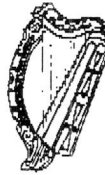


**Freagraí don**  
(Replies to)  
**An tOifig Pearsanra**  
(Personnel Office)  
Our ref



**Priosún Chnoic Na Seimre**  
(Cloverhill Prison)  
**Bóthar Chnoic na Seimre**  
(Cloverhill Road)  
**Cluain Dolcáin**  
(Clondalkin)  
**Áth Cliath 22**  
(Dublin 22)  
**Éire**  
(Ireland)

**Telefón** 01 6304563  
**Fax** 01 6304610

**Dáta**  
(Date)

Mr. Michael McDowell, T.D.,  
Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform,  
Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform,  
St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2.  
.....

A Chara,

Herewith please find the 2004 Annual Report of the Visiting Committee of Cloverhill Prison, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, for your information.

Signed: Peggy Downey Peggy Downey (Chairperson)

Michael Coyle Michael Coyle

Fintan Hudson Fintan Hudson

Edward Martin Edward Martin

Christine Ryan Christine Ryan

\_\_\_\_\_ Dermot Flynn



## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2004

In January 2004 the new prison visiting committee of six people was put in place. Four from the previous committee of twelve and two new members.

During the course of the year we saw and interviewed twenty two prisoners. We found that in most cases the complaints were very trivial and unfounded. In all cases we saw to it that all complaints were thoroughly investigated and received feed back on each complaint.

In between our monthly meetings, twelve in total, two of the visiting committee paid an unannounced visit to the prison and on each occasion found everything to be in order. As chairperson I attended a chairpersons meeting twice during the year, one in Cork and one in Portlaoise.

I am very pleased to report that the Educational Centre which we campaigned very hard for in the past three years is finally finished, including a top of the range gym and fully fitted classrooms.

We are now awaiting the outcome of agreement with the P.O.A. And when this comes about and agreement reached, new working arrangements can then be put in place, and the Education Centre will then be functional. It is hoped that 6 to 8 full time teachers working a few hours per day will be put in place.

Cloverhill Prison is the only prison in the country who have a listener scheme still ongoing i.e. where prisoners take on the roll of Samaritans.

We would also like to pay tribute to the very fine work of the Chaplain service's, Sr. Carmel, Sr. Bernadette and Fr. Ciaran.

Our thanks also go to the service provided by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul in providing refreshments etc. in the waiting room for visitors to the prison.

The visiting committee are more then pleased at the progress made in eliminating all drugs from the prison yards. All yards, A, B, C, D, and E have now been completely covered in this preventing any drugs been thrown over the walls onto the yards. The mesh on the netting is quite small but it does not in any way prevent light or sun coming through. The prisoners themselves in general seem more at ease with the situation.

A video link centre in the F. Block is under construction at the moment, this also is a big step forward and should be of great benefit to all involved.

Changes have also been made to cells in that there are now two padded special observation cells and four close supervision cells which were originally known as strip cells.

The visiting Committee are proud of the standard of hygiene in the Kitchen having this year for the third year in a row won the Excellence Ireland award for hygiene.

The prison in general was rather peaceful during the year with the exception of an incident in the yard when a prisoner was badly beaten up. Fortunately the outcome was not as serious as it might have been. The culprits were dealt with and the matter is now being investigated by the Gardai. The prisoner concerned is now in Wheatfield prison and has made a full recovery.

We would like to express our grave concerns re hardship involved to the prison authorities in connection with non nationals being refused permission to land at airport and ending up in Clovehill prison. The problem arises and poses tremendous difficulties for the prison authorities if no communication takes place prior to their arrival beforehand at the prison.

Finally on behalf of our committee I would like to express our thanks to Governor Kane, his Deputy, Assistant Governors and all his staff for their help and co-operation during the year. A special word of thanks to Mairead O' Flynn and Mary Lynch for their help. I would also like to congratulate Governor Comerford on her appointment as Governor to Loughan House as she is the first female to be appointed to such a position.