’fhéidir gurb í seo ár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil dheireanach motháimid go bhfuil sé tábhachtach a chur ar thaifead gur comhpháirt riachtanach í

go bhfuil an Coiste Cuairte gníomhach/feidhmiúil i bhfeidhmiú córas pionóis eagnaí



ar bith. Tá an-ádh orainn gur thugamar cuairteanna ar shaoráid a fheidhmíonn ar chaighdeán an-ard, ach is cinnte nach cúis é seo a ghlacadh leis nach bhfuil cúis ar bith dá bhrí sin leis an gCoiste Cuairte cuairt a thabhairt air amach anseo. Is cuma cé a cheapfar nó cén dóigh a gcheapfar iad tá sé ríthábhachtach go bhfuil maoirseacht neamhspleách i réimse an chúraim choinneála i gcónaí. Is dearmad tromchúiseach é má cheapann duine ar bith gur leor cuairteanna bliantúla nó débhlantúil ó Chigire Príosún. Tá daoine faoi choimeád i dteideal rochtain a fháil ar mheicníocht gearán neamhspleách agus gan aird ar cén ainm atá air, nó cén dóigh a n-eagraítear é, tá ansúil againn nach ndéanfar an prionsabal seo a ligean thart i sraith athruithe oibriúcháin agus srianta fíoscacha. Ní rud maith é seo má dhéanann duine ar bith againn dearmad de sin: “there but for the grace of God go I”. Leis seo cuirtear críoch le Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Phríosún Chnoc an Earbhair le haghaidh 2011.

[Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Chnoc an Earbhair 2011.](#)

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**An tUas. Angela O'Connor**

[\[ Cathaoirleach \]](#) .

**An tUas. Ita Greene.** \_\_\_\_\_

**An tUas. Eithne Killeen.** \_\_\_\_\_ Téarma éagtha

16.11.11.

**An tUas. Rita Hayes** \_\_\_\_\_ Téarma éagtha

16.11.11.

**An tUas. Wilhelmena Daly.** \_\_\_\_\_ Téarma éagtha

16.11.11.

**An tUas. Philip Cantwell.** \_\_\_\_\_ Téarma

éagtha 16.11.11.

**An tUas. Cathal Finucane.** \_\_\_\_\_ Téarma éagtha

13.4.11.

**An tUas. Charles O'Connor.** \_\_\_\_\_ Téarma éagtha

28.4.11.

**An tUas. Martina Coombes.** \_\_\_\_\_ Téarma

éagtha 28.4.11.

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## **Arbour Hill Visiting Committee - Annual Report 2011.**

### **A Chara**

Herewith is the Annual Report for the Visiting Committee for Arbour Hill Prison for the year ending December 2011.

### **The Visiting Committee**

The Visiting Committee for Arbour Hill Prison (*at the start of 2011*) consisted of nine members: Ms Martina Coombes, Ms Angela O'Connor, Mr Philip Cantwell, Ms Wilhelmina Daly, Mr Cathal Finucane, Ms Ita Green, Ms Rita Hayes, Ms Eithne Killeen & Mr Charles O'Connor. In the course of the year (April) we lost three members [*Ms Coombes, Mr Finucane & Mr O'Connor*] whose term of office had expired; thus reducing the Committee to just six persons. In November a further four member's term of office expired, [*Ms Hayes, Mr Cantwell, Ms Daly & Ms Killeen*] leaving just two members [*Angela O'Connor and Ita Green*] in situ as the year drew to a close.

The Committee has met every month with at least two members of the Visiting Committee making unannounced visits to the prison monthly. The Visiting Committee also visited the prison before the monthly meetings and has had access to every section of the prison. The Committee has made it a priority to make themselves available for consultation with the prison population while visiting the prison to address any issues arising.

During the course of the monthly meetings the committee met with Governor Dowling who kept them informed of the day to day issues pertaining to the operation of the prison and the welfare of the prisoners detained within Arbour Hill.

### **Visiting Committee 'Visits'.**

The members of the Visiting Committee visited the prison before the monthly meeting and at least two members of the Committee also visited monthly - on unannounced visits. The reports from the '*visits*' were complementary apropos the very high standard of care provided to those incarcerated at this facility. The standard of hygiene and the cleanliness throughout every part of the prison is exemplary. Arbour Hill's kitchen is again in receipt of the EMERALD AWARD; [4<sup>TH</sup> consecutive year] this is the highest award available (nationally) in the E.I.Q.A.

### **Food**

The quality of the food provided to the prisoners is excellent with a number of different needs being met in relation to diet, culture and religion. A twenty eight day rotating menu plan is in operation - and the preparation of the food is to the highest standard - as is evident by the awards achieved by the catering department:-

2008 EIQA Sapphire award - national winner.

2009 EIQA Emerald award -  
national winner.

2010

EIQA Emerald award - national winner.

2011 EIQA Emerald Award - National Winner.

Suffice to say that the welfare of the prisoners is the primary concern of the management and staff in Arbour Hill Prison and this was evident in every monthly visit report. The physical environment of the prison is maintained to a very high standard, during the past year the whole prison (internally) has been painted and the visits area has been completely re-fitted and re-decorated



### **Visits to Prisoners**

Visits to prisoners at Arbour Hill are facilitated by appointment only: (10-00<sup>AM</sup> to 12<sup>Noon</sup> + 2-00<sup>PM</sup> to 4-00<sup>PM</sup> on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturdays. There are no visits on Thursdays or Sundays.) . In the visitor's waiting room there are play facilities for children who are awaiting a visit and tea/ coffee is also available.

### **Prisoner Visits and representations to the Committee**

There were a number of prisoners who made representations to the Visiting Committee during the year, each of which were followed through and dealt with appropriately. This is a very important function of the Committee and the members of the Committee have made themselves accessible both formally at the monthly meeting; and informally during prison visits to deal with any issue presented to them by the prison population. It is very important that prisoners have an independent complaints facility, notwithstanding how well, or how ill founded any complaint may be, its important that there be an independent assessor and that those incarcerated by the state are not denied an avenue of complaint independent of those in whose charge they are placed.

### **Workshops and Training**

Despite the inevitable pressure brought about by reducing staff numbers and the increase in the prison population, the work and rehabilitation ethos of the prison has prevailed. The emphasis of this prison on training, rehabilitation and the participation in work and/or education of every prisoner is quite exemplary. On every visit we found the prison workshops and school were open hives of activity always exuding enthusiasm and industry!

There are six separate work areas:-

#### **Print.**

Prints material for a number of government departments providing work and training for up to nine prisoners.

#### **Fabric.**

The fabric workshop produces the bed linen required within the prison service. Fire resistant bed-sheets and pillow cases are distributed throughout the country from this facility.

#### **Braille.**

The Braille room teaches Braille and transcribes books and periodicals into Braille for people who are visually impaired. This is the only workshop of its type in the country and also the only place in Ireland that repairs "Brailler Machines". The expertise and dedication evident here is more than impressive.

#### **Woodwork.**

The wood workshop provides furniture for a number of charities and occasionally for the prison itself. This workshop has been upgraded to provide training and work for the prisoners who are assigned here.

Projects this year included:-

- Upgrade cell furniture.
- Furniture for Barretstown Castle.



- Furniture for Durrow Castle. [similar to Barretstown Castle].
- Environmental awareness support for charitable and public bodies. [Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes etc].
- Furniture for elsewhere in the prisons campus – as required.

### **Waste management.**

The Waste Management area is a large area which recycles prison waste (*including electrical waste from other areas in the prisons estate*) and provides valuable training and work for a number of prisoners. Moratorium on recruitment has impacted negatively on this area, consequently it is not always operating at full capacity. Hopefully this area will get back to full operation in the future as it not only provides employment, but has in the past enabled a number of prisoners to get employment post release!

### **Kitchen.**

The Catering Department is managed by prison staff, assisted by a number of prisoners, some of whom are undergoing certified training. It provides valuable training opportunities for the participants. The Industrial Manager in conjunction with the educational department co-ordinates and implements professional qualifications and training accredited by FETAC for participants. The performance of the catering area as acknowledged by afore mentioned EIQA awards is nothing short of extraordinary. The variety, quality and wholesomeness of the food provided is most impressive; not to mention the routine provision of specialist diets to cater for cultural, religious and medical needs.

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### **Education**

The provision of education is one of the rehabilitation tools available within Arbour Hill Prison. The Education Department is managed by Dublin City VEC. It provides learning opportunities from Literacy to Degree level and beyond.. The courses available are accredited by the Department of Education and include both the Junior and Leaving Certificate.

There are also FETAC and HETAC accredited courses available. A large percentage (75%) of prisoners participates in courses in the Education Department. While this may have decreased since last year it does not reflect a lack of interest rather it is indicative of an increasing number of prisoners coming here specifically to do the Building Better Lives (Sex Offender) programme and mindful that the said programme is quite intensive and often mitigates against further simultaneous study or training.

There is also a well stocked library available for prisoners to study and read for leisure. Due to staff shortage and to ensure that library opening times do not suffer due to staffing constraints It is operated by a prisoner who has been trained by the DCC Library Services.

### **Building Better Lives**

The Building Better Lives Programme was launched in 2009 and replaces the original Sex Offender Treatment Programme previously available in the prison. The programme is based on a Canadian Model and is empirically



proven to be an effective intervention for the profile of the sex offender prisoner. Arbour Hill Prison is currently the centre of excellence for the treatment and rehabilitation of sex offenders. The programme is delivered by the psychology department. There are currently four psychologists involved in the implementation of this therapeutic programme. The number of participants in the BBL is significantly higher than its predecessor with more than one hundred prisoners now participating!. Programme concludes with a three way meeting where a handover to the Probation Service takes place with a view towards a supported and in many cases a supervised release that will hopefully offer the best chance for a seamless integration back in to the community.

### **Other Treatment Programmes and Services Provided**

In addition to the BBL programme Arbour Hill provides other treatment modules to assist in developing important life and social skills such as Anger Management, Successful Living, Preparation for Independent Living, Group skills, Thinking Skills and Alternatives to Violence Programmes. The St. Vincent De Paul, Legion of Mary, A.A., GROW & The Samaritans also provide valuable supportive services.

### ***Listeners Programme.***

This is an important service provided by willing and trained prisoners to their peers. 'The listeners' are trained to listen to concerns, issues, and fears in a confidential setting. Training is provided by the Samaritans; this service provide an important emotional support for fellow prisoners and may well be a contributing factor in the low level of self injury at this facility.

### **Medical & Services**

Medical services including a 24 hour medical orderly/ 24 hour nursing cover, dental care, visiting Psychiatrist/ Psychiatric Nurse, Psychotherapist, Psychologists, Chiropodist, and optical services as required. The Committee notes that there are a number of very elderly and feeble prisoners who require constant medical attention and very high medical support.

### **Special Observation Room**

[Part of the function of the Visiting Committee is to monitor the use of the Special Observation Room].

It was used on fifteen occasions during the year: involving nine different prisoners.

- 5 For medical observation.
- 5 At own request.
- 5 Re - Self Harm (*threatened or actual*).

One prisoner availed of (*or was placed*) in the *Special Observation Area* on four occasions, three others for two occasions each. This facility is never used in a punitive context.

### **Deaths whilst in Custody.**

We are very pleased to note that there were no deaths in Arbour Hill prison this year



## **Suicide**

The Committee is pleased to note that there were no suicide attempts this year! Self injury was confined to just four prisoner: [four incidents) two were of a minor nature; the other two while more serious were not life threatening. All four prisoners are psychiatric patients and their mental health remains a cause for concern. Two have received treatment at the Central Mental Hospital.

## **Complaints Procedure.**

Any prisoner can request a complaint form from any member of staff at any time. All complaint forms are numbered and recorded; consequently once a form has been drawn down the '*complaint*' has to be pursued to a conclusion and retained for inspection by the *Inspector Of Prisons* or other prison authority who might seek to have sight of same.

## **Probation service**

There is a proactive probation service evident in Arbour Hill Prison. They work with prisoners both individually and collectively in addressing a broad range of issues.

- All new committals are interviewed within 3 working days of arrival.
- Individual offence work with ( voluntary ) prisoners.
- Facilitate group work, Anger Management, Group Thinking Skills.
- Complete Parole Board and repatriation / transfer and prisoner reports.
- Pre - release work, including referrals, notification and linkage with homeless services.
- Co - ordination of AA and GROW meetings.
- Liaise with family where relationships are strained or dysfunctional.
- Key participants in the delivery of *Integrated Sentence Management*.

Notwithstanding all of the above the Probation Service continues to assist prisoners in managing their time in custody, encouraging them to participate in education and rehabilitation programmes and provide support for them in reintegrating back into the community. Additionally they assess the potential risk that individual prisoners may pose to society and with increasing frequency have to provide or organise court imposed supervision, sometimes for many years post release.

## **Integrated Sentence Management (ISM).**

Following a pilot project involving twenty prisoners which has now been extended to all committals {*since 1/1/09*} and now involves more than 140 prisoners or almost all of our prisoner population. Each prisoner admitted to ISM has a Personal Development Plan with stated goals for his time in custody and provision for ongoing mentoring/support as well as periodic review. The prisoners selected are actively involved in developing and reviewing their own plan. Personnel from Prisons Operations, Psychology, Education and Probation together with dedicated staff from Arbour Hill are now actively involved in the roll out of ISM. This programme is important as it is a mechanism for managing a prisoner's sentence; it assesses prisoners



risks and needs, facilitates the development of a management programme for prisoners to best utilise their time in prison and assists in their reintegration back into society. ISM is particularly important in Arbour Hill Prison as it links with the Building Better Lives Programme.

- Again this year the Committee would like to express its concerns that despite the importance of this initiative there is still no specific staff or resources allocated to ISM!

### **Drug Free Prison!**

The profile of prisoner, the prevailing ethos and the vigilance of management and staff in Arbour Hill Prison provides for a drug free facility. Visits are strictly monitored and prisoners are also monitored closely to ensure that there is no drug misuse within the prison. Random drug testing is part of the day to day routine at Arbour Hill and prisoners are acutely aware that if they wish to avail of the many excellent services that Arbour Hill has to offer, they are expected to be 100% drug free. It's encouraging to see that the vast majority of the prisoner population are very willing to support this approach!

### **Staffing.**

Total staff level has fallen to 101 (*Dec 2011*) from 114: this is a cause for concern; particularly when viewed in context of a population increase from 139 to 150+. We acknowledge that this scenario has produced sustained and ongoing difficulties for the remaining staff and management. They are to be complimented that all prisoner services are maintained and functioning as per normal.

### **Chairperson's Address**

I would first of all like to acknowledge the work and support of the previous Chairperson Ms Martina Coombes whom I replaced in April 2011. I would also like to thank each and every member of the Visiting Committee for their input, care, visits and participation in the work of the Visiting Committee. Arbour Hill Prison is run very effectively; it promotes an ethos of constructive support in a calm and caring environment. It is apparent that the relationship between staff and prisoners although professional, is also a very caring one. The humane and productive manner of all the management and staff of Arbour Hill has been evident in all the monthly reports delivered by members to the Visiting Committee. The physical environment is maintained to a very high standard and this is evident by the many National awards received by the prison. The development of the *Building Better Lives Programme* and the *Integrated Sentencing Management Programme* are important initiatives not just in Arbour Hill Prison, but in the Irish Prison Service generally - and for the community at large.

The single biggest issue confronting everyone at Arbour Hill relates to persons who have served long terms in custodial care and are now about to be discharged into a community where they are at best unwelcome and in many cases they are subject to extraordinary pursuit and harassment by headline chasers primarily from the print media. There is an ethical and moral responsibility on any civilised society to make some provision for the care



and support of such persons in the immediate aftermath of their discharge from a long period of custodial care.

“Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty” [Mother Theresa].

The provision of such supports is a crucial factor in reducing recidivism and provides a mechanism through which ‘risk’ can be managed and all available evidence would suggest, considerably reduced. At present Case Conferences are scheduled (*Chaired by Governor*) well in advance of such a ‘release’; all relevant parties are invited, but as this initiative lacks any statutory or legislative basis there are occasions when key services with prime responsibilities simply decline to become involved! Notwithstanding same it is to the credit of all at Arbour Hill that they have managed to locate accommodation and initiate contact with Community Welfare in every case; additionally in many cases they have managed to source a range of supports varying across a broad spectrum of needs; e.g. Therapeutic, Psychological, Psychiatric and General Medical needs. The Probation Service is to be commended for their energy and industry in liaising with external agencies /charitable organisations without whom much of the current post release support would simply not be possible. In some cases former prisoners are availing of “Voluntary Supervision” provided by the Probation Service. This is indicative of the level of ‘fear and isolation’ that many ex-prisoners feel on re-entry back into the community.

With reference to this deficiency we feel we must ask when will resources be dedicated to meeting this gaping need? The cost of such a provision would not be of major consequence in the overall context of the Justice/Welfare budgets. Indeed it is quite likely that there are existing vacant sites within the prisons estate that might well be ideal for the provision of Supervised/Supported Accommodation. Such a development would finally bring to an end the ‘*merry go round*’ of who is, or is not, responsible for the care of such persons post release. As a caring society we are not entitled to just abandon persons who are often, vulnerable and alone. Indeed it is very much in our interest that some structure be put in place to support such persons - and in so doing offer them the best possible chance of successful rehabilitation and reintegration back into the community. Integrated Sentence Management is a wonderful concept but without a functioning post release support structure it is limited in what it can achieve!

### **Appreciation.**

We wish to thank the Governor and staff for their co-operation and assistance and for their willingness and desire, to create and sustain a pleasant and caring regime. No annual report would be complete without an acknowledgement of the dedicated, humane and professional manner of which the inmates are treated by all staff. They are a credit to the service and in many ways they are the “*unsung heroes*” of what we believe is a quite unique custodial facility. It is the Visiting committee’s sincere wish, that Arbour Hill Prison will continue into the future, and in so doing, will retain its’ atmosphere, humanity and ethos.



### **Conclusion.**

In conclusion I want to thank each and every member of this Committee for their willingness to contribute positively to what is an important component in the administration of our custodial system. Notwithstanding the frequent media criticism and mindful that this may well be our final Annual Report we feel it is important to put on record that the existence of an active/functioning Visiting Committee is an essential component in the operation of any enlightened penal system. We are very fortunate that we have experienced a facility that operates to a very high standard, but that is certainly no reason to assume that there is therefore no reason for a Visiting Committee in the future. Regardless of who or how they are appointed it is imperative that there always be independent oversight in the area of custodial care. Those who think that annual or bi-annual visits by an Inspector Of Prisons is an acceptable substitute are gravely mistaken. Persons in custody are entitled to access to an independent complaints mechanism and regardless of what it's called, or how it's organised, we sincerely hope that this principal will not be overlooked in a flurry of operational changes and fiscal constraints. It ill becomes any of us to ever forget that:

“there but for the grace of God  
go I”.

This concludes the Arbour Hill Prison Visiting Committee Annual Report for 2011.

**Ms Angela O'Connor.** \_\_\_\_\_ **[Chairman].**

**Ms Ita Greene.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ms Eithne Killeen.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Term expired**  
**16.11.11.**

**Ms Rita Hayes** \_\_\_\_\_ **Term expired**  
**16.11.11.**

**Ms Wilhelmena Daly.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Term expired**  
**16.11.11.**

**Mr Philip Cantwell.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Term expired**  
**16.11.11.**

**Mr Cathal Finucane.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Term expired**  
**13.4.11.**



Mr Charles O'Connor. \_\_\_\_\_ Term expired  
28.4.11.

Ms Martina Coombes. \_\_\_\_\_ Term expired  
28.4..11.

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