

Fort Mitchel
Spike Island
Cobh
Co. Cork



Dún an Mhistéalaigh
Inis Spic
An Cóbh
Contae Chorcaí

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**Fort Mitchel'
Spike Island,
Cobh,
Co. Cork.**

**The Secretary,
Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform.**

**The following is the 'Annual Report' of the Visiting Committee to Fort Mitchel
Prison, Spike Island, for the year ending 31st December 2003.**

The committee met in the Prison each month and all the meetings were well attended. Committee members also visited mid month on a rotating basis.

Inspections of various areas of the Prison were carried out on a regular basis and the Committee found that the physical conditions relating to the cleanliness, tidiness were of a high standard.

Mrs. O'Connor was elected Chairperson and Mrs. McGolderick was elected Vice Chairperson

The average numbers in custody during the year was 93 and a total of 5 prisoners requested to see the Committee during the year.

Education:

The education of offenders has always been very high on the list of our priorities. With the education unit fully operational and a wide range of subjects being offered. We would like to compliment the head teacher and her staff for their dedication and high standard of results obtained this year. The committee welcomes the provision of external speakers and visitors.

Catering:

The new Prison Catering area continued to thrive with the provision of trained staff and working rosters. This was borne out by an award to the Kitchen from 'Cert'. The Governor and his Staff are to be commended for their work in this area.

Health and Welfare:

The management of the offenders health and welfare continue to be of a high standard during the year. We would like to thank all the associated medical agencies for their continued commitment to the welfare of the offenders.

The involvement of outside agencies has greatly assisted in this task.

Buildings and Grounds:

The general appearance of the prison was maintained at a high standard. No new construction projects were undertaken this year due to financial constraints placed on the prison this year. The grounds were maintained and provided colourful displays through out the year.

Visits:

Due to financial constraints imposed by the Irish Prison Service, no visit to another institution was carried out. The manner in which the Fort Mitchel Committee were informed caused allot of disquiet amongst its members.

Conclusion:

The committee were kept well informed of all developments with in the Prison and on matters issued by the Irish Prison Service and in light of the current Industrial unrest we wish to see a speedy and mutual conclusion for everyone during this period of uncertainty.

We would like to take this opportunity to endorse the regular meetings of the Chairpersons of each committee, which have been very informative.

Also we would like to thank all the members who have retired from the committee and welcome our new members.

Finally the committee would like to thank the Governor and his staff for their competent, efficient and humane management of the Prison and for the courtesy shown at all times to the committee.

Mr. Daniel Collins.....*Daniel F. Collins P.C. Commissioner For*

Mr. Tony Fox.....*CDR Tony Fox P.C.*

Mr. Joseph Murphy.....*Joseph Murphy*

Mr. John Hodnett.....*John Hodnett*

Ms. Angela O' Connor.....*Angela O'Connor*

Mr. Eamon Rafter.....*Eamon Rafter*

Mr. Kevin O' Neill.....*Kevin O'Neill*

Ms. Elizabeth Leahy.....*Elizabeth Leahy*

Ms. Margaret Coady.....*Margaret Coady*