

**A report by the Inspector of Prisons
Judge Michael Reilly into the circumstances
surrounding the death of Prisoner G
on 3rd June 2013
while on temporary release**

***Please note that names have been removed to anonymise this Report**

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**A report by the Inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly
into the circumstances surrounding the death of Prisoner G
on 3rd June 2013 while on temporary release**

Presented to the Minister for Justice and Equality pursuant to
Part 5 of the Prisons Act 2007

Judge Michael Reilly
Inspector of Prisons

6th December 2013

Preface

Prisoner G was a 34 year old single man when he died on the 3rd June 2013 while on temporary release.

I offer my sincere condolences to the family of the deceased.

I met with a number of family members in the course of my investigation.

There are no matters of concern disclosed in this Report.

I would like to point out that names have been removed to anonymise this Report.

Judge Michael Reilly

Inspector of Prisons

6th December 2013

Inspector of Prisons Investigation Report

General information

1. The deceased was a 34 year old single man at the date of his death. He came from the Dublin area. He was committed to prison on 25th November 2011. His release date was to be 8th October 2013.
2. The deceased is survived by his father and 10 siblings.
3. On 25th March 2013 the deceased was granted weekly reviewable temporary release from Limerick Prison.
4. The deceased died on 3rd June 2013 at his home. The Coroner's Inquest will establish the exact cause of death.
5. The deceased had served a number of prison sentences over the years.
6. The deceased had developed a significant drug and alcohol problem at an early age. He had made strenuous attempts to address such problems both while in prison and while in the community.

Reasons for temporary release and sequence of events thereafter

7. The deceased was committed to Mountjoy Prison on 25th November 2011. He was transferred almost immediately to the Midlands Prison where he remained until 8th April 2012 when he was transferred to Limerick Prison.
8. The deceased engaged with the therapeutic services in Limerick Prison. He also worked in various positions but mostly in the kitchen.
9. The deceased was, latterly, described as a model prisoner.
10. The deceased was reviewed by the prison authorities in Limerick Prison on three occasions – 25th May 2012, 10th September 2012 and 10th February 2013.

11. The conclusions of the 25th May 2012 Review Meeting were that the deceased had no issues in Limerick Prison, that he was a good worker working in the kitchen, that he had settled well and that he was not on protection. He was recommended by the Governors for the Community Return Scheme. It was agreed that he would be assessed by the addiction counsellor and that the Probation Service would ascertain if he wished to participate in the Community Return Scheme. His case was deferred to the September Review.
12. At the September Review on 10th September 2012 the deceased was described as being still in the kitchen and being a great worker. He was stated as being well regarded by both staff and fellow prisoners and had semi trustee status in the prison. It was noted that he was seeing the Addiction Counsellor on a regular basis for general support. It was reported that his family visited when they could. His case was deferred to February for a Community Review.
13. At the Review Meeting on 10th February 2013 his status as outlined in paragraphs 11 and 12 had not changed. It was reported that he was very interested in the Community Return Scheme. It was noted that he had family in Dublin. It was decided that the Probation Service would assess him for participation in the Community Return Scheme.
14. The Review Meetings referred to in paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 were attended by Governors, the leaders of the therapeutic services, the Probation Service, a Chaplain and others such as Linkage Officers, Industrial Supervisors etc.
15. Subsequent to the Review Meeting referred to in paragraph 13 the deceased was assessed by the Probation Service. On 13th March 2013 the Probation Service reported to IPS that the deceased had been assessed as being suitable for the scheme. While he had a history of polydrug use and a poor engagement with the Probation Service he was said to have made steady progress during his sentence, to be drug free, working in the kitchen and motivated to comply with the conditions of the Community Return Scheme. He was to engage in three days unpaid work each week in his general locality.

16. On 25th March 2013 the deceased was granted reviewable weekly temporary release. The terms of his temporary release included, *inter alia*, that he report to his local Garda Station daily, that he report to Mountjoy Prison weekly, that he reside at a particular address, that he be under the supervision of the Probation Service, attend all appointments, cooperate with directions given and engage in three days unpaid employment each week under the Community Return Scheme as directed by the Probation Service. The deceased acknowledged that he accepted such terms.
17. I have been informed that, apart from two instances referred to in paragraph 18, the deceased abided by all the terms of his temporary release up to the date of his death on 3rd June 2013.
18. The deceased did not present at Mountjoy Prison on 1st April 2013 to sign on. His explanation for his non attendance given on 2nd April was accepted and he was granted further temporary release. On 30th May 2013 the deceased was due to sign on at the prison but failed to do so. On 31st May he presented at the prison with a letter from St. James's Hospital confirming that he had been in the hospital on 30th May. This was accepted and he was again granted temporary release.
19. The deceased had been admitted to St James's Hospital in the last week in May 2013 suffering from a serious medical complaint for which he was treated and released on 31st May. For privacy reasons I have not referred to the reason for the deceased's admission to hospital. However, I will discuss this with the family when I brief them on the contents of this report prior to its publication by the Minister.
20. The deceased died on 3rd June 2013.

Contact with the family

21. The family raised certain issues with me which can be summarised as follows:-

- (a) They stated that the deceased had been working in the kitchen in Limerick Prison, liked the work and hoped that his experience would be of benefit to him on his release when he could put same to use. They were concerned that the unpaid work on the Community Return Scheme did not take into account his work experience in prison.
- (b) They stated that the deceased had expressed his dissatisfaction with the work he was doing and was getting depressed. In their words – “he expected certain things to happen.”
- (c) They queried why his placement on the Community Return Scheme was in an area where his vulnerabilities could be exploited.

Addressing the concerns of the family

- 22. I stated in paragraph 21 that the family had concerns. In paragraph 23, I endeavour to answer such concerns.
- 23.
 - (a) It is true that the work experience gained by the deceased while working in the kitchen in Limerick Prison was not put to use in formulating the employment under the Community Return Scheme. However, the deceased accepted the terms of such scheme and participated in the scheme.
 - (b) I accept that the deceased, in conversations with his sibling, expressed his view that he was dissatisfied with the work and was getting depressed. However, there is no corroboration of this statement in any of the records.
 - (c) I have taken on board the concerns of the family that the deceased should not have been asked to do work in a community where his vulnerability could be exploited. In my recommendations at the end of this Report I make reference to this issue.

Findings

24. The deceased met all the criteria for consideration for assessment for participation in a Community Return Scheme.
25. Properly documented Review Meetings were convened in Limerick Prison for the purpose of reviewing the deceased.
26. The deceased was assessed for inclusion in a Community Return Scheme and this assessment was positive.
27. The release of the deceased on temporary release was done in accordance with good practice. The terms of the temporary release were appropriate and adequate.
28. The deceased was aware of the terms of his temporary release.
29. The deceased abided by all the terms of his temporary release during the currency of same.
30. The explanations given by the deceased for his failure to sign on at the prison on two occasions were reasonable and understandable.

Recommendation

In so far as is practicable, the placement of an offender who, because of his past history, might be considered as being potentially vulnerable on a work scheme should take into account the possibility that such placement might bring the offender into contact with others who might exploit the vulnerabilities of such offender.