

IRISH PRISONS INSPECTORATE

CORK PRISON

**CORK PRISON INSPECTION:
5TH - 12TH JUNE 2007**

Role of the Irish Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention

The Office of the Inspector was established by an order signed by the Minister for Justice Equality and Law Reform on the 21st February 2002 and made statutory by the prisons Act 2007.

Functions of the Inspector

- 31 (1) The Inspector of Prisons shall carry out regular inspections of prisons and for that purpose may
- (a) at any time enter any prison or any part of a prison
 - (b) request and obtain from the Governor a copy of any books, records, other documents (including documents stored in non-legible form) or extracts therefrom kept there and
 - (c) in the course of an inspection or arising out of an inspection bring any issues of concern to him or her to the notice of the Governor of the prison concerned, the Director-General of the Irish Prison Service, or the Minister or of each one of them, as the Inspector considers appropriate.
- (2) The Inspector may, and shall if so requested by the Minister, investigate any matter arising out of the management or operation of a prison and shall submit to the Minister a report on any such investigation.
- (3) As soon as practicable after receiving the report, the Minister shall, subject to subsection (4) cause a copy of it to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas and to be published.
- (4) The Minister may omit any matter from any report so laid or published where he or she is of opinion
- (a) that its disclosure may be prejudicial to the security of the prison or of the State, or
 - (b) after consultation with the Secretary-General to the Government, that its disclosure
 - (i) would be contrary to the public interest, or
 - (ii) may infringe the constitutional rights of any person.
- (5) Where any matter are so omitted, a statement to that effect shall be attached to the report concerned on its being laid before each House of the Oireachtas and on its publication.

- (6) It is not a function of the Inspector to investigate or adjudicate on a complaint from an individual prisoner, but he or she may examine the circumstances relating to the complaint where necessary for performing his or her functions.
- (7) Governors and other prison officers, other persons employed in prisons and prisoners shall, as far as reasonably practicable, comply with any request for information that the Inspector may make in the performance of his or her functions.

GUIDELINES

In carrying out an inspection of any prison or place of detention the Inspector will, in general terms, have regard to such matters as:

- (a) its general management, including the level of its effectiveness and efficiency,
- (b) the conditions and general health and welfare of prisoners detained there,
- (c) the general conduct and effectiveness of persons working there
- (d) compliance with national and international standards, including in particular the prison rules,
- (e) programmes and other facilities available and the extent to which prisoners participate in them,
- (f) security, and
- (g) discipline

The Inspector of Prisons shall, not later than 31st March in any year or such later date as may be specified by the Minister, submit to the Minister a report on the performance of the Inspector's functions during the previous year and on such other related matters as the Minister may from time to time direct.

Any enquiries or comments about the inspectorate should be directed in the first instance to:

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REPORT ON VISIT TO CORK PRISON
COMMENCING THE 5th JUNE TO 12th JUNE 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 5th June 2007 to the 12th June 2007 an inspection of Cork Prison was carried out by the Inspectorate Team which consisted of:

Mr. Justice Dermot Kinlen	Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention
James Woods	Special Advisor to the Inspector
Dr. Patrick Malone	Consultant
Prof. Caroline Fennell	Consultant

- 1.2 The purpose of inspection is to identify issues and take note of any areas of concern or good practice which may pertain.

Date:	Mr. Justice Dermot Kinlen Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention
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2. Background

- 2.1 The prison is located on Rathmore Road, Cork City. It was formerly a military prison known as Collins Army Barracks and prison. It became a civil prison on its transfer from the Department of Defence to the Department of Justice in 1972. It underwent considerable refurbishment as it had fallen into a bad state of repair and was opened in 1983 as a civilian prison.
- 2.2 It is a committal prison for prisoners from counties Cork, Kerry and Waterford as well as taking prisoners on transfer from any of the other prisons. Two additional cell blocks have been added to the original building known as "C" wing and "D" block. The "C" wing holds mostly prisoners who are on protection from other prisoners while the "D" block, which is separate from the other cell blocks, holds disruptive prisoners, most of whom are transferred from other prisons.
- 2.3 The accommodation comprises of 150 single cells but a considerable number of these single cells have bunk beds installed and as result the prison holds on average of between 260 - 270 prisoners per day.
- 2.4 The last full inspection of the prison was carried out by the prisons' inspectorate in September 2004.

2.5 *Introductory meeting with the Governor and Senior Staff*

The Governor welcomed the Inspectorate team consisting of the Inspector Mr. Justice Dermot Kinlen and his Special Adviser Jim Woods. The Governor introduced all of his senior staff plus the other full time "heads of service" from the education, probation and welfare, psychology, etc. The Inspector was asked to give an outline of his role and that of the inspection of prisons. The Inspector thanked all present and the Governor for giving him such a welcoming introduction. He is the first statutory appointment of a Prisons Inspector since 1800's the previous one being a Quaker. He has been made statutory since the 1st May last and he is very proud of the fact that he is the first prison's inspector.

2.6 The Inspector outlined that there was too much bureaucracy in the entire service and that governors should have more powers. Indeed for that matter, so too should the probation and welfare service and he feels they should be made independent of the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform. The Inspector spoke of his visits to prisons in both Spain and Switzerland and the treatment for drug abusers in the prisons in Switzerland where heroin is issued as part of the treatment programme. He stated that his annual report deals with prisons in Switzerland and in Spain.

2.7 He gave details of his role as chairman of the visiting committees in St. Patrick's and Mountjoy and he also was a founder member of PACE. The Inspector spoke of his background, that he went to boarding school and he knows some people say that he was in a privileged position. However, he

fully understands the plight of the underdog and of those that are in prison. The Inspector then referred to Dr. Ian O'Donnell's report on young persons in institutions, how many of them go on to prisons and they learn more in institutions than they would do if not placed in such. The report stated that the recidism rate is lower amongst sex offenders than among the other population of the prisoners.

- 2.8 The Inspector gave an outline of the powers of the Visiting Committee and how those powers were removed and were never restored. It was intended that the Visiting Committee could overturn decisions of governors' in misconduct reports cases but that such powers have not been restored to them. He feels that this is a major blunder on behalf of the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform.
- 2.9 The Inspector spoke of his own staff and of the various people that he invites in to assist him in his inspections. He outlined that Prof. Fennell from Cork University and Dr. Malone were helping him out on this occasion. He also informed the meeting that all he is allowed to give them is €150.00 per day. These specialists, particularly the doctor, has to spend about €400.00 per day to get a locum to replace him.
- 2.10 The Inspector outlined the relationship he had with the previous Minister and how they were good friends for a long number of years, despite the fact that his reports may not have reflected that relationship. He said that he was here to highlight the good things as well as the bad things about the prison.

- 2.11 In his last report he highlighted a considerable number of bad things about this particular prison, however hopefully, as a result of him highlighting those deficiencies, it may have led to improvements for both prisoners and for staff.
- 2.12 He told the meeting that he wished his annual reports were presented to the Oireachtas rather than to the Minister. He also said that he was being pulled by some of his own staff on the repetitive nature of his reports. However, he feels that the constant dripping on the stone will eventually crack it and the same thing applies to his reports, even though he has repeated various things over the last three years. He further outlined that he hoped that his reports in future will be printed. He will have several hundred of them available to give out to the various people and institutions, as he feels that they don't get the full content of his report on the e-mails. The fact that he is now made statutory will allow him to have his reports printed in one of the print shops in the prisons.
- 2.13 He outlined his interest in human rights and he feels that the prisoners' rights are being breached in several areas. If they take High Courts cases the cost to the State will be far in excess of the deafness cases.
- 2.14 The Inspector spoke of his meeting with the Inspector of prisons for Northern Ireland and that his assistant went to Scotland and met with his counterparts there in Edinburgh. He, having been there in 2002 when he was first assigned to the job.

- 2.15 He told the meeting that he was forbidden to take up individual cases, however, if the cases referred to a general issue he was prepared to put them into his report. He then asked if there were any questions or suggestions coming from the meeting.
- 2.16 He was willing to listen to any improvements or suggestions which they may wish to offer but he knew that he was meeting the various "heads" individually throughout the course of his inspection. As there were no questions from the floor, he thanked them all for being present. The Governor also thanked them for their attendance and in coming forward to meet the Inspector.
- 2.17 *The Governor's response the Inspector's 2004 inspection report and recommendations*
- The Governor said that he had gone through the report and recommendations of the Inspector's 2004 inspection and herewith are the findings of the improvements or otherwise that have taken place in the meantime.
- The first one referred to no chairs in prisoners' cells and that all cells have now got a chair. The toilet seats are replaced on 95% of the toilets within the prison. The machinery in the laundry needed updating, most of the machinery has been replaced but one particular machine, while installed, has not been working properly and when that is fully operational the laundry will then be declared a training area, hopefully to certification standards.

Newspapers are now supplied in the library and are also posted on the notice boards. Toilets in the yard are now cleared instantly when found to be blocked. The seating for prisoners in the exercise yard has now been replaced as have purpose built facilities for the staff to observe the prisoners within the yard. The perspex covering surrounding the phones have been replaced. Chairs are in full supply in the visitors' waiting room. The changes that are required in the visiting facilities are awaiting financial approval from headquarters as 20% of the population are now sex offenders and need separation within the visiting area. The governor is seeking new facilities and new ways of dividing the various categories of prisoners within the visiting area. Tickets are now issued to all visitors instead of calling out their names and the new ID system has also been put into place.

All fire evacuation assembly points have been displayed and fire evacuations have taken place in A, B and C blocks since the last inspection.

A portable defibrillator is now in stock. There is no change in the size of the surgery. There is no change in the dentist's x ray machine and he is still using the one that was there in 2004.

Regarding bullying and harassment within the prison, a new document is almost ready on the matter and when this is completed, training on its contents for all staff will be required.

The painting of the prison has been completed on a few occasions since the last inspection. The painting is now done by outside contractors and this work was carried out at night. The Governor no longer has a trades officer (painter) to do this work since the introduction of the new annualised hours.

Regarding prisoners getting results from applications, they are now informed by the Chief Officer of the contents of the reply and they sign a document as acknowledgement of them having received an answer.

Prisoners access to toilets on a 24 hour basis is now available. Regarding a gym for the "C" prisoners, no space has been provided for it but the gym is now open one night per week so that "C" prisoners can use it from 5.30pm to 7.15pm.

A group room is now available for the Probation and Welfare service. No approval has been received for additional office facilities. Education classes are now quite full and all new committals are interviewed by the Head Teacher. A room has been provided for addiction counselling.

The phone system that is installed for prisoners' use does not allow for a second call to his solicitor, but if a prisoner requests to phone his solicitor a second time he will be granted that facility. There has been no change in the time for serving the main meals. There has been no change regarding washing and drinking facilities after soccer matches, however new drinking

fountains are being repaired or replaced on the landings and this work is ongoing.

There is absolutely no problem with the chaplain meeting prisoners on the "D" wing and journals are now available on the use of special cells in that unit, which can be inspected at any time. Local guidelines re the management of dirty protests are now in place. There are rooms now available for psychologists to do their work. Unfortunately the slopping out procedure is still in operation. The national 28 day cycle menu is in operation. The complaints in the Inspector's report regarding the doctor's manner have been strenuously denied by the doctor. The medical facilities remain as they were. The length of waiting time for visitors to meet prisoners, a ticket system has been introduced so the waiting time has improved. The staff's level of sick leave has improved a little. The hygiene levels have improved and are ongoing. That completed the review of the recommendations arising from the 2004 inspection.

4. Governor's Briefing

- 4.1 The Governor was accompanied by the Assistant Governor and the Chief Officer. The Governor outlined that he had 265 prisoners in custody on that day and he has 150 cells within the prison. Eight (8) of those cells are within the D wing which includes 2 strip cells, which leaves 140 cells in the main prison blocks. There are bunk beds in all of the 140 cells but between 10 and 15 are singly occupied for long term prisoners. There are no longer 6 person cells, all of those have been reduced to a two person cell. The

Governor outlined that overcrowding is a serious problem within the prison and as a result, five or six prisoners per week are transferred to Shelton Abbey to overcome the problem. They also applying to Prison Headquarters to allow prisoners temporary release prior to their release date to help overcome the overcrowding.

- 4.2 The Inspector outlined that when he inspected Shelton Abbey that one of the major problems the management of Shelton had was that they were getting prisoners serving too short a sentence and for Cork to be sending prisoners with balance of sentences of 6 - 8 weeks left to serve, didn't serve a great purpose in their rehabilitation. The Governor said he agreed with the Inspector's sentiments, however it was a capacity problem for him. It may not be the best programme for prisoners but the very problem of getting prisoners placed in cells has to be his priority as he receives additions from the courts on an hourly basis.

There is still no in-cell sanitation. It is mentioned that the prison may be moved out to a new centre on the Cork - Dublin road, however he has heard nothing else other than rumour or from what he reads in the newspapers.

- 4.3 The Governor outlined that the prison is drug free as far as possible. However, he wouldn't be able to swear to it that the prison is completely drug free, no doubt there are some drugs getting into the prison, but by and large it is operated as a drug free prison. The Governor spoke of the measures they take in the prevention of illegal drugs getting into the prison such as,

there are no seats on the prisoners' side of the visiting box, (the visitors do have chairs) there is as close a supervision as possible on the visits as well as close circuit tv cameras in the visiting rooms. He was asked by the Inspector regarding a drug dog and he said that he found out that he is in line to have a dog. Staff are going to get trained in dog handling, he thinks in Northern Ireland, although he hasn't heard anything definite about it. As well as the drug dog, there are also further security items being introduced in the prevention of drugs.

4.4 The Governor gave an outline of how the prisoners are engaged during their hours of unlock. He said that there are activities for 100 prisoners at work in the prison and work/training, others are involved in education while there are 25 -30 prisoners per day not engaged in anything and just walk around the exercise yard. He has proposals submitted to headquarters for additional facilities regarding workshops, visitors' area, visiting boxes, new detector area systems, additions to the gyms, to the showers, etc but so far he is waiting approval on these. The Governor thinks that a lot of his submissions will get a response to the effect that they are not sure as to the future of the prison. Therefore, they will not spend money but wait for the new one. The Governor feels that the facilities should be brought up to date irrespective of the new proposed prison, which could be another five years.

4.5 The Governor spoke about the "D" block which is filled with prisoners from mostly outside of this prison. The education section takes about approximately 116 prisoners a day. The education only closes for the month

of August, the school now operates from 5.30 - 7.15pm in the evening for a limited number of prisoners. The Governor said that the prison is mostly the same as it was in 2004. A boundary wall was built half way round the car park which was never finished and the plans for extending the prison were also dropped.

- 4.6 That completed the meeting with the Governor. He again reiterated his willingness and that of the staff to co-operate fully in this inspection and anything that was required, all we had to do was just ask. He said Jim Woods would be placed on the security hand pass system for the duration of the inspection which would allow him free access throughout the prison.

5. Statistical Information

- 5.1 The total number of staff from Governor to basic grade officer is 230.

Number of Chaplains,	1	Full Time
Probation Welfare,	3	1 Senior & 2 PWO
Teachers,	20	10 Full Time & 10 Part Time
Doctors	1	Visits Daily
Psychologists	2	Full Time.
Psychiatrists	1	3 Clinics per week and as required
Opticians	0	Visits as required
Dieticians	0	
Counsellors	1 + 1	linkage worker

5.2 *Prisoner Information*

Foreign Nationals

There were 33 foreign nationals in the prison on that date from the following countries Algeria, America, Belgium, British, Lithuania, Moldova, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa & Turkey.

5.3 **The sentence profile of the prisoner population.**

Number serving sentences of up to & including 3 months (inc. 3 for Debt & 2 for fines)	26
Number serving sentences of over 3 months & up to & including 6 months.	17
Number serving sentences of over 6 months and up to & including 12 months	41
Number serving sentences of over 12 months and up to & including 2 years	55
Number serving sentences of over 2 years and up to & including 4 years	39
Number serving sentences of over 4 years and up to & including 7 years	27
Number serving sentences of over 7 years & up to and including 10 years	10
Number serving sentences of over 10 years.	4
Number serving life sentences	<u>5</u>
Total sentenced	224

5.4 *General information & statistics..continued.*

Number of prisoners on remand (on date of completion of form)	19
Number of prisoners awaiting trial (on date of completion of form)	18
Number of prisoners awaiting extradition. (on date of completion of form)	<u>1</u>
Deportation	Nil
Total	38

5.5 ***Age profile of the prison population. (as of date of completion of the forms)***

Number of prisoners aged 16, 17 and 18 years old (total number for the 3 yrs).	6
Number of prisoners aged 19, 20, and 21 years old (total for the 3 years)	42
Number of prisoners aged 22, 23, 24, and 25 years old (total for the 4 years)	62
Number of prisoners aged 26, 27, 28,29, and 30 years old. (total for the 5 years)	56
Number of prisoners aged 31 to 35 years old. (including 35 years old.)	43
Number of prisoners aged 36 to 40 years old. (including 40 years old.)	21
Number of prisoners aged 41 to 45 years old. (including 45 years old)	14
Number of prisoners aged 46 to 50 years old. (including 50 years old.)	9
Number of prisoners aged 51 to 60 years old. (including 60 years old.)	6
Number of prisoners aged 61 years and older.	<u>3</u>
Total	262

6. Business Plan for Cork Prison for year ending 2006
Strategy 1: Implement the agreed Proposal for Organisational Change

Target 1.1 Operate all Prisons on the basis of new staff attendance arrangements with effect from mid-February 2006 and achieve authorised staffing numbers by grade at each Prison.

Steps to achieve target

1.1.1. Review new agreement.

Result: Done

1.1.2. Identify and prioritise new requirements.

Result: Done

1.1.3. Fill all agreed staff posts, as per SORT numbers.

Result: Overall supernumerary staff, but health and safety plus nurse/health manager not filled.

1.1.4. Implement new system.

Result: Done

1.1.5. Monitor and review.

Result: Being done continuous.

Target 1.3 Introduce new planned preventive maintenance arrangements of all plant and equipment by end-2006.

Steps to achieve target

1.3.1. Maintenance audit to be carried out in Cork Prison.

Result: Audit carried out

1.3.2. Preventative maintenance plan to be agreed.

Result: 5 options being considered but no agreement.

1.3.3. Produce report for Governor for approval.

Result: yes when agreed at above.

1.3.4. New procedures agreed, Trades staff informed.

Result: Only when available and agreed.

1.3.5. Monitor and review.

Result: When implemented.

Target 1.6. Enhance Regimes Services available to Prisoners in all Institutions.

Steps to achieve target

- 1.6.1 Review the present position in workshops, Library, Gym's, etc.

Result: Set up workshop review committee.

- 1.6.2. Identify any possible changes.

Result: Yes identified - machinery in laundry need to be operational. Fetac certification for hurley shop and accreditation in laundry area when operational. Gym and library committees operational and educational committee also involved.

- 1.6.3. Submit changes to Governor for approval.

Result: Yes. Done.

- 1.6.4. Monitor and review.

Result: Ongoing with workshop committee.

Strategy 3. Implement the Prisons Drugs Policy:

Target 3.2 Strengthen physical barriers countering the trafficking of drugs to Prisoners.

Steps to achieve target

- 3.2.1. To review all physical areas re - trafficking of contraband, Netting, Visiting box, Boundary walls, deliveries, committals, etc.

Result: All deliveries to back gate, upgraded sensors on back area and increased main barrier wire. Netting over remand yard being considered. No contact being maintained on visits.

- 3.2.2. Develop improvement plan for Governor's approval.

Result: Yes approved.

- 3.2.3. Target areas prioritised.

Result: Yes security committee deeply involved in this area.

- 3.2.4. Monitor and review.

Result: Ongoing.

Strategy 3.

Target 3.3 Extend the “Mountjoy” Visitor Identification System to all closed Prisons in 2006.

Steps to achieve target

3.3.1. Conduct research of Mountjoy operation.

Result: Done.

3.3.2. Identify any changes needed for Cork Prison.

Result: Done.

3.3.3 Submit changes to Governor for approval.

Result: Yes done.

3.3.4 Consult and communicate system to Visitors and Offenders.

Result: Yes both informed.

3.3.5. Implement appropriate system in Cork Prison.

Result: Yes. Done.

3.3.6. Monitor and review.

Result: Ongoing.

Target 3.6. Enhance drug treatment provisions:

Steps to achieve target

- 3.6.1. To review present position with Health Care Team, P.W.O, Psychology Service, and Addiction Counsellors.

Result: Addiction counsellor full time and drug counsellor linkage worker involved. Also multi-disciplinary committee can suggest and recommend changes or new proposal. Prison doctor also brings in one linkage psychiatric nurse re psychiatric problems.

- 3.6.2. Develop improvement plan for Governor's approval.

Result: Yes. Done.

- 3.6.3. Implement changes agreed.

Result: Yes. Being done.

- 3.6.4. Monitor and review.

Result: Ongoing.

Target 3.7. Target drug treatment / interventions for Prisoners testing positive in mandatory drugs tests:

Steps to achieve target

3.7.1. To review Minister's policy on mandatory drug testing.

Result: Minister's policy not implemented as yet (awaiting report)

3.7.2. Implement new mandatory drug testing.

Result: Not applicable as yet.

3.7.3. Submit changes to Governor for approval.

Result: Not applicable.

3.7.4. Monitor and review any changes.

Result: Not operational as yet.

Target 3.8. Record quantities of all drugs seized:

Steps to achieve target

3.8.1. Put new protocol in place for recording seizures of drugs.

Result: Yes. In place - journal.

3.8.2. Develop improvement plan for Governor's approval.

Result: Yes if better practice found elsewhere. They adopt same.

3.8.3. New procedures implemented.

Result: Yes. Done and ongoing.

3.8.4. Monitor and review.

Result: Being done.

Strategy 6.

Target 6.1. Meet set targets in preventing escapes:

Steps to achieve target

6.1.1. Agreed targets issued by the I.P.S.

Result: No targets issued by I.P.S.

6.1.2. Review our present practices and procedures.

Result: yes ongoing. Regular prisoner security review.

6.1.3. Issue proposals to Governor for approval.

Result: Yes. Done.

6.1.4. Implement proposals approved by the Governor.

Result: Yes all of the local ones only.

Target 6.2: Implement a “Rolling Programme” of security reviews and audits of security procedures at closed Prisons commencing in 2006.

Steps to achieve target

6.2.1. Security committee to meet, once audit made available.

Result: No. Outside audit has taken place.

6.2.2. Set up a programme for security reviews, once audit reviewed.

Result: Local issues only.

6.2.3. Implement the programme approved by Governor.

Result: Yes when agreed. Local issues.

6.2.4. Monitor and review.

Result: Yes. Local issue ongoing.

Strategy 7:

Target 7.1 Fully implement the computerised accident and assaults and incidents of self-harm information system in 2006 to establish benchmarks for performance in future years.

Steps to achieve target

7.1.1. Guidelines received from I.P.S based on new classification System.

Result: Yes received and updated regularly.

7.1.2. Continue to record all accidents, assaults and incidents of self-harm on computerised system.

Result: Yes done.

7.1.3. Monitor and review.

Result: Yes. Ongoing.

Target 8.1. Implement New Prison Rules:

8.1.1 Receive New Prison Rules from I.P.S

Result: No new rules received as yet.

8.1.2. Implementation of new Prison Rules.

Result: Not applicable.

8.1.3. Communicate new system to all Staff / Prisoners.

Result: When introduced and approved by I.P.S.

8.1.4. Monitor and review.

Result: Yes when in operation.

Strategy 8.

Target 8.3. Co-operate with Prisons inspections by the Inspector of Prisons, and Places of Detention, and the CPT.

Steps to achieve target

- 8.3.1. Prison staff to co-operate fully with the Inspector, C.P.T, during any visitation.

Result: C.P.T visited 6/10/06 and Prisons Inspectorate. Full co-operation.

- 8.3.2. Working Group (Heads of Function) to meet with Inspector, C.P.T as required.

Result: Yes. Done.

- 8.3.3. Prioritise any areas requiring attention, as advised by Inspector, and C.P.T.

Result: Yes when reports on visits are available.

- 8.3.4. Implement any changes required.

Result: Yes if possible on receipt of reports.

- 8.3.5. Monitor and review.

Result: Ongoing.

Target 8.4 Maintain a formal Prisoner Complaints Register at each Prison, and make it available to inspectors body

Steps to achieve target

8.4.1 Review all complaint procedures for Prisoners.

Result: Yes. Done and ongoing.

8.4.2. Issue new Register for Governor's approval.

Result: Yes approved.

8.4.3. Set up a formal Register for Prisoners' complaints.

Result: Yes in place.

8.4.4. Allow access to the Register to, The Inspector of Prisons, and the C.P.T.

Result: Yes on request.

Strategy 9 Contingency Planning.

Target 9.1 Review all Fire, Riot and Hostage Taking Plans annually to take account of the changing needs and circumstances, including operational changes consequent on the implementation of the agreed *Proposal for operational Change*

Steps to achieve target

- 9.1.1. All emergency plans to be reviewed, Fire, Riot, Hostage plans, with specific reference to the Proposal for Operational Change, and technology.

Result: Yes All reviewed. Also gardai in for consultation on 11/10/06 also fire brigade personnel in March 06.

- 9.1.2. Identify any, and all deficiencies contained within the emergency plans.

Result: Yes. Ongoing.

- 9.1.3. Draw up proposals for approval by the Governor.

Result: Yes. Ongoing.

- 9.1.4. Initiate staff training programmes if necessary.

Result: Yes being done.

- 9.1.5. Implement approved emergency plans

Result: Implemented and ongoing.

- 9.1.6. Monitor and review process.

Result: On-going.

Strategy 9

Target 9.2 Carry out simulated exercises to maintain preparedness to deal with emergency situations.

Steps to achieve target

- 9.2.1. Consult with Governor and Chief Officer to determine suitable dates for simulated exercises.

Result: Yes. Done. Carry out 2 per year on average. (In C Division and education unit in 2006)

- 9.2.2. Hold at least two emergency fire drills per year.

Result: Yes. Done.

- 9.2.3. Conduct debriefing session after each such drill.

Result: Yes. Done.

- 9.2.4. Make necessary recommendations, if any, to Governor.

Result: Yes.

- 9.2.5. Implement all approved recommendations.

Result: Yes. On-going.

Strategy 10. Introduced defined Care Standards.

Target 10.4 Improve information to Prisoners' on Prison Regimes, Rules, Entitlements and Services using written and electronic means.

Steps to achieve target

10.4.1. Review of all methods used to impart information to Prisoners.

Result: No electronic screen. Info to prisoners on committal, on notice boards and written notices.

10.4.2. Continue with all methods presently in operation.

Result: Yes being done.

10.4.3. Will implement any new method that comes on line through technology.

Result: Yes - if and when introduced.

10.4.4. Monitor and review.

Result: Ongoing.

Target 10.5 All Institutions shall endeavour to achieve a minimum score of 80% in the Annual External Catering Audit and a Grade C Annual External Hygiene Audit by 2007.

Steps to achieve target

10.5.1. Maintain standards set and comply with all aspects of H.A.C.C.P.

Result: Yes complied with same.

10.5.2. Continue to comply with the standards set down by E.I.Q.A.

Result: Yes the kitchen surface area is being upgraded "C + in hygiene in kitchen. (c plus) Also environmental Health officers report positive for 2006 sapphire award 2005/6/7.

10.5.3. Continue to co-operate with the Environmental Health Officer during his/her audits.

Result: Yes. Fully co-operated.

10.5.4. Monitor and review process.

Result: Yes. Ongoing.

Strategy 11. Ensure the provision of Healthcare to Prisoners' of a standard consistent with that which applies in the general Community.

Target. 11.3 Progress the implementation of the Pharmacy Services Plan with the intention of securing new controls of medications and cost efficiencies in all Prisons by the end of 2006 through the provision of professional pharmacy oversight.

Steps to achieve target

11.3.1. Review Pharmacy Service Plan Report.

Result: Report did not arrive in 2006.

11.3.2. Appoint internal team to review document and required procedures.

Result: Not applicable.

11.3.3. Implement new guidelines and launch Policy.

Result: Not applicable in 2006.

11.3.4. Monitor and review process.

Result: N.A.

Target 11.5 Smoking policy to be implemented in all Institutions by end - 2006

Steps to achieve target

11.5.1. The policy document is circulated to Prisons.

Result: Yes. Done.

11.5.2 Set up Team to evaluate and implement.

Result: Yes completed.

11.5.3. Inform both staff and Prisoners of the new smoking policy regulations.

Result: Yes done.

11.5.4. Implement the new smoking policy document.

Result: Yes done.

11.5.5. Monitor and review.

Result: Yes ongoing.

Strategy 15:

Enhance prisoner employability prospects on release through continuing development and delivery of skills-based training courses and activities.

Target 15.1 Complete the roll-out of the information system to track prisoner participation in work and vocational training by end-2006

Steps to achieve target

- 15.1.1. Review present arrangements for tracking Prisoner participation in work and vocational training.

Result: Roll - out did not come to Cork Prison in 2006.

- 15.1.2. Governor's approval sought re - any change of procedures.

Result: Not applicable for 2006 - arrived in May 2007.

- 15.1.3 Continue inputting information on the WTMS system.

Result: N/A.

- 15.1.4. Monitor and review.

Result:N/A.

Target 15.2 Increase the number of available work training courses with recognised certification levels by end-2007

Steps to achieve target

15.2.1. Establish Workshop Review Group.

Result: Established.

15.2.2. Review Industrial Shops re - certification.

Result: yes review carried out.

15.2.3. Investigate the potential of certifying other shops.

Result: Yes. Looking at same - kitchen safety, computer skills, hurley repairs, health and safety, laundry, fabric, carpentry/joinery, community training, computer print.

15.2.4 Seek Governor's approval for proposed changes.

Result: Yes done.

15.2.5 Implement approved recommendations.

Result: Yes where possible.

15.2.6. Monitor and review.

Result: Yes. Ongoing and into 2007.

Strategy 16 Recognising the important role that families can play in the rehabilitative process , pursue a service wide approach aimed at sustaining and maintaining prisoners' relationships with their families, in as normal manner as possible.

Target 16.1 Provide continuing support for appropriate services provided by prison visitors' centres.

Steps to achieve target

16.1.1. Review present visitors centre.

Result: yes. Recommendation made in 2004 in inspector's report were implemented.

16.1.2. Prepare improvement plan for Governor's approval.

Result: Yes done.

16.1.3. Implement any new proposals.

Result: Yes done.

16.2.4. Monitor and review.

Result: Yes ongoing.

Strategy 19:

Enable all staff to contribute to achievement of the Services' objectives.

Target 19.2: Put in place practices and procedures on harassment, bullying and threats to staff and review periodically.

Steps to achieve target

19.2.1. Review Report when made available by I.P.S.

Result: No report available in 2006.

19.2.2. Set up review group to look at best practice and procedures.

Result: N/A in 2006.

19.2.3. Circulate to staff all such procedures and practices.

Result: Not in operation in 2006.

19.2.4 Submit plan to Governor for approval.

Result: N/A.

19.2.5. Initiate training sessions if considered necessary.

Result: N/A at present.

19.2.6. Review and monitor.

Result: Not applicable at present.

Strategy 19: Organisational Supports.

Target 22.2 Continue to development management and staff partnership structures at central and local level.

Steps to achieve target

- 22.2.1. Review present structures in place for consultation between management and staff representatives.

Result: Yes local implementation group re sort meeting regularly also at monthly meeting with P.O.A.

- 22.2.2. Set up Partnership Committee by agreement.

Result: Yes done.

- 22.2.3. Agree procedures and practices in place for the Committee.

Result: Yes ongoing.

- 22.2.4. Monitor, and review.

Result: Yes ongoing.

Strategy 25: Review current Health and Safety Management System and bring it in line with appropriate external standards by end 2008.

Target 25.2 Ensure full roll out of agreed plan of the Health and Safety Management system by the first quarter 2007.

Steps to achieve target

25.2.1. Establish Health and Safety Management Group.

Result: Only piloted in other prisons in 2006. Not in Cork prison.

25.2.2. Conduct an Impact review of H&S.

Result: N/A.

25.2.3. Make appropriate proposals to Governor.

Result: N/A.

25.2.4. Monitor and Review .

Result: N/A for 2006.

Strategy 26: Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

Target 26.2 Ensure full roll out of agreed plan of the Health and Safety Management system by the first quarter 2007.

Steps to achieve target

26.1.1. Establish Environmental Management Implementation Team.

Result: Yes team set up but only got €5,000 to carry out feasibility study which was only approved in 2007.

26.1.2. Environmental Implementation Team to complete initial Environmental Impact Assessment in - line with the agreed procedure.

Result: Not applicable for 2006.

26.1.3. Provide a set of prioritised environmental objectives, and targets identified under the impact assessment procedure.

Result: Not in 2006.

26.1.4. Pilot Prison locations (Loughan House, Midlands Portlaoise) EMS to be developed for the first internal audit by the end of 06, and for accredited external audit standard end 07.

Result: Not in Cork prison.

26.1.5. EMS to be developed for all other Prisons and locations to accredited external audit end 07.

Result: Not applicable for 2006.

26.1.6. Annual Environmental Review completed and EMS maintained to accredited standard all locations end 08.

Result: Not applicable.

Part B - Targets specific to Cork Prison.

Target A.1. - To provide one multidisciplinary offending behaviour programme per annum in each Institution.

Steps to achieve target

A.1.1. Seek to provide a Thinking Skills Course for offenders with Psychology Service.

Result: Yes commenced in November 2006.

A.1.2. Team to examine the resources needed.

Result: Yes set up (prison, psychology, education, welfare staff involved)

A.1.3. Seek approval for Governor to run same.

Result: Yes done.

A.1.4. Review and monitor.

Result: Yes ongoing and new programme for 2007.

Target A.2. - To provide an average of 50 hours training per officer, per annum.

Steps to achieve target

A.2.1. To review present training needs.

Result: Yes done and ongoing.

A.2.2. Prepare training schedule for Governor's approval.

Result: Yes completed.

A.2.3. Implement Training programme schedule.

Result: Yes partly done.

A.2.4. Review and monitor.

Result: Yes ongoing.

Target A.3 - Implement the Minister's policy of the new Special Cells.

Steps to achieve target

A.3.1. Ensure D Unit is vacated in order to allow construction work to commence.

Result: Yes done.

A.3.2. Set up review group to monitor progress.

Result: Yes done.

A.3.3. Liaise with contractors, B.S.D., and Glenbeigh Construction, at regular intervals

Result: Yes done.

A.3.4. Review and monitor progress.

Result: Yes and completed.

Target A.4. - To provide Air-conditioning Units to specialised areas within the Prison.

Steps to achieve target

A.4..1. Install air-conditioning units within offices within the Prison,

Result: Yes done.

A.4.2. Prioritise areas needing attention.

Result: Yes done.

A.4.3. Agree procedures and timescales with Building Services Division.

Result: Yes done.

A.4.4 Submit plan for Governor's approval

Result: Yes done.

A.4.5. Monitor and review.

Result: Yes (6 units fitted in various area)

Target A.5. - To provide ramp for easy access / egress to Prison Laundry.

A.5.1. Consult with Building Services Division.

Result: Yes done.

A.5.2. Review present procedures, and look at best practice available.

Result: Yes done.

A.5.3. Seek approval from Estates I.P.S.

Result: Yes approved.

A.5.4. Submit plan to Governor for approval.

Result: Yes done.

A.5.5. Construction to commence.

Result: Yes done.

A.5.6. Review and monitor.

Result: Yes completed and operational.

Target A. 6.- Install new seating for offenders in main exercise yard.

Steps to achieve target

A.6.1. Review present position in exercise yard

Result: Done.

A.6.2. Select suitable location for seating.

Result: Done.

A.6.3. Approval secured from B.S.D. (Building Services Division)

Result: Yes done.

A.6.4. Construction work to commence.

Result: Yes commenced and completed.

A.6.5. Monitor and review.

Result: Yes ongoing. Work completed.

Target A. 7.- Replace existing double wash hand basins with stainless steel in main cell block.

Steps to achieve target

A.7.1. Review present condition of offenders wash facilities.

Result: Yes reviewed.

A.7.2. Present improvement plan to Governor for approval.

Result: Yes done.

A.7.3. Approval to be secured from B.S.D. (Building Services Division)

Result: Yes and approved.

A.7.4. Commence work as required.

Result: Yes done.

A.7.5. Monitor and review progress.

Result: Completed and finished to high standard.

7. Tour of Inspection

- 7.1 The tour of inspection commenced in the cellular areas where there are three wings known as "A", "B" and "C". A and B wing are opposite each other with a circle area dividing both wings while the "C" wing is a stand alone from the other two. There is also an isolation block known as "D" and is separate from any of the other wings. A report on the "D" block is within the report. The cells on both "A" and "B" division are almost identical in layout as are the location of the toilets and the wash areas. The wash room is at the end of each of the landings while the toilets are at the circle end just as one enters the landing. Several of the cells were inspected on each of the landings, they are all very similar in layout in that there is a bunk bed in each which is attached to the floor with bolts. The cells have a table and in most cases two chairs. In overcrowding situations, a mattress is placed on the floor and the third person sleeps there. Most of the cells are decorated with the usual drapes, flags, paper cuttings, family photographs, etc. The glass in the majority of the cell windows in both "A" and "B" wings is broken to allow in additional air as the windows are quite small. The entire building is old and the cells are smaller than average sized prison cell. The cells are also fitted with a television, mattress and bed clothing. There are no incell sanitation facilities and chamber pots are still in use with slopping out being the normal practice. In the washroom areas there are two slop hoppers, wash hand basins, a drinking water tap, the walls and floors are tiled and on some of the landings there are drinking fountains, the majority of which except one are not working. The toilets are directly over each other on the three landings and they consist of three urinals, two stainless steel wash hand basins, two

toilets, the floors and walls are tiled and there is a window in each of the toilet areas. The landings are either tiled with plastic type tiles or covered in lino type covering. All of the landings were very clean and tidy and freshly polished or mopped. Regarding cell call system, if a prisoner activates the push button within the cell, a light comes on outside the cell door and a light is also displayed on a panel on the ground floor level of that wing. The light remains on until an officer switches it off outside the cell door.

We were informed that prisoners are allowed out of their cells to go to the toilet and that there are extra officers on duty especially to facilitate this system. Management has also stated that if a prisoner wants to go to the toilet during the night that they are unlocked for same. However, this aspect of being allowed out during late evening or night time has been challenged by some of the prisoners who claim that they don't get out.

7.2 B3 Landing

The first cellular inspection took place on B3 landing where there are 16 cells, and had 32 prisoners there on the morning of inspection. There is a drinking fountain at the end of the landing which wasn't working. The wash room and toilet areas were as already described, they were reasonably clean, the paint on the window surround within the toilet area was flaking off and is in need of repainting. While the floors and walls are tiled and the overall areas were quite clean there was a foul smell from the toilets area. Infact there was a cleaning party in operation cleaning the washroom area at the time of the inspection.

7.3 B2

This landing is tiled and the landing itself is quite clean. Cells are as already described. There is a drinking fountain at the end of the landing which is not working and in need of cleaning. There are 18 cells, all doubled which has a capacity for 36 prisoners. The slop out area and the wash area are as already described. In the slop out area the walls and floors were tiled but they were in need of some cleaning. The toilets were reasonably clean, the floors and walls were tiled and are in quite good state of repair.

7.4 B1

B1 landing has fourteen cells and normally holds 28 prisoners. Two of these cells were described as "holding cells" for committals and for those going out on escort to court, etc. They may also be used for a prisoner to "cool down" who had become obstreperous. Both of these "special cells" have cladding on the walls, one of them has a bench attached to the floor and the window is covered with a mesh netting. The second cell's window is covered with a screen, it is fitted with a bed and mattress but no bed clothes at the time of inspection. Both of these cells were reasonably clean and tidy. There is also a consultancy room on this landing. The toilet area was clean. The walls and floor of the slop out area were newly tiled and clean but there was a foul smell from the area.

7.5 A3

The landing contains 16 cells, the layout is identical to that as described on "B" division, with 31 prisoners. The landing walkway was tiled and clean.

The cells inspected were also reasonably clean, some of them had the beds tidy, others didn't and they consisted of the usual drapes, flags, etc attached to the walls or the ceilings. Regarding the toilets, water was seeping through the ceiling, apparently coming from the roof overhead. The toilets were reasonably clean while the wash area was also at an acceptable level of hygiene.

7.6 A2

There were 14 cells, all doubled which contained 28 prisoners on this landing. The layout was the same as already described with a drinking fountain, which was working but in need of cleaning. The slop hoppers and wash hand basins were in need of cleaning but the overall area was clean. The floor and walls were clean and the rest of the items within the wash area were also clean. When inspecting the cells, there were quite a number of prisoners in their beds, having already got up for their breakfast and appeared to be staying there for the morning. In the toilet area, the paint on the ceiling and around the window is in need of repainting. There are also some tiles missing off the wall but overall it was a clean area.

7.7 A1

A1 is the ground floor level landing and is much wider than "A2" or "A3" landings. There are 14 cells which contain 28 prisoners and the landing was quite clean. The walls of the wash area have been newly tiled and also a newly tiled floor. The toilet area has tiles on the walls with mirrors over the wash hand basins. The areas were acceptably clean and tidy.

7.8 C Division

The C division is used as a segregated area. Some of the prisoners can not mix with each other due to the nature of their offences, while others are on protection from the other prisoners in the main "A" or "B" block. They are allowed exercise in the open exercise yard in the morning time and during evening recreation time they can exercise on the landing.

7.9 C1

C1 landing consists of 17 cells, all doubled with bunk beds and there were 26 prisoners there at time of inspection. The cells are larger than those on the "A" or "B" divisions. There is much more space within the cell despite the fact that they are doubled. At the end of the landing there are two wash hand basins, two slop hoppers, two toilets, two mirrors on the wall over the wash hand basins, part of the wall around the slop hopper is tiled and the balance of the walls are painted, while the floors are tiled. The whole wash/toilet area was quite clean and very acceptable from a hygiene point of view. There are two cells protected by a barrier and a gate at the entrance to the landing which are used for special observation/protection prisoners, both

of which were occupied at the time of inspection. One had a prisoners who had returned from the Central Mental Hospital, while the other was occupied by a foreign national, who has difficulties in hearing and of speaking.

7.10 C2

There were 17 cells, all doubled which contained 27 prisoners on this landing. The prisoners were of four different segregated categories. Some were sex offenders, others were on protection from prisoners within the landing, others were on protection from prisoners from other parts of the prison, while the fourth group others were on protection as a result of "outside" activities.

At the end of the landing there were three showers, all tiled, but the mats in the shower trays need replacing. There was a non slip mat outside of the showers and seating along the wall opposite the shower cubicles. The floor of the shower area was tiled. The landing contains wash/toilet area which comprise of two slop hoppers, two wash hand basins of stainless steel material, two toilets, tiled around the slop hoppers and the rest of the walls were painted. The floors were tiled and there were two mirrors over the wash hand basin. These areas were quite clean. In view of the segregated system in operation on this landing, a wire mesh divides one side of it from the other. The call bell in the cell is similar to those already described on "A" and "B" wings.

7.11 C3

C3 landing consists of 16 cells, all with bunk beds and there were 26 prisoners held there on the morning of the inspection. This landing is also used as a gym. There were eight prisoners using the gym with one officer in charge at the time of the inspection. The landing had a wash/toilet area at the end which consisted of a wash hand basin, two slop hoppers and two toilets. The walls were partly tiled around the slop hopper area, the floor was also tiled. One of the wash hand basins had been pulled off the wall a couple of days previous. The water pipes were exposed but there was no leakage. There is also a drinking water tap within this area and it was generally clean and tidy. The landing contains three showers with the walls covered in white plastic type material. There is seating opposite the shower area and non slip mats provided. The floors and the entrance into the showers were tiled. The opposite side of the landing had 2 slop hoppers, 2 wash hand basins with mirrors over them and a drinking water tap. The walls were partly tiled the rest were painted, the floors were tiled and the general area was clean and tidy as was the landing. There was a phone on each of the landings for prisoners' use.

7.12 "C" Exercise Yard

This is a reasonably small yard with tarmac surface. There is a raised walkway at the side of the yard and a protection hand rail along the side of it. There is a basketball net at both ends of the yard with the pillars supporting the net wrapped in protective padding to prevent prisoners from injury whilst playing. The yard is used for playing soccer as well as the basketball and

there are imaginary goal posts painted on the walls. The yard is not covered by netting and on one side there is a high wire fence on top of the wall while the wall of the cell block is on the opposite side. There are no seats for the prisoners and there were three plastic chairs, apparently for the officers' use. There were two phones for prisoners' use. It was relatively clean and tidy.

7.13 Main Exercise Yard

The main exercise yard is relatively large and consists of a tarmac surface. At the time of the inspection there were 43 prisoners exercising within it. The majority of the prisoners were walking around while there were four prisoners partaking of handball against one of the walls. The yard is covered with netting and the top of the wall is covered with razor edge wire. There were seven phones behind perspex covering just at the entrance to the yard for prisoners' use. There were toilets at the end of the yard with a very small shelter beside the toilet block which had razor edge wire on the roof to prevent prisoners climbing up on it. The yard is covered by close circuit television. The toilet block consisted of two toilets, three urinals, one wash hand basin and one drinking water tap, all of stainless steel material. The toilets and the urinals were quite clean, the drinking water tap and wash hand basin could be improved in hygiene, but it wasn't too bad. There is an officers' observation hut at the end of the yard adjacent to the toilet block with protective perspex sheeting in front of it, so the officers can observe the yard but at the same time are protected from being struck by footballs. There is a small amount of seating for prisoners in the sheltered area which can only accommodate about 12 prisoners.

7.14 Recreation Hall

There is a very large recreation hall with timber flooring suited for playing badminton or 5 a side football. It is also used for step aerobics. There were chairs placed all along the walls and at the end there were four telephones in steel cases or boxes for prisoners' use. The library is off one end of the hall. Just off the opposite end of the hall there are two toilets and two wash hand basins in stainless steel material. The walls and floors were tiled and this area was reasonably clean but there were a few tiles missing from the floor which needs replacing. Overall, the hall is sparsely laid out for recreation.

7.15 Library

The library is situated just off the large recreation hall and is operated by two officers who work back to back, so there is always a regular officer on duty. The library is open 7 days per week from 10.00am - 12.00pm and 2.30pm - 4.30pm. During evening recreation from 5.15pm - 7.15pm the library is used for projecting films to all the various areas throughout the prison such as the main recreation hall, the remand halls, and the two "C" division recreation areas. This period is also used to take stock of the day's transactions and to update the records. The library supplies daily newspapers. There is a law section and those who wish to use it can sit in the library and read it there, or if they want to take it away for further study they are given a copy of the particular section of the law book.

They have a budget of €2,500 from the Prison Service while Cork City library also gives the same amount, so there is a total of €5,000 used in the purchase of materials, books, etc for the year. The officer purchases the books directly from a book shop and they work independently of the VEC. They do the entire indexing and categorising of the books themselves and both officers have the City and Guilds Library Assistant Certificates. Their stock of over 12,000 items is made up of 8,000 books, 1,000 CD's, 2,500 tape cassettes and 800 magazines, some of which come free of charge.

They operate computerised scanning of each item issued and returned. They claim that there is not too much damage but quite a lot of losses. They said that speaking with the Cork City Library, their losses and damage are nearly similar to that of the prison's. They work closely with the education staff and supply them with books, especially on the literacy side. They also stock foreign language books such as Polish, Russian, Estonian, German, Chinese, Romanian and Arabic.

The library is quite small and has free standing shelves right around the floor with shelving all along the walls. As well as doing the library work, the officers do the database of prisoners in custody and also of those released, which is used by the probation and welfare, the education, Cork Alliance, the chaplains, the pre-release programme officer and the surgery. The library officer also records the Governor's decisions arising from the "prisoners wishing to see the Governor book". Since the televisions have been introduced into the cells, the numbers using the library has decreased. Prior

to their introduction 80% of the population used the library, as of now, that has reduced to approximate 66%.

It appears that the officers' posts are going on a yearly rotation basis arising from the agreement of the annualised hours. The two qualified library officers may be moved to other posts next year and replaced by officers who have no knowledge of library work. The two qualified men, according to management, do an excellent job. Perhaps this can be reviewed. If the present officers were moved and replaced by officers with no such knowledge, doesn't seem a satisfactory arrangement.

7.16 Woodwork/Joinery Workshop

The woodwork/joinery workshop is operated by an assistant industrial supervisor and he has an average of 10 prisoners per day working therein. A lot of the work entails making lockers for the prisoners' cells, garden furniture, swings, window boxes, honey bee boxes, etc. The officer said that he hoped to have the workshop upgraded with new machinery and equipment which would enhance the working area, as the equipment and machinery that is there at present appears to be quite old and in need of replacement.

When the prisoners are first taken into the workshop they start off by taking a health and safety course followed by a manual handling course. The fire exits are pointed out to them, the dangers involved in working in the shops, the importance of having guard shields over saws, the safety of tools, how to

handle them and the safety requirement to operate them. Coming up to the Christmas period, they make wooden reindeer and wooden santas plus jigsaws. The officer in charge hopes that the workshop will become a Fetac certificate standard workshop and that those working there will achieve a level of competency before they leave prison.

7.17 Hurley Repair Workshop

The hurley repair shop is managed by an assistant industrial supervisor and there an average of between 15 -20 prisoners per day working therein. They repair approximately 150 hurleys per day and the broken hurleys come from the various hurling clubs throughout the Munster region. The prisoners receive a basic hurling repair course, which if they reach the required standard, a certified is issued to them from the Munster Council of the GAA. It is also recognised as the beginners course of the Fetac foundation level.

The work conducted within this work shop appeared on a television programme called "breaking ball" and as a result the demand for their work absolutely mushroomed. Apart from dealing with clubs in the Munster region, they now have clubs from as far away as Kildare sending hurleys to them for repairs. The officer showed great enthusiasm for the work as indeed did the officer in charge of the other woodwork shop. The two shops assist each other if either of them have more work than they can cope with. It is amazing their high output from cramped, restricted workshops which is a credit to both officers.

7.18 *Computer Print Shop*

This shop is operated by an assistant industrial supervisor who has 7 to 8 prisoners on average per day operating and learning computer skills. The supervisor teaches the equal skills course, followed by the ECDL and also does a certain amount of work for the prison's use in the production of report books, log books, reception books. The prison is a recognised certification centre and those sitting the ECDL exam can do so within the area. The driving theory test is also conducted within this computer shop. The officer in charge is only newly appointed to the job having been transferred from another prison just recently. So she is both new to the workshop and new to the prison. She appeared quite competent for the short length of time she has been operating this shop.

7.19 *The Fabric Shop*

The fabric shop is operated by an industrial supervisor and one assistant industrial supervisor and they have at least 10 to 13 prisoners per day working regularly within. This shop is entirely a work training area and there is no work done for the prison. They make various items from orders received from the public, although quite a lot of the orders are staff associated. They have a new computerised embroidery machine which they do wonderful work with. The embroidery section comprises of making crests, flags, etc for clubs or organisations such as special Olympic crests, boxing club crests, karate crests, football crests, etc which are then sewn onto the jerseys or tops for which they are required. Again the officers who are operating within this area show great enthusiasm for their work. They

were proud to display various articles that they produce such as, messages/names on pillowcases written in embroidery, seat covers, cushions, table cloths, baby or childrens clothes, which the prisoners can send out to their families if they so wish.

7.20 *Laundry*

The laundry is operated by two assistant industrial supervisors with an average of 17 - 18 prisoners per day working within it. The prisoners working there are mostly the "protection prisoners" and they work quite successfully with each other. They do the laundry for the entire prison. The different cellular areas of the prison have a designated day for their laundry where as areas such as the kitchen, the mess, the gym, are daily users of the laundry. The officers in charge outlined that they would like to get the laundry up to certificate level standard and hope that the whole area will be reviewed shortly with this in mind. The laundry has within it two large washing machines, four dryers, plus three small dryers, two pressers and a rotary iron which is not working. It was outlined to the Inspectorate that a newly installed machine keeps breaking down regularly and two washing machines are out of order since last September. The staff find it a bit of a handicap to get their work done and would like either to get them replaced or repaired more regularly. The prisoners working within appeared to know their own areas of responsibilities very well and if it involved washing, ironing, drying, etc they performed their tasks very smoothly. The area overall is quite small and when all of the necessary containers, tables for

stacking and folding clothes on, etc are taken into account the amount of space around the various machines is very cramped.

7.21 Kitchen

The kitchen is operated by one industrial supervisor and two assistant industrial supervisors and they have an average of 13 prisoners per day working therein. They provide the entire meals for the prisoners that is breakfast, dinner, tea and supper. They have achieved the hygiene award from Excellent Ireland for the past two years and are in line again for this award for the third consecutive year. They are also inspected at least once if not twice a year by personnel from the Southern Health Board and on each of their inspections their reports have been very favourable. Most of the deliveries such as milk, meat, vegetables, are taken directly into the kitchen from the suppliers and they don't go to the stores first and then to the kitchen.

The prisoners who are selected for kitchen work, first of all have to be passed by the doctor. They then on entering the kitchen do a basic hygiene course. They are also instructed in other areas such as manual handling health and safety, the use of chemical such as detergents, etc before they actually commence full operation in the kitchen. Four of the prisoners have been registered to take part in the Leonardo course which is due to commence at the end of June this year.

The kitchen is operated on a colour coded (written display) instructions in each area of work. The equipment is of stainless steel material. The floor and half the walls are tiled. The storage area is very clean and tidy.

The drawbacks of the kitchen is that it is quite narrow and is also shaped in a "L" shape. There are no serving areas directly onto the kitchen, which is a major handicap in trying to achieve the various awards. So it means that all meals have to be plated, placed in hot trolleys and wheeled to the ground floors of the wings to be served out to the various landings from there. The officer in charge also outlined that there is no preventative maintenance contract and as a result broken equipment is left out of order for a considerable time before it is repaired. He feels that if there was a maintenance contract, that the equipment would be repaired much faster or the part replaced before final breakage, which would eliminate an amount of hassle from broken down equipment. The meals sampled during our inspection were very satisfactory, well presented and the whole area was certainly spotlessly clean.

7.22 *Gymnasium (Main)*

The gymnasium operates with two PE instructors and there is a PE Teacher on the education staff of the prison. The gym operates Monday to Sunday three times per day, A.M. P.M and during evening recreation but not in the P.M on Saturday or Sunday. There is an average of 25 prisoners per session and the prisoners have to be medically cleared by the doctor before participating within the gym. The gym is quite a large area. It is fitted out

with a considerable amount of normal gym equipment and they still have the free weights in operation (not attached to weights machine). They do a considerable amount of weight lifting, boxing, as well as participating in circuit training.

They hold various competitions throughout the year and a sports day once during the year. The sports day activities consist of races within the yard plus various exercises in the gym prior to going to the yard, so they have a marathon type competition throughout the day.

There is a shower area at the end of the main gym hall which contains five showers, the outlets from these showers are broken and are in need of repair. The repairs to these shower outlets appear urgent as there is a build up of waste water everytime the showers are used.

There are two storage rooms just off the gym area where the free weights, bars, etc, are stored when the gym hall is being used as a recreation area.

7.23 Key Office

The key office is operational on a 24 hour basis. This office also deals with authorising the visits to the prisoners, discharge of prisoners on release and receives the warrants from new committals. It deals with the issue and collection of keys and other security items. It is quite a small office and the officers were quite busy there at the time of our inspection.

7.24 Control Room/Radio Room

The control room/radio room operates on a 24 per day basis. It contains the fire location/alarm panels and the security display panels. The radios are also controlled from this location. There are various monitors to be viewed from within it. This room is extremely small for the amount of equipment and personnel within it. A larger room in a different location would be preferable.

7.25 Reception

The reception area was being operated by two officers at the time of our inspections. It is where the prisoners are brought on arriving into the prison and their particulars are taken re clothing, property, height weight etc which are recorded in a register book and on computer. If the committal has jewellery or cash it is sent to the general office. On completion of the recording of information they proceed to a cubicle area where their clothing is removed, they then have a shower and they are issued with prison clothing. They are given a laundry kit which includes an information booklet, toothpaste, soap, sheets, etc. There is a security walk through scanner on entering and leaving the reception area. There is also a hand held security scanner for further checks if necessary.

There are locker rooms attached to the reception area and there are a sufficient number of lockers to issue each prisoner with an individual locker. The locker room was very neat and tidy. If a prisoner has excess clothing, it is bagged, named, numbered and placed in another store where there are free standing shelves. There is a book record kept of the clothing contained

within this storage facility. There are other lockers in this area which hold sharp objects that maybe found on prisoners entering the prison and there is a separate locker for radios.

There are two holding cells at the entrance to the reception, one has a bench along one wall with a window consisting of glass bricks. There is some graffiti on the walls of this cell but otherwise it was reasonably clean. The second holding cell contains a bench along two walls and there are three windows within it, two of them have grids placed over them, while the third window has glass bricks within it. The second holding cell has writing on the wall and it was in need of cleaning and repainting. There is also a toilet area and a room with a wash hand basin, adjacent to the holding cells. The wash hand basin was in need of cleaning. Approximately 20 prisoners per day pass through the reception area, on discharge or returning back from courts, hospitals, escorts, etc. Apart from the holding cells and the wash hand basin, the rest of the reception area was very clean, tidy and well kept.

7.26 Bath House/Shower Area

The bath house or shower area contains twelve showers, two of which have invalid seats. There are soap dispensers attached to the walls of the cubicles of the showers. The end of the shower area has a room off it which contains a bath that obviously is not used on a very regular basis. There are seats attached to the wall opposite the shower cubicles and there is a wash

hand basin and a water drinking tap nearby. The entire shower area was very clean and tidy.

There is a storage facility at the exit/entrance area to the shower room which contains bed linen, prison jumpers, jeans, underwear, etc in exchange for prisoners' clothing after having their showers. At the entrance there is also an office which contains the photograph and finger print facilities which is quite small but sufficient for this purpose.

7.27 Tuck Shop

The tuck shop is operated by two officers Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 5.00pm and one officer on a Saturday. The officers were asked if the tuck shop ever closed due to staff shortages and they said that no it never happens. Occasionally, the second officer is taken to do relief for dinner or tea patrols but other than that the second officer is not taken away, so the tuck shop is open at the times outlined.

The officer gets a print out from the general office each morning as to the amount of cash and gratuity the prisoners have in their accounts. There are different days for each of the landings to make their order and they can use both private cash and gratuity. They are not confined to one week for cash and the next gratuity. Remand prisoners get daily orders as well as new committals. The officers stated that they try to have their balanced not less than €30.00 but if somebody really needs to order and they have gone below €30.00 they will allow it. The prisoners are allowed one order a week but

occasionally get an extra one if they happen to run out of tobacco or if it is stolen on them, etc.

There is no cash registrar within the tuck shop and the prisoners sign off for their items as they purchase them. The price of the articles are displayed beside where they sign the sheet. A price list is displayed just inside the tuck shop door and the recommended retail price from the wholesaler applies. It carries the usual quantities of goods such as sweets, cigarettes, chocolates, matches, magazines, birthday cards, flowers, regional and weekend newspapers, biscuits, bars, breakfast cereals, soups, tuna fish, coffee, minerals, multi vitamins, complan, muscle power, sauces and toiletries. They don't stock cheese, cold meats or yoghurts and they claim that it is for health and safety reasons, as they have no refrigerated facilities either in the tuck shop or in the cells.

The computer in the tuck shop is linked into the "PRIS" system which allows them check on prisoners' cash and gratuity but it is not linked to the sales registrar. The tuck shop is operated from a converted cell on one of the landings. Its storage space and its office in the administration building is also extremely small. So they are certainly in a bad need for more storage and shop space. If the shop had a computerised registrar that was linked to the "PRIS" system and according as the prisoners would sign off for goods purchased they would be issued with a receipt and the deductions would be made automatically. But apparently such a facility may be some time down the road.

7.28 *Detail Office*

The detail office is where the staffs' duty schedules are made out as well as the placing of officers on their various posts. They record sick leave, overtime, allowances, etc. This office is managed by one chief officer, one assistant chief officer and an officer (Monday to Friday) and two staff Saturday and Sunday. The officer in charge outlined that the annualised hours are working quite well and that there are very little compulsory recalls. It was also outlined that the sick leave more or less remained the same or a little less than at time of last inspection.

The computers are connected to the "clocking in" system so there is a computerised record of the staff coming and going. The print out of the week's activities of the staffs "ins" and "outs", sick leave, etc re payments is checked in the detail office and then passed to either the assistant or deputy governor, whom on his check, it is then forwarded to Killarney for payment. The pay validation sheet from Killarney is re-checked by the clerk in the personnel office, so there is a cross check within two different offices on the accuracy of the submissions.

The staff said that the computers are working well, they are a bit slow at times but generally they work well. In the event of a break down they can generally be restored by the IT support team and this is done on line. The tapes recording the day's activities are changed every day and forwarded to the IT centre in prison headquarters at the end of each week. The only problem mentioned re the computers was that the "lates" recording on the

day that an officer is recalled for duty does not record such late as the programme displays the officer as being off duty. If an officer on a normal working day was late, such is recorded on computer. The office is quite small for the amount of staff working in it. It is a normal working office.

7.29 Censor Office

The censor office is managed by two officers from 8.00am to 8.00pm, Monday to Saturday and also one on a Sunday, if there is an officer available. The records show an average of 48 incoming letters and about 30 per day outgoing. The officer outlined that with the introduction of the telephone facilities, the number of letters coming in and out of the prison has reduced considerably. If cash is received it is recorded in the censor office, then forwarded to the office to the prisoner's account and the clerk signs receipt for same. The censor office doesn't accept magazines or newspapers, except for foreign nationals, whose papers can not be purchased locally. The censor office also receives tapes and CD's which are security checked before issue. A home recorded CD is not allowed.

There are post boxes on the landings and the letters are collected from them every morning. The incoming post is delivered every evening to the landings. The officer was asked regarding a back log at times in collecting the post and he said it does happen due to the shortage of staff or pressure for staff to work in other areas of the prison. The longest back log was three days.

There is a list of people who have requested that they don't wish to receive any post from prisoners and the officers have to ensure such requests are adhered to. The post coming from a solicitor, if it is clearly marked it is not opened by the censor's officers, it goes to the ACO's office and the A.C.O opens it in front of the prisoner, it is security checked but the letter itself is not read. Likewise, post going out to a solicitor is not censored. They were asked regards post going to the Samaritans and they said they have absolutely no experience of it and have never come across anyone writing to the Samaritans. They don't censor letters going to the European court or to the CPT. The office had a wooden structure with a number of "compartments" to place the letters in and also a machine for checking cd's, tapes, etc. It was a normal working office with desk, phone etc.

7.30 Stores and office facilities

The stores are operated by a clerk grade 1, a clerk grade II and an officer. They deal with the normal operation of a prison stores which entails purchasing goods, victualling, the Office of Public Works supplies, cleaning supplies, etc as well as staffs' requirements. They have quite a large warehouse at the rear of the prison for storage purposes. The location of this store is a bit of a handicap insofar as the offices are in the prison and if a delivery arrives, one has to leave their desk, go out the main gate and around to the back of the prison to accept the delivery. The same applies if there is a request for an item in the office and the item is not in stock in the small store adjacent to the office. The victualling is all delivered directly to the kitchen. There is also a small food storage facility adjacent to the

kitchen area which holds dry foods such as cornflakes, breakfast cereals, tinned vegetables, etc. The computer programme "oracle" is in operation for accounts and stock control and according to the staff it works quite well. The only problem mentioned was that the staffing levels of one clerk I and one clerk II is very low and that they do require an additional clerk II. However, the staffing levels in the new annualised hours agreement does not allow for a 3rd clerk.

7.31 *General Office and Personnel Office*

The offices are managed by one clerk I and five clerk II and again like the stores section, they feel that an additional clerk II is required for the amount of work they process. The computers, they claim, operate quite well but they have to go through a lot of different screens to achieve some of the information sought, which can be quite time consuming. In other words you can't get straight into the programme you are seeking. The general register is no longer in operation and they depend on the records of the computer, but they still keep the discharge book which lists entries for escorts, discharge of prisoners, court appearances, etc. They claim that they are quite busy with temporary releases, not alone from their own prison but also the transferred prisoners to Shelton Abbey who are granted temporary release from there. If they are a native of Cork, generally they have to report/return to Cork prison despite being released from the other centre, which places extra work on the Cork staff. (This system is satisfactory from an economical point of view).

The staff outlined that the scarcity of space for the storage of old files was a major problem. They have files stored in the archives going back as far as 1972 and they would love to be able to dispose of some of them but are having difficulty in getting the authorisation to do so. They also highlighted the transfer of "live" files as a problem, as a lot of prisoners are transferred from one prison to another. Some times new files are implemented on arrival at each of the prisons, so it could end up that a prisoner could have six or seven files. If there were compensation claims, court appearances, etc such may not necessarily be on the particular file that you have, which sometimes causes a problem.

The personnel section deals with the normal human resources requirements. They do a cross check of the pay cheques printout each week as well as keeping the records of the officers' files on promotions, sick, leave of absence, etc.

They were asked about the levels of staffs' sick leave and it displays an average of 562 days per month for the first 4 months of 2007. Herewith are the details of the sick leave for the last five months:- December 843 days, January 652 days, February 471, March 561 days, April 565 days. When these figures are compared to the months prior to the introduction of the annualised hours which was in February 2006 it works out as follows:- 680 days in February, 905 days in January, 1104 days in December 2005, and 830 days in November 2005. So there is an improvement in the staffs' sick

leave. In relation to long term sick of six months or more, we were informed that there were 8 - 9 officers who fell into that bracket.

The offices were quite busy and are reasonably small with little room between desks. It was a normal operational office.

7.33 Review of the Records of prisoners placed in strip cells and also the records of official complaints by prisoners to the Governor.

The Inspectorate examined the records relating to the use of the strip cells on "B" landing and were shown the forms that are completed when a prisoner is placed there. The forms give the full required particulars, a copy of which is sent to headquarters. The Inspectorate examined the records from July 2006 to the 11th June 2007 and during that period there were 8 prisoners placed in these special strip cells. Some were placed there by order of prison management while others were there on "medical grounds". Six of the prisoners were removed on the authority of the psychiatrist while the other two were removed by order of prison management. The length of time that the prisoners were held in the strip cell area was:- five for two days, one for three days, one for fifteen days and one was removed on the same day as he was placed there.

Regarding the records relating to prisoners' official complaints, which came into force on the 28th August 2006, the records state that seven prisoners complained from August 2006 until the 11th June 2007. Of the seven

complaints received, four were for alleged assault, one was for being called names, one complained of the manner a search was carried out on him and one complained of verbal abuse. Six of the prisoners withdrew their complaints and one prisoner tore up the complaint form and returned it in an envelope. Three of the complaints were forwarded to the gardai (for alleged assault) but when the gardai called to investigate, each of the prisoners had withdrawn them. There were no conclusions in any of the cases as the complaints were recorded as "withdrawn". The records shows that one prisoner withdrew his complaint the day following him making it. One withdrew it two months after the date of complaint, one after five weeks, one after one week, one after nine weeks, one after four weeks and one which was forwarded to the gardai, had no date recorded for its withdrawal, the records stating "he withdrew his complaint". The inspectorate thinks more detail should be recorded as to why a complaint was withdrawn.

7.34 Visitors' waiting room and visiting area

The Inspector inspected the waiting room and visiting area. There were two benches (right angled to each other) outside the door. This is for people who might want to sit out in the sunshine although most of it was in shade at the time of the inspection. Then you come inside and there are concrete benches. There were notices on the wall about not smoking and not bringing in drugs. Visitors must leave all personal property, handbags, shopping bags, and in particular mobile phones in the lockers provided. There is a male and female toilet off this room.

The Inspector visited the gents toilet which consisted of a toilet bowl with door and with toilet paper and brush. When one came out of the toilet there was a wash hand basin with soap. There was no method for drying ones hands. The officer told me they probably use the toilet paper. There was a roll and a bit in the toilet. A lady who was visiting looked at the female toilet for me. She told me that it was clean and that there were two wash hand basins. One had no stopper. She also drew my attention that there was a hand dryer on the wall between the male and female toilets. This hand dryer does not work.

Each prisoner fills out a form giving up to six names of people whom he wishes to visit him. The prisoner has an opportunity approximately once a month to change some of the people on his list. When visitors come in they approach the protected desk and state whom they wish to see. Then the officer checks to see if they are on the list. They are supposed to provide ID if required but since they are regular the officer normally knows most of them. They also check and see how many visits he has had. A convicted prisoner is allowed one visit per week plus he can have a special visit Monday to Friday in the morning with the Governor's consent. The officer then checks to see if he is available to take up a visit. Then he writes out a visiting docket with a number on the top which is called out on the loud speaker inside. The prisoner is then collected, the number is read out and the visitor proceeds to the visiting section. This requires going through the main gate. A lot of people visit on a Friday and it can be very busy. They could be waiting for 30 minutes or maybe more. The room inside is very

small and the very max in that room would be 14. One lady visitor would not go into the toilet because "you wouldn't know what you would pick up". There is certainly a need for a creche. A little child was running around perfectly happy but he could have done with a drink as could the adults.

The inspector then visited the visiting area. It is rather small, there were 12 seats on the visitors side. There was a wide table which had a glass panel separating prisoners from visitors. The prisoners were standing on the far side of the table from the visitors. However, when the inspector was there the prisoners and the visitors were very close to the glass in order to communicate. There were notices saying children should be kept under control and were not allowed up on the counter. There were also of course no smoking, no physical contact, no food stuffs, signs. It was pointed out that close circuit television with video recording facility was in operation.

On the previous inspection the inspector came several times to the visiting room and the number of chairs varied depending on the hour of his arrival. There were complaints from prison visitors about the delay in the waiting area and that it could be at least an hour. The officer in charge said that particularly on a Friday with special visits as well as the normal visits it could be very long and blamed it partly on the smallness of the visiting area. The inspector agrees that all of this area needs to be expanded. One woman complained that her child was very thirsty and that it would be useful to have even dispensing machines for water, tea, coffee and possibly minerals in the waiting area.

7.35 *Staffs' locker room and facilities*

The Inspector visited the locker room, in which there is a toilet, showers and wash hand basins available to the staff in a separate building beside the main entrance. Only members of staff can enter as the entrance door is operated by an electronic key pad. There were two separate toilets, outside of which there were two urinals. There is a non working hand drying machine. Then one passes the lockers into the shower room where there were two wash hand basins. The electric dryer outside this area is working and is controlled by a switch. The radiator was extremely hot emulating the sunshine outside.

7.36 *Inspection staff canteen*

The Inspector had lunch and inspected the staffs' canteen. There are a few steps up to a glass door and into the large and airy dining room. There is a small area off this room where there are one or two tables. It is in the open air but the walls around it ensure that the sun only shines (if at all) for a short period. It is really suitable for afternoon tea parties for dwarfs!

There are outside caterers who provide the service here. The inspector had dried over cooked cold meat and rather jaded salads. The kitchen was small but the chef and cook (are male and female respectively) were satisfied with what was available to them. They serve breakfast, lunch and evening tea.

The chef was preparing lasagne for tea. There were only a few officers in the hall for lunch. An officer described the cuisine as "not cordon bleu but adequate". The inspector would respectfully agree. It also has the

advantage of being subsidised.

8. Meeting with the Various groups

8.1 Meeting with the Doctor

Dr. Patrick Malone of Sneem, County Kerry inspected the medical facilities at the prison at the request of the Inspector Judge D. Kinlen. The Inspector is most grateful to Dr. Malone for his services. Herewith is Dr. Malone's findings.

I visited Cork Prison on Wednesday June 6th last. Having arrived at the medical centre at 8.20am I met with the prison doctor, Dr. Con Murphy, who had just completed his hour-long surgery. Dr. Murphy has a busy general practice in the city and also attends Cork Prison each weekday morning (Mon-Fri) at 7.20am when he sees any prisoner who wishes to consult him. He is also on-call on a 24 hour basis - he may need to revisit the prison, give instructions over the phone to the medical orderlies, or advise the transfer of a prisoner to a hospital emergency room.

When a prisoner is admitted to the prison, his medical history is immediately taken by the medical orderly and reviewed by the doctor who examine the prisoner at the next surgery session. Records are partly written, partly computerised. The medical histories of new patients are very good. Where prisoners are transferred from another prison, their records are transferred electronically.

The doctor's duty is to see to the general medical care of the prisoners, both at his morning prison surgeries and out-of-hours, where necessary. He may have to attend at weekends - approximately 12 times per year. Prisoners are routinely screened for STDs including HIV, Hepatitis B & C. They are referred to hospital out-patient clinics where appropriate, and Dr. Murphy has developed good contacts over the years with his hospital colleagues, allowing smoother access to hospital services. He feels he is well served in the case of psychiatric problems within the prison, as he regularly defers to Dr. Morgan, the prison Psychiatrist, an invaluable colleague, not least in the management of alcohol and drug-related illness. He also has ready access to the prison Psychologists and the Addiction Counsellor.

The doctor's prescriptions can be dispensed from the secure prison pharmacy adjacent to the consulting room by the medical orderlies (replenished from Cahill May Roberts) or from a local pharmacy. The aim is to shortly move to a modern blister pack system of dispensing.

The medical centre is too small. It lacks a proper couch, ECG machine, or nebuliser. There is no emergency room and no sterile area for suturing.

Dr. Murphy indicated his grave upset at previous adverse comment from the Inspectorate regarding his attitude to patients. He claims to treat patients with a kind but firm hand and argues that the care they receive is superior to that which they could expect to receive in the community. In his own city practice, he has no less than a dozen former prisoners registered with him, a

statistic which should, he claims, speak for itself. He was more than happy to meet with the Inspector of Prisons to discuss a particular unfair criticism of him (DOCTOR READING CORK EXAMINER WHEN CONSULTING).

8.2 *Meeting with the Medical Orderlies*

I was then introduced to the two medical orderlies who assist Dr. Murphy. They agreed the medical centre was too small and said that staffing was inadequate. Their own training was inadequate in recent years e.g a defibrillation course had not taken place since November 2005. They had good relations with Dr. Murphy (whose service they commended) and with his regular locums. They particularly appreciated the co-operation shown between Dr. Murphy and the prison psychiatrist as they think it is a tragedy that patients with psychiatric illness frequently end up in prison.

The orderlies then showed me the tiny prison pharmacy, rather basic but ordered in a traditional way. They anticipate early change. They also showed me the well-furnished dental surgery.

8.3 *Meeting with the Psychiatrist*

I had a brief encounter with the prison Psychiatrist, Dr. Morgan, and the Psychiatric Liaison Nurse. Dr. Morgan attends the prison three mornings per week. He is available outside hours on request and to visit prisoners in the Special Observation Cell. He runs a detoxification programme for alcohol but a Methadone maintenance programme is only in force for those prisoners transferred to the D unit who were on Methadone in their previous

prison. Dr. Morgan admitted that he had immense difficulty in arranging referrals to the Cental Mental Hospital in Dundrum. He has also frequently experienced pressure from prisoner' relatives to prescribe hypnotic, sedatives and Methadone. Dr. Morgan disagreed with adverse criticism of the prison doctor.

I spoke briefly with the prison Governor who praised the medical service. He instanced a complaint received that morning from a prisoner who said that he had asked Dr. Murphy to send him to a dermatologist for what was (to the Governor) a minor rash on his hands (Dr. Murphy had prescribed a steroid cream instead). The Governor said that this type of (Vexatious) complaint was not unusual. It was even understandable.

8.4 *Meeting with the Psychologists*

I then met with two young, enthusiastic prison psychologists who attend the prison Mon - Fri from 9 am to 5 pm. In their practice, they treat panic attacks, adjustment disorders, and addiction. They run enhanced thought programmes. They particularly value "off-focused" referrals e.g self-referrals, or referrals made by the teacher, prison officer, GP or psychiatrist. Prison overcrowding is a big problem, and security factors (in moving prisoners from cell to consultation room) restrict the time they can devote to individual consultations. They were at pains to point out the daily degradation for the prisoners of the "slopping-out" process.

8.5 *Meeting with the Addiction Counsellor*

Finally, I met with Mr. Cal McCarthy, the Addiction Counsellor at the prison. The greatest addictions in the prison are alcohol, cocaine, and heroin, in that order. He felt that it was necessary to provide an intermediary period (Post-Release Pre-Treatment) between prison and freedom to deal with these problems. At the moment, the addict will tend to disappear after release, and this problem will worsen as heroin use increases. He pointed out that Narcotics Anonymous is not permitted within the prison as its members will invariably have a record of at least a minor offence and thus be barred from entry to participate in an addiction counselling programme. He felt this was short-sighted. (Management state that NA are permitted to visit the prison subject to IPS security clearance).

8.6 *Meeting with Dentist*

The dentist was on holidays on our previous week's inspection and he very kindly returned to the prison on the Tuesday to facilitate the discussions with the Inspector and J Woods, which was much appreciated. His normal day of attendance is Wednesday and he brings his dental nurse with him. The nurse also accompanied him at our meeting.

The dentist showed us his working conditions within the dentistry. He complained regarding several issues, one being the room being so cluttered. It is being used as a storage facility for old files, the storage of medical equipment such as a fibulator, stretchers, plus lockers with pillows and

shoes on top of them, instead of having it clear and used solely as a dentistry,

The the x-ray machine doesn't work on a regular basis and needs replacing. The developer is not working at all and the dentist has to bring the slides to his own private practice, have them developed there, then bring them back the following week. This practice is completely unacceptable to the dentist.

The waiting list is another problem. It very much depends on the staff roster as when it comes to 12.30p.m to 12.40p.m the staff leave for their lunch break. So there is no staff available to either unlock the prisoners or accompany them to the dentistry. The dentist said that he was anxious to clear the waiting list but with the system the way it is, he is unable to do so. He can not work on once it comes near lunch time. The other problem he finds is with "the protection prisoners" as they can only be brought to the surgery when the other prisoners are locked up. Generally, they are last on the list, so if the staff are going off early he is unable to reach them. They get put back further and further each week on the waiting list.

The dentist expressed his extreme frustration with the authorities' rules regarding the treatment of long term prisoners. They are not allowed crown or root canal treatment, (in accordance with the public health treatment scheme), but as these prisoners are serving long sentences they have no way of availing of this treatment, which he feels is not acceptable. He fully complies and agrees with the public health guidelines in relation to remand

prisoners and prisoners serving short term sentences as they can avail of this treatment on release.

The major issue was the lack of hygiene within the surgery and it certainly needs improvement. There was a demonstration where the dentist rubbed his hand on the window sill and his hand came up completely black, so the hygiene levels needs to be improved dramatically.

So overall, the dental services are in a room not suitable for the purpose. It is very small and cluttered. It is being used as a storage area which is unacceptable. The need to supply a new developer and a new x-ray machine is essential. The staffing problems re lunch time cover should be sorted out as a matter of urgency. The hygiene levels needs immediate improvement.

8.7 *Meeting with POA*

The Inspector met the chairman of the POA and another officer who is a prison officer but not on the local committee. He has just got a diploma in forensic psychology and did a two year course in UCC. It is wonderful to see prison officers improving themselves and thereby improving the service they can and do provide. The old "Turnkey" is now mercifully history. It should certainly be the policy of the IPS to support and encourage such systems which studies will benefit us all.

The majority of staff here have service between fifteen and twenty five years. In other words they are very mature and experienced staff.

They point out that Cork is the most overcrowded prison in the Irish Prison Service. Staff on a daily basis are still encountering "slop out" which in this day and age is totally unacceptable. They feel that privacy is a basic human right to be accorded to all prisoners'. That is access to a toilet 24 hours a day.

The Cork branch complained of prisoners living conditions on a number of occasions. After all, prisoners living conditions are prison officers working conditions. Improvement in one area will automatically improve in the other area. Prison Officers are actively improving service to prisoners. The "Thinking skills" programme is still active. The "your equal programme" is just an incentive. The Inspector includes a memo on that topic in relation to this report.

The gymnasium in the main prison is now available seven days a week for three periods. Before this, there were only two periods for five days a week. The management and staff deserve great praise for this.

Since the Inspector last met this group on his inspection in 2004 there has been a dramatic change. They are now working under "the proposal for organisational change". The staff can now see the benefits of a new system of work which has totally eradicated the abusive and destructive overtime

system which was in place before this change came into effect. Overtime, as the POA knew it, was guaranteed to the promoted grade, which in their opinion, was a total abuse. The control of this overtime meant that the lower grades had to make do with the scraps that were left. In their opinion, Cork Prison is probably operating the best system in the country. Staff are guaranteed earnings prevalence to their ban of additional hours. Staff have more stability with maximum time off. Staff are now operating a more staff friendly system with little or no cuts. They maintain that the work at local level was hard for management to accept as the old ethos was still present.

The main concern of the POA is the overcrowding. This prison was built for 150 prisoners but the IPS with their spin on bed capacity exceeds 266 prisoners. The POA maintain that when this prison regularly approaches this figure "shedding" or the "revolving door" system comes into force. There are regular transfers to Shelton Abbey to relieve pressure on this prison.

Despite the improvement in the staffs' conditions of employment, the prisoners are living in cramped conditions with no toilet facilities (except in the confined and very limited D wing). The overcrowding situation has led to confrontation, particularly when a two person cell has a third prisoner added to it. From a staffing point of view regarding safe custody, this is a difficulty. Local management and the local branch of the POA are negotiating to resolve this problem.

The P.O.A maintain that staffing levels at night time are inadequate in an emergency or if they have to perform extra duties that occur on a regular

basis i.e escort, etc.

As was the case in 2004, assaults on staff are still happening, also needle stick injuries have occurred in the last year. Measures have been put in place to minimise this particularly evil practice. Prisoners were putting needles in concealed locations in order to injure staff.

They then turned to the question of industrial relations since 2004. In the interim there have been 3 Governors. In 2004 the Governor retired then Governor Liam Metcalfe took over and industrial relations began to mellow and became very good and cordial. Governor Metcalfe retired and was replaced by Governor Cowman, industrial relations continued to grow. Sadly he died and was replaced by the present Governor Jim Collins.

The POA state that industrial relations are a difficult area, there are always going to be differences or minor disputes and that Cork is no exception. However, they stated that Industrial relations under the current Governor were extremely good and believe will continue to prosper. There is also a good relationship between staff and prisoners, mainly due to the maturity and experience of the said professional staff. They accept that Cork prison is not acceptable as a prison in 2007. They felt that staff and management should be complimented on the job they all do in difficult circumstances.

The Inspector endorses that view.

8.8 *Meeting with Chaplains*

The Inspector met Fr. Kidney SMA and the reverend Brian O'Rourke. They are both concerned about aftercare. The inspector mentioned that the houses on the road down from the prison were to be used as half way houses. This apparently never happened. However, there are various organisations which are making an impact but there is still a great need for more to be done. They mentioned the Cork Alliance Centre. Choice, Chance, Change, The Robert Scott House on St. Patrick's Quay, Cork City. The flyers state "what we can help you do..." Deal with the reasons why you are in prison and/or the courts. They work on a one to one basis and on confidentially: Access counsellors and addiction services. Access community and social services; get and keep accommodation; guest training and employment".

The Inspector mentioned the Muslims. There are at least six Muslims in the prison. He mentioned prayer rooms in prisons in England which he had visited. Apparently there is not as yet a mosque in Cork. The Inspector tried to get the picture of the situation. As far as he can ascertain, there was a house used for Friday prayers but it moved to another premises. In the library a bible is available but is seldomly used. It has no Koran at present. The inspector was informed that there used to be one but it was "borrowed".

As previously, the inspector was very impressed with the openness and dedication of both these gentlemen. They serve not merely the prisoners but also the staff.

8.9 *Meeting with the Visiting Committee*

The Inspector met the chairman and another member of the visiting committee. They were also joined later by a third member. They welcomed the Inspector. They stated that there are a number of new members of the committee. They nearly have a full complement. On this the Minister had to be congratulated.

They were very uncertain about their position and their powers. The Inspector who had been on the visiting committee of St. Patrick's and was the Chairman of the visiting committee of Mountjoy, explained the provisions of the 1925 visiting committees act and the 1925 regulations. He suggested that every member of the visiting committee should be provided with a copy of both of those instruments. However, because of an alleged conflict of interest many of these powers were removed by Section 19 of the 1997 Act. That purported to allow the visiting committee to reverse the governor's decision "in accordance with the rules". Of course no such rules ever came into existence. The Inspector has highlighted this ridiculous situation. Now that section has been repealed in its entirety without ever being really effective.

The inspector was informed by the committee that it was very active and was very keen to take an active part in the prison. He commended them on their reports which highlighted yet again the problems which exist in an overcrowded Cork prison. The visiting committees throughout the system should be properly and fully informed regarding their functions and their powers.

Since so many of the visiting committee are new, it was felt by the visiting committee as it was in former years, that they visit other prisons and share their experiences. However, the former Minister removed this privilege to save costs. It costs very little compared with the Department's staff. It should be restored.

8.10 Meeting with the Probation and Welfare

The Inspector met with the senior probation officer attached to the prison. Things have improved since the inspector's last inspection. There are now two probation officers assisting. He provided the inspector with literature about the Cork Alliance Centre which is already cited in this report and faxed the Inspector statistics for May 2007. The number of plans as at 31st May 2007 was 86.

Between January 2005 and May 2007 the placements statistics for the Alliance Centre were

Accommodation	59
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Training courses	59
Treatment centre	24
Counselling	57
Job/CE scheme	25

The probation service is an agency within the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform. It has its statutory existence in an Act of 1907. That Act should be brought up to date and the Probation Service should be given more independence. They have over 430 staff in offices in more than 40 locations nationwide with their headquarters in Smithfield Chambers, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Their work is impressive and effective and costs a great deal less than prison. Drugs and alcohol are major problems with their clients. They are major factors in most cases. They also, under the Children's Act 2001, have established a young persons probation team in Cork who deal with children exclusively of age 12 - 18 years old.

There is an excellent "Le Cheile" monitoring projects where the community volunteers three hours a week for two years. There is a strict recruitment procedure and once accepted the monitors have to be good communicators and active listeners. They are assigned to a youth for 3 hours per week with the youth doing planned activities such as golf, go-karting, going to museums, galleries, playing pool, etc. The Inspector was very impressed by the presentation of the head Probation Officer. He states that up to 200 people avail of this service each year. He states: "a significant characteristic experienced by Irish prisoners is one of severe levels of personal and social

disadvantage. Substance abuse is one of the dynamic risk factors that when changed, or associated with changes, in, the probability of recidivism”.

The Probation Officer stated that all prisoners were seen within three days of arrival. The Welfare Service now have enough of accommodation in the prison and they also have an extra room in “D” wing. Drugs was and is a major problem in this prison despite great efforts to exclude drugs. He also stated that there were lots of people here who were formerly attending psychiatric hospitals. Mental health is a very important component . N.A comes only every three weeks but A.A comes two days a week. Drugs are unfortunately escalating in Cork and Kerry, particularly in the last ten years. A step down facility is badly need.

8.11 Inspector's attendance at “You are equal” meeting

The inspector on his last morning was informed that the high risk prisoner with whom he had spent an hour in “D” wing wanted to see him again. However, the Inspector explained to the officer that he could do nothing for individual prisoners but that there were two members of the Visiting Committee in the prison on that morning and very appropriately, they saw the gentleman in question.

The Inspector attended the conclusion of the meeting of “you are equal” committee. This is a fairly new development. It has 65 centres throughout Europe and is operating in Castlerea and Cork Prisons on a pilot basis. The

ever cheerful Governor Scannell of Castlerea is a director of it. The project is multi-disciplinary. It is voluntary both from the staff and the prisoner point of view. Their primary purpose is to recognise obstacles and try to remove them in order to build self confidence. They select three groups of 15 prisoners over the life of the project (the current one will end in December 2007). They test the prisoners as to where they are weak. They take a variety of people. They work out of hours. The course is for six weeks. There are a number of organisations which are involved. Fas and other agencies have been involved in it for two and a half years. It is a splendid initiative and is very welcome in the two Irish prisons and there should be serious consideration given to spreading it. The dedication of the staff and agencies present at the meeting was very impressive. However, they told me that people with mental needs, it is impossible to provide for them. There are not enough suitable places to put them.

8.12 Meeting with Prisoners

Two prisoners requested to see the inspectorate and were seen by Prof. Fennel and Jim Woods. Their main complaints were as follows:

They stated that they were Muslims and that there was no chaplain to facilitate their religion. A chaplain had come into the prison on one occasion and has not come back. They have a prayer group and a congregation of prayer on Fridays but the prison is not facilitating them with this religious practice.

They complained about the general hygiene, toilet facilities, the slopping out in the morning time with only two toilets and a landing of 34 prisoners who use it inside about 15 minutes duration. So, if you didn't get your chamber pot emptied, or try and get a wash or get fresh water, there is great difficulty in doing this in the time allowed.

Regarding the food, they complaint that the supply of food for the tea meal was very small and they were quite hungry during the night. This was particularly on Sundays. When asked about purchasing goods in the tuck shop they said the tuck shop stocks mostly very sugary substance and therefore it is not a substitute for a substantial tea.

They complained that the mops used in the toilets/wash areas were the same mops as used on the landings and cell floors. They were lucky insofar as they also get a shower per day, which was granted to them by the Governor, as requirement of their religion for ablution. The showering facilities in the prison are very poor. They also stated that the recreation hall was very sparse of things like a television, or a few tables to play cards. There is nothing in this area and people either just sit around or walk up and down the hall which is not good for motivation or occupying prisoners.

They outlined that there were no extra privileges for prisoners who want to comply with the rules and those who wanted to do rehabilitation courses. It doesn't effect them as both of them are hoping to return to prisons in England as they have already applied for same.

They complained about racism within the prison, particularly among some senior members of staff who appear to be the worst. They praised a lot of the staff but said that some were extremely racist and passed remarks towards them and the travellers who were being called "knackers", etc. They also appeared not to know anything about the complaints procedures. They felt that in comparison to the English prisons that the Irish prisons were way behind time. If a complaint was made here you never heard another word about it, as in England, it is followed up and you get an answer.

They also spoke of the education section, that the teachers were very willing to help, give advice, also assistance in the classes on an individual bases. But that the education areas were sometimes used by prisoners who had absolutely no interest in learning and in particular, the computer sections were used for playing games.

They complained about the doctor's manner and of his follow up treatment.

They spoke about the issue of razors, that they were being mixed up and one would not be guaranteed to get the same razor every day. The same applies to hair cutting where the same trimmer is used on each prisoner which raises the question of hygiene. They also stated that they were not given free access to the 1947 rule book, despite the fact that they had looked for same. Regarding hygiene, they were critical of the mattresses

which are used for committals. They were dirty at times and the same mattresses were used time and time again and without being cleaned.

They also complained that the national 28 day cycle menu does not apply here and there wasn't as wide a choice as in other prisons. They stated that there is nothing else for breakfast only cornflakes as in other prisons they have at least 3 choices of cereals.

When asked if there was any racism from other prisoners, they said that they were amazed that there was none and they hadn't witnessed any either. They also complained about lost property in Portlaoise Prison even though they had written to the Governor of Portlaoise.

They raised the question of mental health amongst prisoners and that in their opinion there were prisoners detained here who should be in a psychiatric hospital. They also complained about the lack of access to toilets when locked in their cells. If one banged on the cell door to get out to use the toilet generally (a) the officers wouldn't come near you or (b) they would tell you to use your chamber pot. The toilet facilities are not available during the period of lock up but especially at night time, they do not allow prisoners out at all. [This has been denied by management who state that extra staff are brought on duty to facilitate prisoners use the toilet during lock up]

8.13 *Meeting 2nd Group of Prisoners*

The Inspector and J. Woods met two prisoners who had requested to see the Inspectorate. One of the prisoners outlined that he was also bringing the views of some of the other prisoners who had known that he was coming to meet the Inspectorate. He emphasised that he was not acting as spokesperson for the other prisoners. They raised a number of issues which were as follows.

1. They only received one shower per week despite the fact that there are good showering facilities within the prison. There are no showers available after playing soccer and when prisoners return to the landing they go to the wash area and throw a bucket of water over themselves.
2. They complained that there is no cash registrar in the tuck shop and they don't receive receipts, they sign for what they purchase.
3. They complained re rules of no physical contact on the visits and claim that it is the only prison in the country that such rules apply. It is impossible to try and keep a family together with such restricted rules.
4. They claim that an ACO was heard calling a coloured person "a black B". Staff make several racist remarks and there is no system or policy in the prison to investigate such remarks. They also said that if they make a complaint, it is not fully investigated and that the management simply does not want to know or hear about it. They were asked if

there was any racism amongst the prisoners themselves and they stated that there was some and that the travellers were also subject to some racism.

5. They complained about the quality of the food. They said that the variety and quality is poor and that it is not prepared properly. Another prisoner complained that the food served here is not suitable for diabetics. He is a diabetic sufferer and there is no allowance made for his medical condition. They are not allowed see a dietician.
6. They also raised the point as to how this prison is run by staff, unlike other prisons where the goodwill of prisoners is also part of running the prison. The threat of being placed in the "D" block is used for the least of breaches of discipline and the prison is run on fear.
7. They claimed that their families are not allowed to leave runners in for them. Runners have to be bought through the tuck shop. They are purchased in one particular sports shop that charge extremely high prices for same (at €120). They feel that the staff get benefits for their own personal purchasing in this shop as a result of the prison trade. They suggested that there should be x-ray machines, as in other prisons, and then family could supply them.

8. They complained of no fresh drinking water in the main gym. They didn't trust the water from the taps as there was no way of having it tested.
9. There were complaints concerning the doctor. If a prisoner is sick and needs a doctor, his name must go down the night before, otherwise he will not be seen by the doctor. The doctor attends the prison so early that there is no opportunity to see him except at 8.00am and prisoners are not unlocked until 8.15am. One of the prisoners outlined that he contacted TB in this prison years ago and that he was not properly treated for almost two years until he went to a prison in England where he was diagnosed immediately.
10. They requested if a barber could be allowed into the prison. They had to cut each others hair but most of them just shaved their heads as there is no proper barber.
11. A prisoner complained of being unjustly treated by the Courts Service, the Judge and the Legal System. The only reason he states that he is dealt with in such a fashion is because he is a foreign national. He was informed that this is a personal issue, that he has his own solicitor and barrister and that the matter should be raised through them as the inspectorate can not take up individual cases.

This concluded our meeting with the prisoners.

8.14 Meeting with a Prisoner in Special "D" wing

A prisoner who has spent seven years in Portlaoise prison requested to meet with the Inspector. He has for the last three months been in Cloverhill but was transferred to Cork. He said he has history of a period spent in a particularly harsh regime in Portlaoise and four years solitary. Since the 1st August 2006 he had been released, was out three months, and arrested on 1st November. His complaints were mainly with regard to how he was being treated by Prison Officers and the difficulties he had, particularly in Dublin based prisons, where he could not talk to any other prisoner, unlike for instance Cork, where we had seen him in the exercise yard with another prisoner.

8.15 Meeting with a Prisoner in the main Prison

A member of the prison population from the general population requested a meeting with the Inspector and Professor Fennell. At the meeting a number of issues were raised as follows:

1. Prison Officers, only a few around twenty in Cork prison had a tendency towards racism. This manifested itself in relation to travellers and also prisoners of other racial origins. The prisoner alleged that there was not racism amongst prisoners generally, but that the racism

of Prison Officers, in particular the use of certain language with regard to travellers and the calling of prisoners from Nigeria particularly offensive names, led to a lot of dissatisfaction amongst the prison population generally.

2. A second issue raised by this prisoner was the question of heroin, which led to particular problems in terms of prisoners being admitted to the prison suffering from withdrawal, in a situation where methadone is not given out in Cork in contrast to Limerick. The prisoner complained that the treatment given to those (increasingly numerous) prisoners was inadequate and consisted of tablets that would be given to alcoholics. He raised the issue of the fact that AA was available in the prison every week, whereas Narcotics Anonymous only once a month.
3. The third issue that was raised in terms of complaint was that the Psychiatrist, and in particular the Doctor, had refused to continue him on treatment which he had been receiving in Limerick Prison, i.e a sleeping tablet for six months. The Psychologist was singled out for particularly favourable comment as was the Dentist.
4. General issues with regard to cleanliness were raised. It was pointed out that the entire prison had been cleaned in the last week, particularly the toilets in the yard. The question that was raised was how in terms of the general population in the morning, thirty people could use two toilets in only 10 minutes. With regard to the change of

clothing, etc the complaint was that if the gym wasn't used by a prisoner, he only got one shower a week, which was not adequate.

8.16 *Meeting with the Addiction Counsellor*

The Inspector and Prof. Fennell spend a period of time observing and joining in the interview between Dr. Patrick Malone and the Addiction Counsellor. The main concerns raised by the addiction counsellor concerned the (non) availability of facilities post release and pre-treatment. A particular issue brought to our attention was the difficulty in Cork Prison with regard to attendance of Narcotics Anonymous at the prison. People who were members of that organisation and would normally facilitate the meeting would not be admitted to Cork Prison to host meetings because they have convictions. (This covers even public order convictions). This is in contrast with other institutions who are very open to member of Narcotics Anonymous attending despite having convictions. The point was made that many such members would have convictions as a result of their experience with drugs. This is an issue with regard to the local rules of Cork Prison and in terms of a wish list, the Addiction Counsellor as one of his suggestions asked that the particular rule be removed. (Please see management's response pg 86, 8.5)

8.17 *Meeting with Head of Education, Jim Woods and Caroline Fennell*

The Teacher professed himself pleased with the facilities available and the amount of space available within the prison for education. There were a number of prisoners taking public exams at the time of the inspection. The

greatest attendance was at any stage about 60% of the prison population between morning and afternoon, with 40% of the prison population not accessing the education facilities at all. 50% of the prison population he said had literacy problems. Staffing and accommodation was okay but the motivation and alienation of prisoners posed a particular difficulty. The biggest issue identified was one of post release accommodation and homelessness difficulties, although there was a staff member provided through the Cork Drugs Task Force working on same and that was working well. There was also Outreach programmes with Dillon's Cross Project, including female participants, which were working well. There were no disciplinary problems within the educational facility, no problems regarding access generally, but some discussion as to how possible speakers might come in from the outside which would give a greater degree of impetus to the prison population, perhaps if sporting heroes/managers were to attend. Linkages with local education providers were discussed and these are certainly working well at the VEC level. There might be a greater interest in the provision of further courses in the culinary arts and in some of the craft areas, but the more traditional modules offered did not prove all that attractive. There is a certain incentive to prisoners engaging with the education system, in so far as facilities are made available to them for single cell accommodation for study purposes, etc. The take up in terms of formal exams is low although there were a number sitting state examinations during the inspection time.

8.18 *General conditions*

In all of the interviews the issue of drug use in prison was addressed and it was accepted by all that there are a certain amount of drugs available at any time within the prison system.

The exercise facilities which were visited by Professor Fennell and the Inspector suffered from the fact that in order to prevent the distribution of drugs within the prison, the main exercise yard was covered with netting to prevent drugs been thrown in, which meant that even on a very sunny day, such as the day of the inspection, there was poor light in that yard, which was oppressive in terms of the atmosphere generated. By contrast the prisoners' smaller exercise yard, had the benefit of blue sky overhead which was a considerable advantage to them.

8.19 *Meeting with "Heads of Service"*

The Inspectorate team consisting of the Inspector and his Special Adviser met the "heads of service" i.e deputy/assistant governors, chief officers, chief trades officers, clerk 1's in charge of the offices and stores. The Inspector opened the meeting by outlining his role and said he wasn't going to expand on it as he had already outlined his functions when he met them on his first day of arrival.

The Inspector stated that the facilities within the visitors' waiting room were a total disgrace. It was far too small and that there were no tea/coffee making facilities. The Inspector outlined his experience of being in the waiting room

when a very young active child was running around and he was seeking water to drink and there wasn't any available for him. The officer had to go into the prison and purchase the water from the tuck shop for him. He also outlined that there was no hand drying facilities within the toilet area and that the plug was also missing in the ladies' wash hand basin. The Inspector was informed that the hand dryer was disconnected because it was extremely noisy and there was a request made that it be turned off. He was also informed that towels had been supplied within the waiting area but that they had been either used to block the toilets or else they were removed on a continuous basis by visitors. One of the management team said that they were aware of the short comings within the waiting area. It was in need of expansion but no financial approval has been received for this work. Unless the whole waiting area is expanded to accommodate tea/coffee making facilities it is impossible to fit these machines into the present waiting room. A paper hand drying facility will be looked into.

The Inspector then outlined that the drinking fountains on the landings were also broken, there was only one out of five working. The management side said that that they were the old style ones, which were installed when the prison was renovated and again they were constantly abused and broken. They are being replaced and updated as of now.

The Inspector spoke of six Muslim prisoners within the prison who have not got their own Muslim chaplain. The cleric visited on one occasion but he has not returned. They were anxious to have their cleric come to the prison. He

was informed that in Muslim practice the congregation come to the cleric and that the cleric does not go to the people, which is the practice in some of the other religions. There were discussions re the presence of a mosque in Cork and apparently there is one. The Inspector then enquired if the Koran was available and if it was in the library. Management said that if anyone made a request for a Koran it would be got for them and infact one was purchased in recent times. There was one in the library which is borrowed at present. He enquired if the Muslims were allowed to practice their religious ceremonies and was informed that they were and furthermore their meal times were changed to coincide with their religious ceremonies.

The management team outlined that over crowding was a big problem in the prison. It was difficult to get prisoners transferred out to reduce the overcrowding situation. They also outlined that drugs were a major problem that and it was a constant battle to keep them out, despite the vigilant staff. There is quite an amount of drugs getting into the prison which is a cause of concern.

The Inspector inquired if there were any prisoners serving sentences for fines and he was informed that there were eight prisoners here at present. The management side think that some prisoners come in to serve short sentences for fines and their sole purpose is to bring drugs in their bodies into the prison. This, they think, appears to be a planned method of getting drugs into the prison. The question of drug dogs then arose and the meeting was informed that no drug dogs were here as of yet.

The Inspector then enquired regarding the three half way houses that were available outside of the prison for prisoners on release. He was informed that there were no such house for that purpose. The Inspector was informed that in Cork City (alliance centre) there was an arrangement for some prisoner accommodation on release and that it was the Probation and Welfare who have a major role in this accommodation, but it is not sufficient to met the needs.

One of the members outlined that the recommendations arising from the 2004 inspection were taken seriously and that a working committee was set up after that inspection to look at same. He also outlined that some aspects of the recommendations were outside of their power to change as they required finance and other policy issues, which only comes from headquarters. The Inspector said that he was fully satisfied that they did take his report and recommendations seriously, that he was pleased with the amount they had done, however some of it was left in the manner of "the matter is now receiving attention" which in other words is sitting on someones desk or some press gathering dust.

The meeting then heard that the workshops will be brought up to certification standard. The next one on line will be the hurley repair workshop. It was also outlined that six prisoners were placed on a foundation catering course and if successful will go on to a full recognised certification course.

The Inspector enquired about sex offenders and if there were many in the prison at present to which he was informed that there were eight. They are separated on a landing in one of the blocks and that they generally work in the laundry area. The Inspector enquired if they get hassle and was informed that they do but staff are very alert to such and stamp it out immediately.

The Inspector outlined that he had received complaints from prisoners that there were about 20 officers here who harass prisoners on a regular basis. The Inspector asked if there were any booklets here on bullying and racism, as are in other prisons. He was informed that there are none at present but that they are working on one which will be published very shortly. The meeting was informed that if prisoners make a complaint it is fully investigated. They received only one complaint in the last 12 months which was withdrawn by the prisoner when the investigations began. [The records show that 7 prisoners complained, pages 72/73 refers] Some of the members at the meeting were a bit disturbed at the allegations and outlined that if the management knew that this was happening they would certainly fully investigate it. They couldn't understand that such allegations arose in view of the fact that no complaints were made on the Governor's parade or received by any other means. One of the members asked the Inspector if he would forward the officers names to management so that they could investigate it but the Inspector refused same.

The Inspector then asked about travellers and if any of them were being harassed to which he was informed that they don't get any more or less hassle than other prisoners. Maybe other prisoners may call them names but by and large they are not hassled in any way. The meeting was informed that the staff have a great understanding with the prisoners, there was a great mix of senior and junior staff and that they also carry out one compassionate deed per week, either an escort to a hospital, a funeral, a home visit, etc in order to facilitate some prisoners requests.

Escorts were discussed and the Inspector was informed that there was an escort corp operating from a building separate from the main prison. This corp covers escorts from both Cork and Limerick prisons and they operate on a Monday to Friday basis. Any escorts from the prison at weekends or after 5.00pm are generally not done by the escort corp but by the main prison staff. The Inspector enquired as to how well the escort corp were operating and he was informed that it appeared to be working quite well.

The meeting was informed that the painting of the prison was now been carried out by an outside contractor since the annualised hours came into operation. They had a trades officer on the staff and he was transferred (arising from the annualised hours) and since he left there is no permanent painting party. The cost of the painting contract amounted to a considerable sum plus the fact that a member of staff had to escort the contract workers while they were in the prison which adds to the cost. It doesn't make sense to transfer a painter who would be available the whole year round and to

replace him with a contractor on a short term basis at what appears greater expense and far less painting carried out in the prison.

The Inspector was asked if he considered that the few number of prisoners who had looked to see him reflected the good relationship between staff and prisoners at this prison. The Inspector replied that he agreed that would be the case. The Inspector also spoke of the very few requests there were for officers transfer out of the prison which meant that the staff were obviously happy working here.

A general discussion then took place regarding the transferring of this prison to a new location. The fact that this is "indecision time" because if they look for money to carry out work they will be informed that there is no point spending money on a building that may be replaced, so to a certain degree, the prison is operating in limbo at the present time. The Inspector outlined that the prison was well run and that he would be sorry to see it go. He felt it should be used at least for a remand centre where it would be accessible to the courts and to the solicitors visiting their clients as well as the prisoners' visitors.

The Inspector then thanked them all for their attendance and for their contribution at the meeting, which was much appreciated.

9. Health and Safety (Especially fire aspects)

- 9.1 The Inspectorate met with the management in relation to health and safety matters. The fire plans, records regarding checks and service contracts plus other records relating to evacuation, training, etc were displayed.

They produced the fire plan of the prison which is currently being updated as there are some new buildings on site. Staff are issued with a pocket size booklet which outlines what to do in the event of fire or emergency. There are also sections of maps of the fire plan displayed on notice boards and the full fire plan is available. There is no fire prevention committee attached to the prison.

- 9.2 The small booklet of the fire plan is only issued to disciplinary staff, the teachers, probation and welfare, Chaplains, etc are not issued with such. No prisoners have access to the fire plans except what are displayed on the walls in particular areas. There are no notices displayed inside the cells for prisoners' information regarding the dangers of fire, or what to do in the event of a fire, or for a fire drill evacuation. The prisoners are issued with an information book at committal but the booklet does not include procedures re fire or evacuations.

The fire plans include the location of the fire hydrants and the stand pipe connections. They also include the location of the hand held fire extinguishers but not the location of the fire alarms. They include the location of the emergency exits and the assembly points. The fire plan does

not include the location of the cut off points for gas, electricity, etc nor does it include the location of hazardous materials within the buildings or area.

The officer in charge of B.A training, when conducting a training class, brings each group of officers to the various areas and points out to them the location of the fire hydrants, the operation of the stan pipe connections, the hoses, the emergency hoses on the landings, the cut off points for gas, electricity, and the valves that open the dry liners.

- 9.3 There is a ring water supply main surrounding the prison which is attached to the city supply. There is one water supply main initially entering the prison but then it branches off to a dedicated line for domestic use and the second line serves for emergency purposes. There are hydrants attached to the mains and these hydrants are displayed with a yellow covering with the letter "H" adjacent. There are dry risers fitted within the main cellular buildings with the necessary hose reels to attach to them. There is a "first aid" hose reel fitted within each of the landings which can reach the furthest point of requirement. There are water storage tanks fitted within the prison for fire fighting/emergency use and have a capacity of 60 thousand gallons. There are "jockey" pumps fitted to the system at the water storage area and the pumps are electrically operated plus a back up diesel engine. The water pressure on the prison's fire hose mains is 5 -6 bar and this is compatible with the local fire brigades engines. The brigades have attached their engines to the prison's water supply and have checked them regularly. The records show that the last time the fire brigade carried out such exercise was March

2006. The fire brigade personnel visit the prison regularly and each new group of fire officers familiarise themselves with the prison layout. There are no water sprinkler installed in any of the cellular accommodation except in the two "special cells" in the "D" unit.

There are approximately 90 hand held fire extinguishers located at various points throughout the prison. Those that are contained in steel cabinets are clearly marked "fire extinguishers" and are quite easily identified. The dry powder type are located at the boiler house, outside the smoking room in the mess, basement of officers mess, the radio room and back gate area. There are eight fire blankets located within the kitchen areas and there are no "inbuilt" fire extinguishers within the canopies over the cooking areas.

- 9.4 There is no smoke detection system installed in the main cellular areas except in "D" wing which is of the air sampling type. There are smoke detection systems installed in other areas such as the offices, stores, education area, etc. The smoke detectors are linked to the control panels which indicate the smoke area, such control panels are located centrally in the radio room/control room. If smoke is detected in the detection system it activates an alarm. There are fire alarms (break glass units) installed within the prison and they can be used for both raising the alarm in case of a fire or in case of an emergency/security situation. There is also a general fire bell/siren installed in the prison and if such is sounded, the instructions to staff as to procedures to follow in such an event is outlined in the fire plans.

There is a "colt" smoke extraction system installed in the prison and it activates automatically on detection of smoke within an area but it can also be activated manually. The smoke extractors are linked electronically to the smoke detectors. The manual points for the operation of the smoke extractors are in two central locations within the prison and they also control the roof vents.

- 9.5 There are no fire doors installed on the corridors of the prison nor in the stairwells, but they are installed in the administration and the education areas. Such doors are marked "fire door" and "exit" is displayed over them. There are emergency exits from all of the cellular accommodation as well as from all the workshop areas, the offices, stores and education areas. The emergency exit signs are illuminated and can be clearly identified. There is an emergency lighting system installed throughout the prison. The staff informed us that there is no need to place a protection grid over the light fittings to which prisoners have access, as they have not experienced of any vandalism to such installations. The prison has also its own power generator.

The prison has a service contract with various "outside" companies to carry out services on fire and emergency equipment. Some of these contracts are six monthly, others are monthly, while others are on a quarterly or yearly basis. On examination of the records they state that all of the fire extinguishers and fire blankets are checked on a six monthly basis. The last

time such were checked was the 16th January 2007. The SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) is checked monthly and the last service was carried out in May 2007. The smoke detectors and control panels are checked quarterly and the last service was carried out in February and April 2007. The break glass units are also checked quarterly and again they were checked at the same time as the others on the 19th and 20th of February 2007. The emergency lighting is checked locally monthly and the contractor checks them quarterly, the last such record of the contractor's check was on the 8th June 2007. The emergency cut off points (electrical and gas) are checked yearly, the last one was carried out on the 13th December 2006. The hose reels and fittings are checked twice yearly the last time they were checked was on the 16th January 2007.

- 9.6 There are a number of services and checks carried out by the local trades staff. The records show that the extinguishers, B.A equipment, hose reels, are checked monthly and the last check by local staff was on the 3rd May 2007. The emergency exit doors are checked daily by the occupiers within the area and by the trades staff on a monthly basis. The alarms are checked weekly but if activated outside of check time they are also examined at that particular time. The water pumps and the "jockey" pumps are checked weekly, the last check was done on 8/6/07. The hydrants are checked monthly and the last recorded check was done on 1/5/07.

There is an up to date register maintained for daily, weekly, monthly inspections of the escape routes, emergency exits, fire doors, emergency

lighting and fire detection system as well as the service records for all fire and emergency equipment.

The records show that 195 staff received full B.A refresher training.

Regarding the control and restraint training, no training has taken place in either phase 1, 2 or 3 during the last year but management assured us that they hope to commence this training by September next.

- 9.7 Three fire drill evacuations took place in the past year on 15/1/06, the 24th April 2006 and the 6th May 2007. The areas evacuated on those occasions were "C" division, "B" division and the Education unit and the "A" division. Two of these evacuation took place on Sunday mornings while the education area was on a Monday. In the "A" exercise there were 73 prisoners, 10 staff and it took 5 minutes 10 seconds to evacuate. The "B" exercise entailed 45 prisoners 5 prison staff, 9 teachers, 5 welfare and 2 psychology staff and it took 4 minutes 50 seconds while the "C" exercise took 4 minutes 41 seconds which involved 87 prisoners and 12 staff. The prisoners are informed verbally by the officers that there is a fire drill evacuation practice taking place and that they are to leave their location and go to the assembly areas.

The emergency exit signs and assembly points are displayed. None of the cells in the main area of the prison are fitted with a fire hose reel head indentation facility but the cell doors in the "D" unit do have same.

The local fire brigade personnel are familiar with the prison buildings and the areas surrounding the prison. They have brought the various size fire brigade/engines into the prison and connected the hose reels, etc to the prison's fittings. There are plans in place regarding the fire brigade's arrival to the prison in the case of an emergency and who is to meet them, use of keys, etc.

The Prisoners are informed as to where they are allowed smoke and there are also designated smoke areas for staff. Prisoners are allowed to have cigarette lighters and matches in their cells and there is a restriction/policy re amount of combustible materials allowed in the cells. If staff find an excessive amount of papers, etc in their cells they are removed. The prisoners are allowed the following articles in their cell:- a television, radio, Playstation 1, and an electric kettle, [not allowed a computer, laptop, electric razor or a dvd player]. There is a purchasing policy in operation specifying that all cell furnishings including the bedding, duvets, etc conform to flammable standards. The special blankets used in the padded or strip cells plus the duvets and duvet covers are washed frequently. However, no checks have been carried out on these to establish if they still retain their fire retardancy following so many washes.

That completed the meeting with the management team concerning health and safety matters and they were thanked for the production of their records and for their time involved.

9.8 *Meeting with the Health and Safety Staff's Representative*

The Inspectorate met the staff's representative health and safety officer and a discussion took place regarding his views and those of the staff that he represents.

He outlined that there had been no full evacuation in the prison in the last ten years. He complained of the lack of staff training. Smoking by prisoners in the recreation hall is still taking place even though it is not suppose to. He is aware that to stamp it out entirely may create a serious incident but at the same time it is a genuine complaint regarding the staff's working conditions.

The officer also outlined that there is a problem with bullying, both by staff on staff and by management on staff. It is quite difficult to deal with especially in view of the lack of evidence, etc, however, he feels its a problem worth mentioning. He also highlighted some other health and safety issues regarding the staff's safety such as operation of some gates, needle pricks and hygiene at palm reading areas. The officer mentioned about outside cleaners doing a good job in the locker rooms but that the standard of hygiene overall should be improved.

He outlined that there was only one safety representatives' meeting held in Beladd House, Portlaoise, in the last five years. He felt that they were not kept up to date on new legislation or what is happening with their colleagues in other prisons. The other issue raised was the fact that he generally doesn't have time to take the allowed three hours per week for health and

safety work. He finds himself doing some of his work on the computer in his own home which he feels is unfair. The office facility he has here, he states, is quite small and cramped.

10. *Recommendations*

1. That prison management provide a prayer room for the prisoners of Muslim faith so that they can pray together each Friday. It can be quite a simple room with a new clean carpet or prayer mats and have copies of the Koran. There must be signs to the direction of Mecca and provisions for ablutions. (8.8 pg 92 and 8.12 pg 97)
2. That the N.A be encouraged to attend meetings more frequently and a review of the prison's policy re its members entering the prison (8.15 pg 105)
3. That the prisoners' visiting area be improved. The waiting room should be provided with at least drinking water and the toilet should be provided with adequate hygienic methods of drying hands. The whole of this area is inadequate and needs updating. (7.33 pg 79 + 8.13 pg 102)
4. That better cleaning is required on floor of slop out areas of B2 landing also repainting required surrounding the window in toilet area of B3 landing. (7.1 pg 51, 52)
5. That the ceiling area of the toilets on A3 landing be repaired as water is seeping through it. (7.5 pg 54)

6. That the drinking fountain, slop hoppers and wash hand basins on A2 landing be brought up to an acceptable level of hygiene. That the repainting of the toilet area plus replacing of broken tiles in this area be carried out. (7.6 pg 54)
7. That the mats in the shower trays on C2 landing be replaced. (7.10 pg 56)
8. That the broken tiles in the toilet area of recreation hall be replaced. (7.14 pg 59)
9. That the outlets from the showers in the gym area are repaired as a matter of urgency. (7.26 pg 70)
10. That the control room/radio room be relocated to a more secure area and a bigger area provided for its staff and equipment. (7.24 pg 68)
11. That the holding cells and wash hand basin in reception area to be cleaned and repainted. (7.25 pg 68)
12. That better storage and office facilities be provided for the tuck shop including refrigeration facilities. (7.27 pg 71)

13. That a review take place concerning the disposal/storage of old files in the archives for to allow to free up space for more current out of use files. (7.31 pg 76)
14. That the dentistry's broken equipment be replaced, that the hygiene levels be brought up to standard, that the area should not be used as a storage facility for other non dentistry items and that the access to prisoners (staff to escort prisoners to and from) be improved. If these recommendations cannot be met that consideration should be given to having the dentistry closed. (8.6 pg 86, 87, 88)
15. That the doctor's time and attendance be reviewed as the present system of attending the prison between 7.30 - 8.30am daily prior to prisoners unlock is unacceptable. (8.13 pg 103, 11.15 pg 130)
16. That a proper medical examination couch, and E.C.G machine or nebuliser be provided for the doctor's surgery. (8.1 pg 82)
17. That a larger area be provided for the doctor's surgery and that a sterile area be part of the larger area. (8.1 pg 83)
18. That the racism and bullying problems be closely monitored. That a new set of guidelines re racism be introduced and training re their introduction take place as soon as possible. (8.13 pg 98, 112 and 122)

11. Conclusions

- 11.1 The prison is overcrowded, it has a single cell capacity of 150 but holds an average of between 260 to 270 prisoners per day. Each single cell has a bunk bed and there are a few single cells retained for long sentence prisoners. The previous inspection highlighted the cells which contained up to 6 prisoners but thankfully those cells have been changed to two person cells. The cells are so small that they are unsuitable for any doubling up and there are 3 prisoners to a single cell at times of severe overcrowding. This is unacceptable. There are no sanitary facilities (except the 10 cells in D wing) within the prison and "slopping out" is the norm which is terrible in this age.
- 11.2 Plans for the refurbishment/replacement of the prison have been drawn up and changed several times. A juvenile centre was to be built on the grounds opposite the prison and a boundary wall was built $\frac{3}{4}$ way around it but the plans changed and the wall remains like a monument. A new prison was to be built on Spike Island but apparently that plan is now dropped and a new location is now being spoken of. These stop, go decisions make the management of the prison more difficult.
- 11.3 There is insufficient work or work training to occupy all of the prisoners during out of cell period. The education section take a daily average of approx 50 prisoners but there are between 130 and 160 who are idle which is unsatisfactory.

- 11.4 The level of hygiene within the prison is quite good considering the prison is over 100 years old, however, some of the toilet/wash areas could be improved. The painting of the inside of the prison could also be continued as some is freshly done while other areas need redoing. It is a pity that the prisoners are no longer engaged in this work as it is now being done by outside contractors.
- 11.5 Bullying and racism was raised as a problem by some prisoners and indeed some staff. It is very hard to prove that such is taking place and it is strenuously denied by management who state that they have received no complaints in this area. However, the complaints were from different sources and the inspectorate is of the opinion that both bullying and racism are taking place but to what degree is hard to establish. The inspectorate recommends that management provide courses in this area and to keep the situation under close review.
- 11.6 There is a need to bring the work done in workshops, laundry and the kitchen areas up to Fetac/Fas certificate standard. There is good work being done in these areas but if raised to recognised certification standards, it would be better. The kitchen is providing a great service but working facilities and conditions needs improvement. Despite their conditions, they successfully achieved their hygiene awards which is very complimentary.
- 11.7 The relationship between staff and prisoner appears quite good. There was a general good atmosphere and rapport between both. There were

complaints that a small number of staff were actively involved in racist remarks and a few were bullies. The evidence of this conduct is hard to obtain. There were 165 prisoners on disciplinary reports (P19's) in the past 3 months which appears quite a high number for a population of approx 265.

11.8 None of these lost remission arising from the reports while 37 were deprived evening recreation for 3 weeks or more. The balance were for less than 3 weeks. The nature of the main offences of the breach of prison discipline in the past six months were 7 assaults on staff plus 3 attempted assaults, while there were 41 assaults on fellow prisoners. There were 19 on report for smuggling or attempting to smuggle illegal substance (drugs) into the prison. The balance of the reports were mostly for insubordination, failing to comply with orders, etc.

11.9 The visiting facilities are inadequate. The waiting room for visitors is too small and has absolutely no facilities such as a creche, tea/coffee making facilities or even a machine for soft drinks or water. The prisoners during the visits have to stand while the visitors are seated. This, the management state, is for security reasons but the inspectorate is not convinced of such.

11.10 The shower room for the prisoners is modern and clean but there is a problem if a prisoners wishes to have more than one shower per week (unless he attends the gym). Perhaps a better schedule for showering could be arranged.

- 11.11 An official complaint book has been introduced into the service since February 2006 and there were 7 complaints recorded from February 2006 until June 2007. All of the complaints had been withdrawn by the prisoners after the complaint date but there were unsatisfactory conclusions as to why they were withdrawn. The recording of "withdrawn by the prisoner" without any explanation as to the reason for such is not satisfactory.
- 11.12 The "D" block continues to be used for disruptive prisoners, most of whom, come from other prisons. The records relating to the use of the special strip cells within the D block were up to date and fully accountable for their use.
- 11.13 There were no escapes from the prison from escorts or off temporary release for the previous 12 months. There was one escape from the escort corp.
- 11.14 The staffs' sick leave was highlighted by the Comptroller and Auditor General's report in 2002 and the daily average on the previous inspection in 2004 was 15.3 per officer, which is now 14.19 daily average with 8 staff on continuous sick leave for more than 6 months. So even with the introduction of the new annualised hours, the sick is almost the same. The annualised hours appear to be working well. The staff are very seldom recalled on compulsory overtime and the prison enjoys a small surplus of staff to requirement according to the "sort/step" figures. The staff appear to be availing of their time off much more so than in other prisons. The full compliment of staff in other prisons would help towards this. There was a turnover of 15 staff in the past year and there is no request from any staff for

a transfer out of the prison at present. The industrial relations appears to have improved considerably since our last inspection. There is a lack of staff training and development which management state will improve with effect from Sept 2007. However, some training and further education courses are being undertaken by some staff members. Such should be encouraged as it enhances the services' future and adds to its professionalism. There were no staff on disciplinary hearing in the past twelve months. There is a new prisoner escort corp established which is operated separately from the prison and covers escorts from both Cork and Limerick Prisons, mainly to and from the courts.

- 11.15 The medical services to the prisoners is provided by the medical orderlies, a doctor (G.P) who attends daily Monday - Friday and on call at week-ends, a psychiatrist who attends 3 half days per week, a dentist who attends a half day per week and 2 full time psychologists. An optician visits the prison when there are a few prisoners requesting such service. There is an addiction counsellor 5 days per week. The prison food is approved by a dietician and its the same 28 day cycle menu throughout the service, despite complaints to the contrary. The doctor's hour of attendance (7.30am - 8.30am) is a cause of concern as the prisoners are not unlocked until at least 8.15am daily, which leaves little time for the doctor to provide a service to them. If a prisoner wishes to see the doctor, he must put his name on the list the previous day, otherwise apparently he will not be seen. The time of the doctor's attendance and his duration in the prison is not a satisfactory service and should be looked into. There were no complaints concerning the

psychiatric services. The facilities provided for the dentist's work are completely unsatisfactory. The surgery is too small, the equipment needs replacement, the area is used as a storage facility for items not associated with dentistry and there is very poor hygiene within it. If there are not major improvements in the dentistry area, consideration should be given to closing it down entirely.

11.16 There is no methadone maintenance programme conducted within the prison but if a prisoner is transferred from another prison and was on methadone in the previous prison, then it is continued. (This applies to "D" division only).

There were no deaths in custody in the previous 12 months and no attempted suicides in the previous 6 months. There were 94 prisoners referred as out patients to general medical hospitals and 1 as in-patient in the previous 6 months. There were 2 prisoners transferred as in patients to the C.M.H in that period.

11.17 The psychology service received praise for their work as did the addiction counsellor and the optician.

11.18 The food sampled during our inspection was good and well presented. The evening meal serving on some of the days appeared sparse.

11.19 The Probation and Welfare officers provide a good service and the additional offices plus the group room has greatly enhanced their facilities. Local management are to be complemented on securing these extra spaces.

They provide anger management, re-settlement and pre-release programmes within the prison as well as the other requirements such as accommodation on release, family matters, drug related problems plus the other agency work which they feed into.

11.20 The education is provided by 10 full time and 10 part time teachers from the V.E.C. A daily average of approx 50 prisoners attend the education classes. The classes operate the normal school term but in addition they operate full time in June and part time in July. So August is the only month that there are no education facilities. Their curriculum is wide ranging and includes art, woodwork, home economics, science, maths, computers, crafts, food hygiene, parenting, english, literary, Irish as well as other areas such as health awareness, healthy eating, pre-release programmes, gaining employment, form filling, contacts on release, etc. In 2006, 4 prisoners sat the junior cert while 7 sat the leaving cert. A further 37 prisoners sat F.E.T.A.C exams. One prisoner received the Cambridge First Certificate in English. The head teacher states that 50% of the prison population have literacy problems. There are two teachers involved in remedial teaching and they spend approx 20 hours per week at literacy/numeracy work. The educational needs of the prisoner are well catered for.

11.21 The chaplains work was highly praised by management and prisoners and all agreed that they work way beyond their role. The inspector found them to be very caring and concerned individuals. The provision of a Muslim chaplain for prisoners of that persuasion should be looked at.

11.22 The Inspector was received with great courtesy and got great assistance from all parties. He would like to thank the Governor Mr. Collins and his liaison officer who was most attentive and helpful. He is also grateful to all persons named in the report who helped the inspector arrive at his conclusions and recommendations. To one and all thank you.