

Cloverhill Prison

Visiting Committee Annual Report 2014

Contents

Introduction	2
The Committee	3
Visits to prisoners	3
Overcrowding	3/4
Deportations	4
Foreign Nationals	4
Bullying & Racism	4
Prison Fatalities	4
Security Measures – Drugs	4/5
Protection Prisoners	5
Boss Chair	5
Videolinks	5
Library	5/6
Gyms	6
Kitchens	6
Integrated Sentence Management (ISM)	7
Health Care	7/8
Redcross & Listeners Scheme	8
Education Report	Attached
Work & Training Report	Attached
Conclusion	10

Introduction

Cloverhill Prison is a closed, medium security prison for adult males, which primarily caters for remand prisoners committed from the Leinster area. Its operational capacity is 433.

The Visiting Committee would like to thank the Minister for Justice, Equality & Defence, The Director General of the Irish Prison Service (IPS) the Governor's in Cloverhill and all their staff for the continued improvements in Cloverhill Prison. During the year we experienced a great relationship with prison management. Our ongoing monthly meetings gives the Visiting Committee an opportunity to discuss matters which have come to our attention. When any concerns are raised with the Governor's they assist in resolving any issues that may have been raised with professionalism and due diligence.

The Visiting Committee has formed the opinion that the improved accommodation issues that came about later in the year of 2014 has lead to an improvement within the prison and the overall attitude of the prisoners.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the different departments within Cloverhill prison, their input plays a vital role in assisting with the smooth running of the prison. It is hoped that this continued hard work will change the outlook prisoners have in jail and help them to improve their life outside of the prison, and make them responsible adults for the sake of the community and their own families.

In the course of the year the Visiting Committee got the opportunity to visit Wheatfield Prison and The Dochas Centre. Management and staff were extremely hospitable and helpful. We found the tours very beneficial to see the practises and operations in other prisons.

During the year the West Dublin Campus was visited by the Director General and other prison officials from Northern Ireland. They noted the good relationship between the Governor's and the prisoners.

During the year, unfortunately the Visiting Committee were unable to meet with the Inspector Of Prisons, however an invitation has been extended and we hope to meet the Inspector in the coming months of 2015.

The Committee

The Committee meet on the second Thursday of each month. The committee member's numbers remained at four during 2014. All meetings were always well attended. On a rota basis two members of the committee each month conducted unannounced visits to the prison to ensure that the prison continues to be run in a safe, humanitarian and efficient way. During these monthly visits the members made a point of conducting comprehensive tours of the prison to all areas. We continue with our practice of talking to internal and external staff working in these areas whom we encountered, and any prisoners in the vicinity. We agreed and set out at the start of the year an agenda of issues that we wished to monitor, and explore. We set an objective for ourselves to meet both professional non prison service staff, and in house staff who work in specific areas in the prison to gain a better understanding of the need to consider both security, and prison sub cultural issues in the prison context

Visits to prisoners

During the year we as a committee continue to see a large number of prisoners. There were numerous prisoners who requested to see the visiting committee in 2014, with some of those prisoners requesting a visit on more than 1 occasion. There were also numerous prisoners who requested to see the VC during 2014 who were either released, transferred, had court appearances, or declined. Cloverhill Prison largely accommodates remand prisoners, and therefore the prison population can be somewhat transient in composition. This has the impact of ensuring a large daily turnover, and discharge of the prison population, some of whom may not be recommitted. In order to ensure we see as many prisoners as possible when we visit, we endeavour to make ourselves readily available, so that there is little time delay in actually seeing the prisoners from the date of their actual request. On monthly meeting days any prisoner who wishes to see us was facilitated by two members meeting him before the meeting. In Cloverhill Prison the committee members actually go down to the division of the prisoner to see them in their environment.

We are satisfied that representations which we have made on behalf of inmates are considered by the Governor, and where possible, and practical are being addressed by prison management.

Overcrowding

This remained a continued cause for concern in 2014. When the prison population increases to over 400 inmates it leads to operational difficulties and can be difficult to manage. This has led to inmates sometimes sleeping on floors, and pressure put on the services provided by the staff of the prison. This year again we have received complaints from prisoners that committals have been put in their cell during the night on a mattress, which causes

tension, and disruption during the night to all prisoners in the cell. The problem alleviated somewhat towards the end of the year with the transfer of sex protection prisoners on remand to the Midlands Prison and the transfer of sentenced prisoners to Wheatfield Prison. Towards the end of the year extra staff were transferred to Cloverhill which also alleviated staff problems. We have previously highlighted our opinion that there is an apparent link between overcrowding, and tensions in prisons, this is apart from the health and safety concerns for both staff, and prisoners. We forcefully reiterate that opinion. We feel that it has a tremendous burden on the officers, aside from obvious security implications. Cloverhill is unique because of its remand status there will always be a constant flow of prisoners. We urge the Irish Prison Service to be more proactive in dealing with this potentially dangerous situation in order to be more effective in finding a solution.

Deportations

Deportations continue to be housed overnight or for only a few hours. We reiterate our previous opinion that these prisoners should be going to a secure holding centre, not Cloverhill prison. The prison should not have to deal with what are specifically immigration problems. The question has been raised before if prison is the appropriate place for their detention. The whole area needs to be reviewed by the minister. It is often the case that prisoners are deported where many have had no access to legal advice. The CPT on their visit during the year also raised concerns in relation to this practise.

Foreign Nationals

Cloverhill continues to accommodate more foreign nationals with immigration issues than any other prison in the country. The committee wish to reiterate its comments made over the years, we call on the minister to review the area of communication which has become an increasing problem. The language barrier creates problems that need to be addressed. The committee have previously identified this as an area where there is room for development of the role of the Prison Officer. It is suggested that one of the ways that this can be addressed is by either specifically recruiting or training up serving prison officers in language skills. Their role would be to act as prison interpreters, and they would be used to deal with prisoners on committal, and as required when there is a need for an interpreter.

Bullying and racism

We have not had any report of bullying or racism made to us during the year. In March 2014 there was a reform of the Prisoner Complaint procedures and all issues with regard to bullying or racism can be investigated appropriately. There were category A complaint investigations held with regard to these issues and none were upheld.

Prisoner Fatalities

Unfortunately there was one fatality (MS) in 2014 in Cloverhill prison, the

prisoner's remains was repatriated to his family in Poland. His funeral was attended by Chaplain of Cloverhill Sr. Margaret O'Donovan on behalf on the Governor's and staff. We cannot comment further as the matter is under investigation. Sympathies with the family.

Security Measures - Drugs.

Again we wish to highlight our disappointment that the passive drug detection dog continues to be no longer used during the week in conjunction with the search procedures. We have never encountered any drug dogs when visiting the prison.

There was a feature recently highlighted in the media of the problem of drugs being thrown over prison walls, and being passed to prisoners on visits, this was raised due to two recent drug related deaths in custody. Cloverhill operates screen visits, which eliminates the passing of drugs on visits, however drugs coming in over the wall from boundaries outside continues to be a huge cause for concern. Prisoners do retrieve some of the drugs which can lead to security and operational problems within the prison.

Protection Prisoners

There continues to be a substantial increase in the number of prisoners requesting protection on committal to prison. This can be a significant percentage of the prison population on any given day. This continues to place a massive strain on the prison's resources, and can be a logistical nightmare. All of these prisoners have to be segregated, and within the segregation there can be further segregation. This leads to a restricted prison regime, including limited access to education.

The alarming growth of protection is a consequential reflection of the gang culture in society. As we highlighted previously external gang feuds affiliations do not stop at the gate of the prison when people are committed to prison.

Boss Chair

The Body Orifice Security System is still in use. The chair is designed to detect objects secreted internally. So far its detection has led to a 39% reduction in mobile phones into the prison. The committee has seen it demonstrated, and have spoken to the staff that have used it in reception. We feel it will continue to have a huge impact in reducing the amount of phones smuggled into prison, and will cut down on prisoners being intimidated to bring in articles, as their chances of being caught are increased.

Videolinks

This continues to be an underused resource. As a result the Governor in Cloverhill decided to cease the operation of the facility. A number of months later at the request of the Court Services, a meeting was held in Cloverhill, at which time a number of guarantees were given by the Judge and the Court

Services that have to date not been honoured. It is with regret that we note the underuse of this valuable resource.

Library

This is an excellent facility available in the prison, and when open is utilized by a large proportion of the prison population. In Cloverhill the library is timetabled to open a possible four days each week as a result of the extra staff recently relocated from Mountjoy Prison which alleviated the staffing shortages. Three prison officers are assigned to work in the library for each period. This facilitates more offenders to use the library. All divisions in Cloverhill are allocated time to visit the library. Prisoners have the same information needs as the public, unfortunately a greater number of prisoners have lower education skills, many have learning difficulties and often require assistance in their need to seek information. The prison library puts extra significance in areas of relevance to the prison population, i.e. bible studies in different religions, legal matters and foreign languages. The provision of library services to protection prisoners can sometimes present problems and can be challenging for the staff, this requires full operational support. Another posing challenge for the library is the lack of changing modern technology, that can offer a higher quality of education and a better understanding of learning to prisoners that may have impairments such as deafness and other physical difficulties. Many prisoners who have cognitive difficulties etc can unfortunately not avail of library services due to the lack of these resources. The Visiting Committee would like to take the opportunity to request the Irish Prison Service to review the services currently available in the library to cater for inmates with disabilities. We believe it would improve the quality of life for many prisoners, and may assist in learning the skills required to survive outside of the prison in the community.

The stock in the library was increased during the year, foreign language books in Polish, Chinese, Russian, Lithuanian, Romanian, Spanish, and Czechoslovakian are included in that stock. This reflects the diversity of the prison population. Books in their own languages can help break the boredom for foreign nationals, and obviously helps relax their minds. Many prisoners use the library to read daily papers, listen to music and use computers.

Gymnasiums

The Gymnasiums in the prison continues to be well equipped. It provides quality Physical Education, Recreation, Sport, and much needed physical activity. Sport can be a means of learning for many prisoners. It can also help prisoners to communicate better with other prisoners and peers, while helping to achieve a healthy lifestyle. The Gym is available to all prisoners, and it gives prisoners the opportunity to work in a gym environment to get fit, engage in prison work opportunities, while maintaining physical health and often mental health in custody. There are –PE Teachers, and number of NECF trained prison officers who work together as a team to provide excellent professional programs, and service. They have continued to train a number of inmates up to FETAC standard in fitness. The Visiting Committee would welcome a proposal for prisoners to participate in more outdoor sports to encourage interaction and good humour between prisoners and grasp an

understanding of team sports. We are aware that space is an issue in Cloverhill and there are many fractions of prisoners, but the development of an all weather pitch sometime in the future would be a step in a positive direction.

Kitchen

Once again the Kitchen continues to set high standards, and this showed with the kitchen receiving increased markings from the external auditors. The kitchen in Cloverhill is a very busy workshop with meals for over 400 prisoners cooked 3 times a day, as well as lunches for roughly 100 prisoners attending cloverhill Court on a daily basis. At present there are 23 inmates working in the kitchen. (16 in main kitchen and 7 in the staff canteen). These inmates work with the WTO s, and receive education and training in catering and health and safety, which if completed can receive recognized awards or certificates.

We have sampled the food with the Governors and clerical staff, and were impressed with the high standards and professionalism of the staff, and we compliment the staff on the quality of the food. Continued support should be given to continue moving forward.

ISM (Integrated Sentence Management)

The Integrated Sentence Management (ISM) system is to ensure co-ordination of interactions with prisoners based on agreed sentence plans.

As part of ISM, prisoners take a greater personal responsibility for their own development through active engagement with services in the prisons. ISM involves initial assessment, goal setting and periodic review to measure progress.

Under ISM, a newly committed prisoner with a sentence of one year or greater is assessed by an ISM Co-ordinator. A personal plan for the prisoner to complete during their time in prison is then drawn up. The plan is reviewed regularly between the ISM Co-ordinator and the prisoner, with written reports feeding in from the relevant services and agencies.

Prior to release, the ISM Co-ordinator meets the prisoner to establish his needs on release and a plan is put in place to assist his re-integration into the community.

Health Care

Cloverhill Prison has 24 hour Nursing cover and 7 day week GP cover plus on call GP service which form the basis of Primary Healthcare .All committals to Cloverhill have a Nursing Assessment on committal and are seen the following day by the GP. Prisoners can see the GP on request on 5 days per week .In addition to Primary Health care the following clinics take place also-

Methadone Clinic: Daily with an average of 110 prisoners receiving methadone. This is dispensed by Nursing staff.

Dental Clinics: There are 3 morning clinics per week, being Monday, Wednesday and Friday carried out by Dental staff from the Dublin Dental Hospital. An average of 5 inmates per clinic are seen.

Psychiatric Clinics: There is a full Psychiatric Team consisting of 1 Consultant Psychiatrist, 2 Registrars and 2 Forensic Community Psychiatric Nurses from the CMH that attend at 5 days per week. Clinics are morning and afternoon depending on need. This team also perform a Court diversion scheme which identifies mentally unwell prisoners and finds treatment places in Community Psychiatric Hospitals for them. They will be taken to these places, with the agreement of the Courts for treatment.

Addiction Clinics: There are 3 afternoon clinics per week Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This service is provided by Addiction Psychiatrists from the National Drug Treatment Centre, Trinity Court. An average of 10 inmates per clinic would normally be seen.

STI and HIV Clinic: This takes place every two weeks and is carried out by a Consultant in infectious diseases from St James Hospital and a Nurse Officer from Cloverhill.

Phlebotomy Clinic: This is carried out as required by Cloverhill Nursing staff

Dressing Clinic: This is carried out on a daily basis by Cloverhill Nursing staff

ECG Clinic: This is carried out as required by Cloverhill Nursing staff

Nurse Prescribing: There are currently 2 Cloverhill Nurses who have trained and qualified as Nurse Prescribers. This allows them to assess and prescribe medication for inmates without having to see the Doctor. This is especially useful when GPs are off duty e.g. Night Duty.

Overall Healthcare service in Cloverhill is good and well managed. Unfortunately, like most areas in the prison staff redeployment under diminishing task lines has impacted on the Healthcare service. It has meant withdrawal of Officer support for clinics to facilitate other areas. In the future as the economy improves it is hoped that shortage of staff will be addressed. To conclude one Nurse Officer received an Irish Prison service medal of merit in 2014 for saving a number of inmates lives which reflects the standards of care achieved.

[Red Cross & Listeners](#)

The Red Cross prison based program has been up and running in Cloverhill since 2010. The programme takes place under a partnership between the Irish Red Cross (IRC), Irish Prison Service (IPS) and Education & Training Boards Ireland (ETBI), and most importantly, the prisoners who are trained to become Red Cross volunteers. The volunteers in Cloverhill have raised

community health and hygiene awareness and first aid in prison through peer to peer education. Over the last few years some of their projects have involved educating others prisons around TB/ HIV proper hand washing and what to do if a prisoner is having a seizure. This year's group had a very successful project supporting the Cross care Christmas food appeal in Dec 2014. They are assessing their Cloverhill community presently to see what projects to improve their community they can become involved in'.

2014 marked the eleventh anniversary of the Listening Scheme in Cloverhill Prison. At present there are fifty one listeners throughout the Irish prison system. They are recognised by all as part of the front line for helping prisoners from all walks of life. The number of lives that may have been helped by this scheme is believed to be very high. Prisoners interested in becoming a listener must undergo a screening process and then afterwards attend a six week course. Confidentiality is a must and the whole process is built on this. Some prisoners have stated that they feel they have become better people for learning the skills involved and helping others. Hopefully the Listeners Scheme will grow from strength to strength, and remain a positive light in times of darkness.

Education Centre

Please see attached a comprehensive Educational Report. This report was compiled by the Head of the Educational Unit in Cloverhill. The Visiting Committee thank her for the continued support and professionalism in providing education to prisoners while in custody.

Cloverhill Work & Training

Please see attached a comprehensive Work & Training Report of the different areas in the prison for the year 2014. The Visiting Committee thank all Officers in charge of these areas for their continued support and assistance throughout the year.



Cloverhill Prison

Educational Report 2014

Report for Visiting Committee from Education Unit

2013 2014

Access:

- ✓ Due to the poor numbers of attendance from the protection wing in 2012 – 2013 a decision was taken not to have protection only times in the unit. In this academic year access was open to A, B, D and E. Wings increasing the number of sessions to all students to 15 per week. This impacted positively on the timetable and enabled teaching. A suggestion to accommodate protection prisoners within this access arrangement was not supported by prison management.
- ✓ Access for protection prisoners remains a priority for the education unit in the next academic year and every effort will be made to devise an arrangement that will be acceptable to prison management

Officer Shortages:

The education unit requires 3 school officers at a minimum to collect prisoners for education. The prison management is very supportive in terms of keeping this number of education officers in the education unit. However there were 35 occasions in the year when the education unit had to operate with only two officers, an increase of 15 from the previous year. There is no post for a school officer and this means that the unit is staffed by different officers sometimes on a daily basis. Continuity is required to maximise collection for education. Due to transformation and cutbacks in staff numbers there is no prospect of this situation improving.

Improvement to Access for 2014 - 2015:

The education unit will propose to prison management that protection prisoners be granted access on a case by case basis. If a protection prisoner requests education, the head teacher will meet them to discuss their concerns of mixing with prisoners from A, B and E. wings. If times they are happy to come to the unit can be identified then these details will be sent to prison management. If management are happy from a security point of view then a timetable will be devised. It is envisaged that the PM section of the timetable is the best option for protection prisoners to attend.

The education unit does not have the teaching resources to hold classes outside of the education unit so if this suggestion does not work, prison management must take responsibility for the fact that protection prisoners in Cloverhill do not have access to education.

Curriculum:

The following were the awards, subject areas and courses available for the academic year 2013-2014.

Awards:

- ✓ General Learning Certificate – FETAC Level 2
- ✓ Certificate in Employability Skills – FETAC Level 3
- ✓ Certificate in General Learning – FETAC Level 3
- ✓ Certificate in ICT – FETAC Level 3
- ✓ Component Specifications at FETAC Levels 4 & 5
- ✓ Maths, English, CSPE, Business Studies & Art at Junior Cert Level
- ✓ Maths and Art at Leaving Cert Level

Certification was achieved in the awards highlighted in blue.

Accreditation is provided by the following awarding bodies:

- ✓ Department of Education and Science
- ✓ QQI/FETAC
- ✓ ECDL
- ✓ Associated Board of the Royal College of Music
- ✓ Rock-School
- ✓ Open University

<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Accrediting Body</i>	<i>Level</i>
Art	Drawing	FETAC	Level 3
	Painting	FETAC	Level 4
Computer Studies	Computer Studies	FETAC	Level 2
	Computer Literacy	FETAC	Level 3
	Word Processing	FETAC	Level 3
	Spread-sheets	FETAC	Level 3
	Data base	FETAC	Level 3
	Computer Applications	FETAC	Level 4
	IT Skills	FETAC	Level 4
	Word Processing	FETAC	Level 4
	Spread-sheet Methods	FETAC	Level 4
	Word Processing	FETAC	Level 5
	Text Production	FETAC	Level 5
	Modules 1-6	ECDL	Basic
	Modules 2,3,4	ECDL	Advanced
Soft Skills	Personal Effectiveness	FETAC	Level 3
	Personal and Interpersonal Skills	FETAC	Level 3
	Self-Advocacy	FETAC	Level 3
	Personal Care and Presentation	FETAC	Level 3
	Career Preparation	FETAC	Level 3
	Personal Effectiveness	FETAC	Level 4
English	Reading	FETAC	Level 2
	Writing	FETAC	Level 2
	Setting Learning Goals	FETAC	Level 2
	Communications	FETAC	Level 3
Maths	Quantity and Number	FETAC	Level 2
	Maths	FETAC	Level 3
	Managing Personal Finances	FETAC	Level 3
	Maths	FETAC	Level 4
	Maths	Junior Cert	Foundation
	Maths	Leaving Cert	Foundation
English for Speakers of other languages	ESOL	FETAC	Level 3
	ESOL	FETAC	Level 4
Music	Sound Engineering	FETAC	Level 5
	Music Theory	ABRSM	Grade 1
	Music Theory	ABRSM	Grade 2
Physical Education	Health and Exercise	FETAC	Level 2
	Personal Care	FETAC	Level 2
	Health Related Fitness	FETAC	Level 3

	Health Related Fitness	FETAC	Level 4
Red Cross	Occupational First Aid	FETAC	Level 5
	Cardiac First Response	PHECC	Level 1
	CBHFA	Red Cross	N/A

Note: Courses in red denote new courses offered in 2013 – 2014.

Accreditation Statistics 2013 - 2014

<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Accrediting Body</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>No of students</i>
Drawing	FETAC	Level 3	6
Computer Studies	FETAC	Level 2	22
Computer Literacy	FETAC	Level 3	8
Word Processing	FETAC	Level 3	15
Spread-sheets	FETAC	Level 3	12
Data base	FETAC	Level 3	2
Word Processing	FETAC	Level 4	6
Spread-sheets	FETAC	Level 4	3
Computer Applications	FETAC	Level 4	2
IT Skills	FETAC	Level 4	3
Word Processing	FETAC	Level 5	3
Text Production	FETAC	Level 5	2
Personal Effectiveness	FETAC	Level 3	35
Personal and Interpersonal Skills	FETAC	Level 3	28
Self-Advocacy	FETAC	Level 3	28
Personal Care and Presentation	FETAC	Level 3	28
Career Preparation	FETAC	Level 3	28
Personal Effectiveness	FETAC	Level 4	28
Reading	FETAC	Level 2	3
Writing	FETAC	Level 2	4
Setting Learning Goals	FETAC	Level 2	7
Quantity and Number	FETAC	Level 2	11
Maths	FETAC	Level 3	10
Maths	Junior Cert	Foundation	2
Managing Personal Finances	FETAC	Level 3	2
ESOL	FETAC	Level 3	9
ESOL	FETAC	Level 4	2
Music Theory	ABRSM	Grade 1	3
Music Theory	ABRSM	Grade 2	2
Health and Exercise	FETAC	Level 2	1
Personal Care	FETAC	Level 2	3
Health Related Fitness	FETAC	Level 3	15

Occupational First Aid	FETAC	Level 5	9
Red Cross	Red Cross	N/A	9

Within the above statistics the following are the total outcomes for FETAC:

Total Number of Students receiving accreditation in 2013 - 2014	Total number of portfolios presented in 2013 -2014	Level	Full awards achieved
97	296	2	2
		3	7
	No of students for State Exams	Junior Cert	2

FETAC Assessment Dec. 13 - June 14

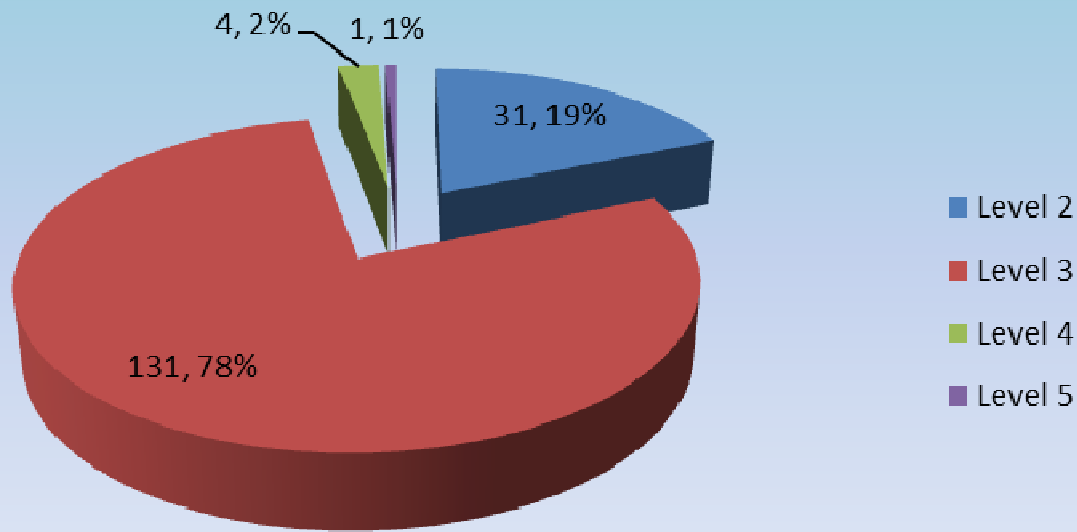


Figure 1- FETAC Assessment December 2013 - June 2014

FETAC Assessment Level 2 Dec 13- June14

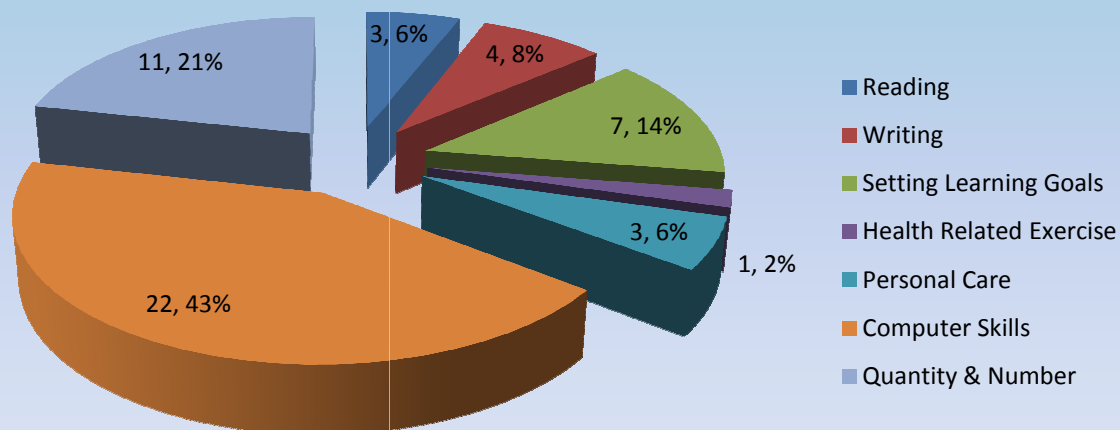
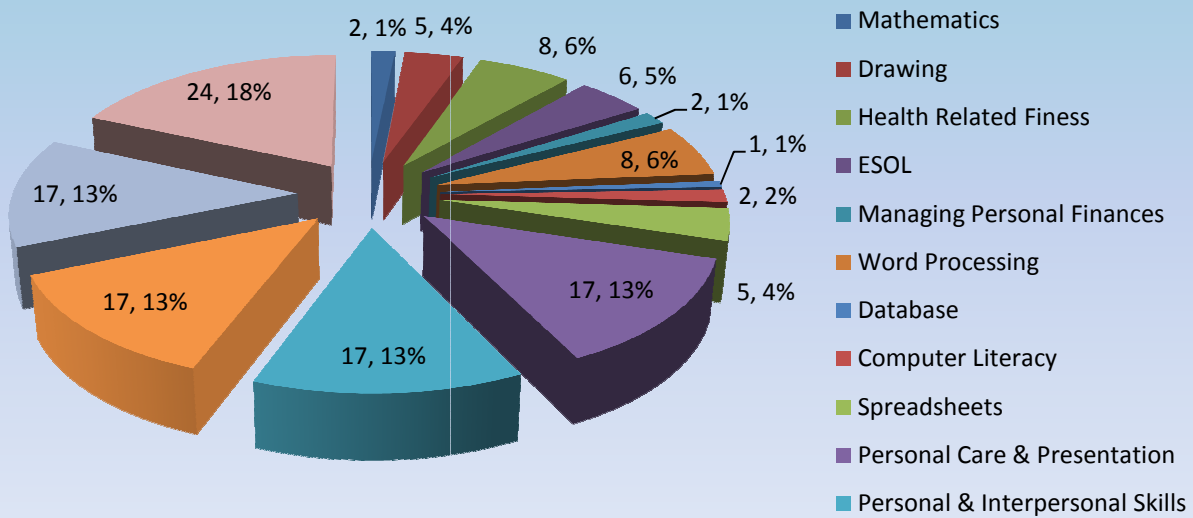


Figure 2- FETAC Assessment Level 2 December 2013 – June 2014

FETAC Assessment Level 3 Dec 13 - June 14



FETAC Assessment Level 4 & Level 5 Dec. 13 - June 14

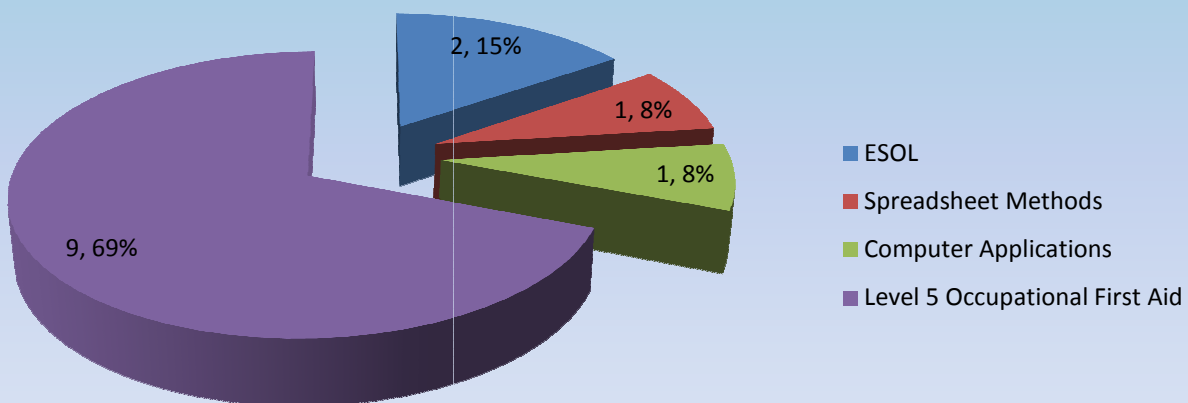


Figure 4 - FETAC Assessment Level 4 & Level 5 December 2013 - June 2014

Literacy and Numeracy Provision:

All students who present for education in the education unit in Cloverhill undergo a literacy and numeracy assessment. (Students who present with a junior cert or leaving cert do not undergo the prison based assessment).

Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Results for 2013 -2014

No of students assessed	180
-------------------------	-----

Level	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
Pre – Level 1	1	3	2
Level 1	4	12	9
Level 2	21	24	34
Level 3	154	132	132

ESOL Provision:

All ESOL students who present for English language tuition undergo a language assessment

No of students assessed	74
Numbers at Pre-Beginner Level 0	29
Numbers at Beginner Level 1	34
Numbers at Beginner Level 2	11

All levels are allocated three one hour sessions of language tuition per week.

Progression:

The majority of students operate at Level 3 status and are not in the education unit long enough to complete a full Level 3 programme.

As Cloverhill is a remand prison the majority of prisoners are progressing onto education units in other prisons. If they sign on in another education unit within the prison system their record of work is forwarded to that unit from Cloverhill.

Prisoners who are doing sentences and are released from Cloverhill are supported with regard to further education needs by the Education Service to Prisons Guidance service where possible. If that is not possible then the Head Teacher processes any further education applications.

In 2012 – 2013 **3** applications for admission to further education have been processed from the education unit to the following colleges

- ✓ CrumlinCollege
- ✓ LibertiesCollege
- ✓ Wexford Return to Learning Programme

A further **3** referrals have been made to adult education centres for prisoners wishing to return to education in

- ✓ ColaisteDhulaigh
- ✓ Larkin College.

Long term remands and sentenced prisoners can progress from Level 3 to Level 4 in the following subject areas.

- ✓ IT
- ✓ Art
- ✓ Health Related Fitness
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Maths
- ✓ ESOL

Evaluation:

Evaluation is carried out through the following:

1. Evaluation of course forms
2. Ongoing 1:1 with students
3. Subject evaluation by student
4. Student evaluation morning x 2 per academic year
5. Unit evaluation day

Evaluation through No's 4 and 5 above did not take place this academic year due to problems with staff attendance at these meetings due to the constraints of the CrokePark arrangement.

This is a frustrating issue and one which hopefully can be addressed in the next academic year. As Cloverhill is primarily staffed by pro-rata contracted teachers very few teachers are available for end of year meetings as they have their contracted CrokePark hours completed at this stage. Therefore evaluation was not carried out to the usual standard this year. The Head Teacher intends to bring this to the attention of the co-ordinator before the CrokePark schedule is agreed for the next academic year and work out a strategy by which as many staff as possible are available for evaluation days.

Conclusion:

There were many highlights again this year. However there is a frustration in the unit that to make any further progress increased teaching resources are required. The head teacher has made several attempts to garner increased resources but with no success. Therefore a full award at Level 4 will be withdrawn from the timetable and development to the Junior Cert and Leaving Cert programmes will not occur in 2014 -2015.

Two senior staff (P.E. and English/Literacy) are taking career breaks so development work in both these areas will be difficult as it will take time for their replacements to settle in.

Therefore development will be difficult in some areas of the plan. The following are the areas which will be given priority.

➤ **Access:**

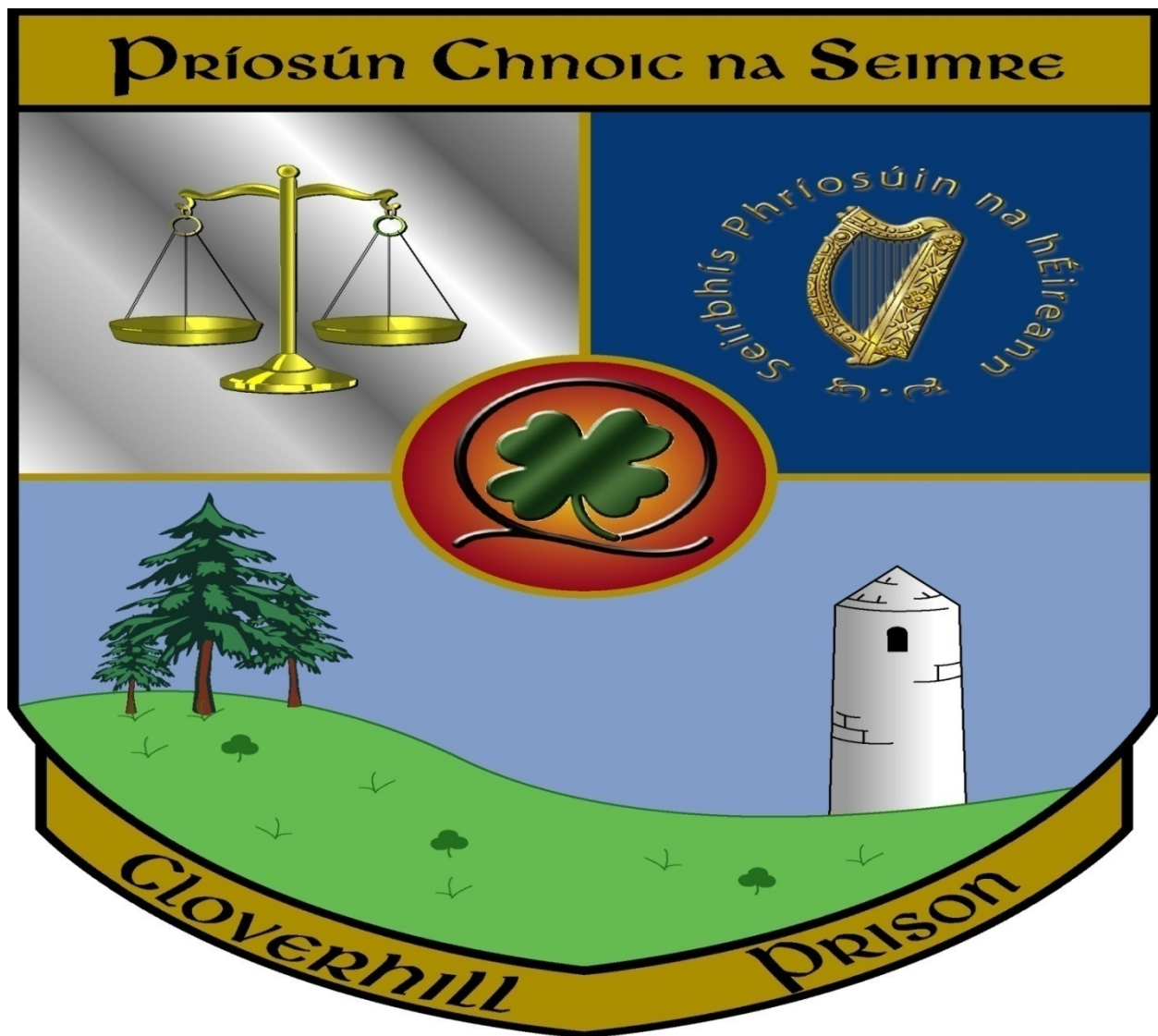
- ✓ To achieve access in the education unit for protection prisoners

➤ **Evaluation:**

- ✓ To ensure that the student evaluation days and the unit evaluation day are held.

Note:

No priorities can be identified for curriculum and accreditation without improved resources.



Cloverhill Prison

Work & Training Report 2014

Introduction

2014 proved a challenging year for all within work & training in Cloverhill Prison. With staffing levels reduced and financial constraints in place across the whole of the prison estate work & training was an easy target for cuts. During 2014, 2 new WTO's were placed in Cloverhill, 1 in environment and 1 in soft skills.

The uptake by prisoners for most workshops has been up year on year despite our average number of committals being down.

At present there is no permanent Industrial Manager in place in Cloverhill. An officer has been appointed but cannot be released from his present duties. As a result the role has been dissected among various staff. It is hoped that the appointed officer can be released to take up this post in the near future.

The following is a brief report on each work & training area:

Main Kitchen:

Once again the kitchen continues to set high standards. Unfortunately due to budgetary constraints there have been issues with external auditors in relation to structural issues and as a result the kitchen has failed several audits on structural matters. It is aimed to have these issues resolved as soon as possible. The kitchen also maintained high cleaning standards with all swabbing and food samples meeting the set standards. The kitchen in Cloverhill is a very busy workshop with meals for over 400 prisoners cooked 3 times a day, as well as lunches for roughly 100 prisoners attending Cloverhill Court on a daily basis.

Due to the high turnover of workers no recognized training for prisoners takes place, but prisoners do receive an in house 2 week training course.

Staff Mess:

This is the second year of operation of the staff mess by WTO's and has proved to be a great success with staff. The mess provides hot/ cold breakfasts, a light lunch and a hot dinner seven days a week. The mess has also failed several audits due to structural issues which it is hoped will be addressed early in 2015.

Gymnasiums:

There are 3 gymnasiums within Cloverhill with 2 open at any one time. The main LDU gym is the larger of the gyms and caters for the main population of the prison with the C & E division gyms catering more for the prisoners on protection. A large number of the gym equipment is in need of a total replacement.

Industrial Cleaning:

Industrial Cleaning continues to be an ever evolving role for the staff concerned. 2014 eventually saw the implantation of a certified training course for prisoners and as a result over 150 certs have been issued to prisoners by city & guilds. As a result of this qualification several prisoners have gone on to gain employment externally as a result. It is planned to trial new chemicals in Cloverhill at start of 2015 which will result in a large saving for IPS. There is still on going issues of redeploying of the staff in this area despite the health and safety concerns attached to there roles.

Computers:

The computer workshop is up and running with 2 W.T.O's supervising /training 7 days per week where possible. This provides a further outlet for prisoners, in particular those who are unable to attend the school for various reasons.

Laundry:

The laundry in Cloverhill still lacks the equipment to deal with the demand it faces. Even though a percentage of laundry is sent to Wheatfield we still deal with a large volume of items. A business case has been submitted in relation to a back to back roster several times and despite any issues around LSA, we believe this issue should be reviewed. Several prisoners have undertaken the guild of Launderers course under the supervision of the W.T.O in charge of the laundry.

Environment:

This post was filled in March of 2014 and the WTO concerned has proven an excellent addition to the prison. The main issue for this post is finding suitable workers.

Soft Skills:

This post was filled in early 2014 but despite the appointment of a WTO in this area the officer remains untrained and materials have only recently been purchased. There is a large amount of equipment sitting unused. In the interim the officer has being supervising paint parties.

It is hoped that in 2015 that all workshops within Cloverhill will continue to operate at maximum capacity thus continuing the trend of increased numbers attending workshops.

Conclusion

We would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of all the different agencies who give their time and services on a daily/weekly basis to the benefit of the prison service. The committee has exercised its duties diligently and is committed to exercising them in full in 2015.

We also would like to thank Governors Ronan Maher, Fergus Woods and Chris McCormack, Governor's Secretary and all the staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

The Visiting Committee would again like to thank the Minister for Justice & Equality and the Director General of the Irish Prison Service (IPS). The Visiting Committee look forward to a continued professional and healthy working relationship in 2015.

Signed:

Peggy Downey (Chairperson)

Laura Jenkins

Fintan Hudson

David Ruddy