

**IRISH PRISONS INSPECTORATE**

***CLOVERHILL PRISON***

**CLOVERHILL PRISON INSPECTION:**

**22ND NOVEMBER - 29TH NOVEMBER 2005**

# **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. There is a statutory provision in the forthcoming Prisons Authority Bill for the establishment of a Prisons Inspectorate. The following are the terms of reference for the Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention.

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

To -

- (a) Inspect and report, as the Inspector considers appropriate, to the Minister on prisons and places of detention under the aegis of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.
- (b) Report in particular on conditions in those institutions and on the regimes in place for prisoners and detainees.
- (c) Investigate and report on any specific issue referred to the Inspectorate by the Minister.
- (d) Submit to the Minister an Annual Report on the activities of the Inspectorate.

### **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) the quality of the regime
- (b) the attitude of staff and inmates
- (c) the health, safety and well-being of prisoners
- (d) the condition of the buildings
- (e) questions of humanity and propriety
- (f) any general pattern which may indicate possible inadequacies in the management of the prison.

As the terms of reference provide, the Minister may also request the Inspector to investigate and report on specific issues or incidents

connected with the running of any prison or place of detention. Furthermore, the Inspector may raise issues of concern, arising out of an investigation or an inspection, either with local management, the Director General of the Prisons or the Minister. To facilitate the Inspector in carrying out his functions, he may consider complaints from prisoners but only to the extent that such complaints are relevant to the functions of the Inspector. The Inspector will, not later than four months following the end of each calendar year, submit a written report to the Minister on his activities during the year.

It is intended that the annual report will be published. The Inspector will also furnish the Minister with such information relating to his activities as the Minister may require from time to time.

The functions outlined above will also apply to any child-detention centres and remand centres designated by the Minister under Section 150 of the Children Act, 2001.

These terms of reference may be further refined in the forthcoming Prisons Bill in the light of the experience gained in the interim. The Inspector will also be entitled to report and make recommendations, in the light of experience gained, on the contents of the legislation which will eventually make statutory provision for the Prisons Inspectorate.

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## REPORT ON VISIT TO CLOVERHILL PRISON

22nd - 29TH NOVEMBER 2005

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 On the 22nd November to 29th November 2005 an inspection of Cloverhill Prison was carried out by the Inspectorate Team which consisted of:

Mr. Justice Dermot Kinlen	Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention
Mr. James Woods	Special Adviser to Inspector
Dr. Jim Ledwith	Consultant
Mr. John S. Smyth	Consultant

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

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

## **2. Background**

2.1 Cloverhill Prison is located on Cloverhill Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 (West Dublin) and is adjacent to Wheatfield Prison. In fact, both prisons share some of their services.

It was the first purpose-built 'remand' prison for adult male prisoners in the State. It was opened in 1999 and can accommodate 433 prisoners. The accommodation consists of 63 single occupancy cells, 5 double occupancy and 120 treble occupancy cells. There are bunk beds in the cells that are double and a bunk bed plus a single bed in those cells which hold three. All of the cells have in-cell sanitation and a television.

The prison is classified as medium security, and holds remand, trial, sentenced, extradition and deportation prisoners. On the days of inspection there were 110 foreign nationals detained there. Its design is of five two-storey wings all meeting in the centre or circle area with exercise yards between the various wings. There are a number of stand-alone buildings which accommodate the offices, stores, administration, trades staff work plus a building which has been converted from cellular use to court/lawyer conferencing use. There is a courthouse immediately outside the main gate with a linking corridor from the prison to the courthouse cells.

- 2.2 A full inspection of the prison took place in November 2002 and the prison was revisited in January 2004. The purpose of the revisit was to follow up on points of note and recommendations made arising from the previous full inspection and also to examine any significant changes.

The present visit was a full inspection.

### **3. Governor's Briefing**

- 3.1 The Governor welcomed the Inspectorate team to Cloverhill Prison and outlined that he had replaced Governor Willie Kane who had retired in September. He introduced Governor Liam Dowling and Chief Officer Dan Fanning to the Inspectorate team. They participated in the Governor's briefing.
- 3.2 The Governor outlined that it was the first purpose-built remand prison within the State and that it was the first prison to have a courthouse attached. It was designed and built with an assessment centre but unfortunately the assessment aspect of sentence management did not materialise. It is being used for other purposes.

The prison consists of 63 single cells, 5 double cells and 120 treble cells.

The Governor outlined that the padded and strip cells that were installed at the time of building have now been replaced by close-supervision cells of which there are 2 and 4 special observation cells. These cells are fitted with a shower, sanitary facilities, TV, but have cladded walls.

The population of the prison on that day was 411 but it can hold 433. He went on to give a breakdown of those he had in custody of whom 116 were non-nationals, 65 prisoners on protection, 230 others. He outlined that there were five different locations within the prison: 'A' division or wing which holds the ordinary prisoners, 'B' wing which generally holds the prisoners who are on methadone maintenance, 'C' wing is where the non-nationals and work party prisoners are held, 'D' division holds protection prisoners and is subdivided into two sections. One section is for the vulnerable and the second section high security prisoners plus some others. The 'E' wing holds prisoners convicted or on remand for sex offences and who are under protection from other prisoners. There are also some ordinary prisoners there who are under protection from other prisoners for different reasons. He has 70 sentenced prisoners who are involved in work parties throughout the prison.

- 3.3 The facilities for prisoners consist of recreation halls and exercise yards. There are televisions and tea making facilities in all of the cells. Each of the cells is fitted out with sanitary requirements. The Governor then outlined the programmes that some of the prisoners are involved in, especially the Leonardo programme in which 16 prisoners in the kitchen are participating, 5 of whom received certificates and accreditation last week.

The school is not up and running as the prison escort corps have taken this facility over for a short-term period. Hopefully, the stores and trades officers'

area will eventually be moved to Wheatfield and that area has been assessed with a view to converting it into offices, etc. to make it suitable for the staff attached to the prison service escort corps. He gave an outline of the cellular vehicles, some of which were parked in the enclosed yards, and how they operate and explained that they were operated by a driver and one assistant in each van. He said that the escort corps headquarters for the entire country will be based in Cloverhill Prison.

- 3.4 The Governor said that the new agreement regarding the annualised hours has come into operation for the senior management staff of this prison as well as for Arbour Hill Prison, the Training Unit, Shelton Abbey and Loughan House. It will be extended to all prisons in the next number of months and it is to be fully operational within Cloverhill by next February.

The Governor then said that there is an average of approximately 4,000 prisoners per year committed to Cloverhill Prison. He went on to describe the two types of visits, that is the closed and open for special occasions. The open visits are not freely available and are used on a rota basis. He said that the staffing levels of the prison were as the pre-questionnaire list as outlined already. They also said that staff training is very restricted due to budgetary cutbacks but that hopefully with the new annualised hours this may be overcome in the next year. He said that the C& R techniques training took place regarding the escorting of prisoners, particularly for the new cellular vans, and that familiarisation training also took place in regards to BA, fire evacuation drills, etc.

- 3.5 The Governor outlined his concerns regarding illegal drugs and the contra band which is being thrown over the boundary wall from an open space or field which is at the rear of the local hospital. There is a proposal that a new fence be erected in that field between themselves and the hospital, which should benefit the prison greatly if it is done. He felt that this would benefit the prison even more so than the present netting over the yards.
- 3.6 He was asked regarding the staff management and union relationships and the Governor outlined that there was a good working relationships with both, that both fully understood their different roles and that they got on quite well. The management of the prison very much worked with the co-operation of both sides.
- 3.7 The Governor was then asked if there were any racism problems to which he replied in his opinion there were none, and that there were none ever brought to his attention. He said that the bullying/racism training was ongoing for staff and that there was in fact anti-bullying training taking place as he actually spoke on that particular day. He said that there were occasional reports of incidents of bullying but when fully investigated it was found not to be a fact and it couldn't be classified as bullying. So bullying does raise its head occasionally but they have never had any proven cases of anyone being found guilty of these incidents.

- 3.8 He outlined that he was working within budget at present and hoped to continue in that vein until the end of the year when his budget would again be reviewed.
- 3.9 The Governor then outlined the difficulties they had in getting Probation and Welfare staff assigned to the prison. There was approval for four Probation and Welfare Officers and one Senior post but only last week he got two officers and one senior. Previous to that, there was only one Probation and Welfare officer and one and a half supervisors or seniors as they were job sharers. It is important to have Probation and Welfare staff in a remand centre as a lot of the problems prisoners have on entry into the prison were not being dealt with and only for the good work of the chaplains, who are doing a tremendous amount of social work, the position would be an awful lot worse for prisoners.
- 3.10 The Governor outlined that he wasn't satisfied with the medical services or facilities as he could have up to 120 prisoners on methadone maintenance and due to the shortage of medical personnel, particularly of nursing staff, it was difficult to cope with these high numbers. The facilities for its distribution and care for that number entailed a considerable amount of staff time. He said that he had been waiting for the appointment of a full-time doctor for the past two years and that there were interviews taking place at present for a permanent doctor. Hopefully, one will be appointed very very shortly arising from these interviews. He said that the services provided by the doctors were of top quality but there was a problem with doctor

continuity. He also said that he got an excellent service from the psychiatrists who are attached to the Central Mental Hospital in Dundrum. They attend the prison on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and that the psychological needs are also very well catered for by the psychologist. He then spoke regarding a multi-disciplinary meeting which takes place every Wednesday with the psychiatrists, and the various difficulties that arise regarding prisoners with mental or psychiatric problems. So he has a very good working relationship with the medical people in general who are attached to the prison, all of whom provide an excellent service.

3.11 The Inspector then enquired regarding the tuck shop and he was informed that it was open 7 days per week for 3 periods each day. The Governor said no doubt there were times when the staffing within the shop had to be taken out to do other duties but that it would be definitely open for at least one period in every day depending on the demands at the time and there wouldn't be a day that the shop would be actually closed for the entire day. He also outlined the stock that is carried within it, including fruit, and confirmed that the daily newspapers are available.

3.12 The Governor spoke of the difficulties in relation to information flow, which was highlighted in the Inspector's previous report, between the Gardaí, the Courts Service, IPS Headquarters and Prisons and that there was practically no improvement in the situation. He outlined the different groups and various gangs which are involved in criminal activities nowadays and to have them housed in the one area was quite dangerous. Thus the necessity for

such information was essential for the good running of the prison. He said that at times they could have various groups together and be unaware of the rivalry or of the dangers attached to them. He also gave an example of non-nationals, where there was no knowledge or background whatsoever on them and some of them had criminal records in other jurisdictions as well as being associated with some serious criminal organisations in other countries.

3.13 The Governor was asked regarding the facilities within the waiting room area for visitors. He was informed that members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and another lady are still operating a service there for visitors in the supply of tea/coffee and a childcare facility. There is a play area for children. These services were being funded by the Prison Service Headquarters. He said that he was delighted with the services being provided.

3.14 The Governor was then asked by the Inspector as to the relationship with the Court Services within Cloverhill Courthouse to which the Governor replied that the relationships were excellent and that they hold regular meetings. The Governor felt that the meetings would become even more regular with the introduction of the new escort corps and that a greater understanding should ensue with the Court Services in general not alone in the local courthouse but also nationally. The Governor outlined that as a result of a recent fire in Tallaght District Courthouse the Tallaght District Court sitting now takes place in Cloverhill Courthouse which adds to the volume of work.

- 3.15 The Inspector raised the question of vaccination for the staff of anti-hepatitis and was informed that there is an outside doctor appointed to carry out the vaccinations. He said that it entails first of all taking a blood sample, having it tested and when the results are returned the vaccination is then administered if required. It is for hepatitis B but not for A or C. He was asked for the number of staff requesting transfers to other prisons and was informed that there were over 100 but the reason the majority of them are seeking transfer is for them to get nearer their homes.
- 3.16 The Inspector asked the Governor to give in detail the procedures relating to non-nationals being detained in the prison. The Inspector went on to refer to the Irish Refugee Council's recent report where Mr. Mark Kelly, a Human Rights consultant, produced a report in relation to detentions in Ireland and had referred to Cloverhill Prison within that report. The Governor said that all committals were seen by the Governor on the day following their committal and if any of them sought a meeting with the GNIB they would be contacted and would be in the prison within 24 hours. As regards interpreters, the GNIB can bring an interpreter in with them, particularly if the prisoner requests an interpreter to be present when they are being interviewed. The Inspector then referred to various aspects of the report regarding emigration detentions in Ireland. He questioned the Governor further regarding their rights within the prison as to the availability of their legal representatives, the availability of phone facilities on arrival to contact someone to inform them that they are in custody, etc. A long discussion took place on this whole

area and all agreed that prison wasn't the place for those people, except for those who had committed criminal offences and could not get bail.

This concluded the Governor's briefing. He said that he was available to the Inspectorate team if they wanted clarification or anything else like that. He outlined the facilities that were being afforded to the Inspectorate team for the duration of their stay. The Inspector thanked him and his senior staff for such an open and frank briefing and then commenced discussions on the prison's business plans.

#### **4. CLOVERHILL PRISON BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2005**

##### **1 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

##### **1.1 Manage within the overall budget allocation for 2005. Steps to achieve Target 1.1**

1.1.1 Conduct budget meeting with Head of Functions in January 2005.  
Result - completed.

1.1.2 Identify needs and prioritise.  
Result - completed.

1.1.3 Cost agreed requirements.  
Result - completed.

1.1.4 Meeting with Director of Finance - final approval received in January 2005.  
Result - completed.

1.1.5 Monitor and review expenditure throughout the year.  
Result - ongoing.

1.1.6 Evaluate and review expenditure for year.  
Result - will happen in December 2005 to be completed by January 2006.

**1.2 Review new Financial Management System.  
Steps to achieve Target 1.2**

- 1.2.1 Review Oracle Financial Management system by December 2004.  
Result - system reviewed.
- 1.2.2 Draft Change Definitions (if necessary) to improve System.  
Result - changes drafted and forwarded to IPS HQ
- 1.2.3 Submit Change Definitions to IT Section and Finance Directorate by March 2005.  
Result - done.

**2 OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT**

**2.1A Ensure emergency planning in place to cover emergency situations, e.g., fire.  
Steps to achieve Target 2.1A**

- 2.1A.1 Conduct review of existing Fire Plan and Fire Equipment by November 2004.  
Result - completed.
- 2.1A.2 Produce report and recommendations to Governor for approval.  
Result - completed.
- 2.1A.3 Develop strategy for implementation.  
Result - done.
- 2.1A.4 Implement recommendations as approved by the Governor.  
Result - majority of them completed.
- 2.1A.5 Review training needs for staff in relation to Fire.  
Result - completed and ongoing training.
- 2.1A.6 Produce report on training and recommendations to Governor for approval.  
Result - completed.
- 2.1A.7 Implement approved training programme for staff by March 2005.  
Result - ongoing, partly done.

**2.1B Ensure emergency planning in place to cover emergency situation, e.g., riot, hostage-taking.**

**Steps to achieve Target 2.1B**

- 2.1B.1 Conduct review of existing riot and hostage-taking plans and equipment.  
Result - completed.
- 2.1B.2 Produce report and recommendations to Governor for approval by December 2004.  
Result - completed.
- 2.1B.3 Develop strategy for implementation.  
Result - done.
- 2.1B.4 Implement recommendations as approved by Governor by January 2005.  
Result - some implemented. Resource problems with others.
- 2.1B.5 Review training needs for staff in relation to riot and hostage-taking.  
Result - review taken place.
- 2.1B.6 Produce report on training and recommendations to Governor for approval.  
Result - report produced.
- 2.1B.7 Implement approved training programme for staff by March 2005.  
Result - some training has taken place within allocated budget.

**2.2 Implement new system for recording assaults in the prisoner population (completed)**

**Steps to achieve Target 2.2**

- 2.2.1 Conduct user-acceptance test.  
Result - completed.
- 2.2.2 Receive guidelines from Operations based on new classification system.  
Result - guidelines issued from HQ.
- 2.2.3 Receive new Accident and Assault Database from IT.  
Result - received.
- 2.2.4 Train end-users in the system.  
Result - yes, done.
- 2.2.5 Implement the new system.  
Result - yes, up and running.

- 2.2.6 Evaluate and review.  
Result - ongoing.
- 2.2.7 Conduct audit of assaults in 2004 from commencement of operation of new system completed by March 2005.  
Result - compiling the information at present - ongoing, but not completed.
  
- 2.3 Evaluate and review the current visiting ID system in place at Mountjoy Prison.  
Steps to achieve Target 2.3**
- 2.3.1 Establish Project team.  
Result - completed.
- 2.3.2 Conduct research for Mountjoy System.  
Result - yes, done.
- 2.3.3 Evaluate and review research of Mountjoy System and consult where appropriate.  
Result - ongoing.
- 2.3.4 Draft report and recommendations for Governor by June 2005.  
Result - incomplete.
- 2.3.5 Approve recommendations.  
Result - not done - system not in place.
- 2.3.6 Inform staff, visitors and prisoners of System.  
Result - not in place - not applicable.
- 2.3.7 Implement System as appropriate.  
Result - not in operation - further evaluation required.
- 2.3.8 Monitor, evaluate and review.  
Result - not practical in view of above.
  
- 2.4 Implement the report of the Expert Group on Bullying.  
Steps to achieve Target 2.4**
- 2.4.1 Receive report from Operations.  
Result - yes, received.
- 2.4.2 Appoint internal team for implementation within two weeks of receipt of report.  
Result - completed.

- 2.4.3 Implement new guidelines and launch policy.  
Result - implemented local policy but not national policy.
- 2.4.4 Evaluate and review policy within three months after implementation.  
Result - yes, the local policy.
  
- 2.5 Introduce an annual review of security at all institutions.  
Steps to achieve Target 2.5**
- 2.5.1 Security Committee receive draft guidelines from IPS, HQ.  
Result - no, not received from HQ.
- 2.5.2 Evaluate and review guidelines.  
Result - not applicable - local, yes.
- 2.5.3 Make recommendations to Governor.  
Result - no guidelines received.
- 2.5.4 Issue recommendations to IPS.  
Result - no guidelines from HQ.
- 2.5.5 Final guidelines issued from IPS.  
Result - awaiting same.
- 2.5.6 Conduct security reviews within five months of receipt of guidelines.  
Result - not applicable - local guidelines reviewed.

### **3 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.2 Manage staff resources within overall budget allocated for overtime for 2005. Steps to achieve Target 3.2**

- 3.2.1 Ascertain exact budget for 2005.  
Result - done and completed.
- 3.2.2 Apply procedures to remain within budget (review posts on a daily basis and redeploy as required).  
Result - completed.
- 3.2.3 Communicate procedures to staff.  
Result - done.
- 3.2.4 Implement new procedures by February 2005.  
Result - completed.

3.2.5 Evaluate and review procedures in light of daily expenditure returns.  
Result - ongoing, daily meetings.

**3.3 Implement whatever new attendance arrangements are agreed with the Prison Officers' Association.  
Steps to achieve Target 3.3**

- 3.3.1 Review new agreement.  
Result - new agreement accepted recently.
- 3.3.2 Identify implementation requirements.  
Result - yes, done.
- 3.3.3 Inform staff.  
Result - yes, informed - booklet issued.
- 3.3.4 Agree implementation method.  
Result - ongoing.
- 3.3.5 Implement system one month after receipt of agreement.  
Result - part of same implemented - other aspects ongoing.
- 3.3.6 Evaluate and review.  
Result - not fully in operation to review.

**3.4 Introduce PMDS for Prison Service grades from Assistant Governor (and equivalent) to Governor.  
Steps to achieve Target 3.4**

- 3.4.1 Identify participants and arrange for attendance at training courses.  
Result - yes, done and completed.
- 3.4.2 Prepare role profile forms for all participants.  
Result - completed.
- 3.4.3 Monitor ongoing individual performances.  
Result - yes, ongoing.
- 3.4.4 Conduct interim reviews.  
Result - completed.
- 3.4.5 Conduct annual review.  
Result - yes, done.
- 3.4.6 Evaluate outcome by end of May 2004.  
Result - completed.

**3.6 Ensure adequate number of trained staff for emergency situations, e.g. C&R training, BA training, etc.  
Steps to achieve Target 3.6**

- 3.6.1 Evaluate and review training requirements.  
Result - completed.
- 3.6.2 Identify requirements.  
Result - yes, done.
- 3.6.3 Identify number of hours required for same.  
Result - yes, completed.
- 3.6.4 Prioritise training needs.  
Result - ongoing - partly completed.
- 3.6.5 Produce recommendations for Governor by June 2005.  
Result - done and completed.
- 3.6.6 Implement approved training programme.  
Result - ongoing, as far as possible.
- 3.6.7 Evaluate and review training strategy/programme.  
Result - ongoing.

**4 REGIME DEVELOPMENT**

**4.1A Prioritise education against the background of budgetary restrictions following the Government decision of 11 November 2003.  
Steps to achieve Target 4.1A**

- 4.1A.1 Ensure that all Prison Officers giving programmes in the LDU have received the Train the Trainers course.  
Result - has not happened.
- 4.1A.2 Open Learning and Development Unit.  
Result - not done.
- 4.1A.3 Introduce procedure for filling places.  
Result - not applicable.
- 4.1A.4 Interview all new committals for education programme.  
Result - no, educational facilities available.
- 4.1A.5 Check school enrolment against prison releases.  
Result - not applicable.

- 4.1A.6 Examine the feasibility of introducing evening education programme.  
Result - no, not done.
- 4.1A.7 Enlist assistance of all other service providers within the prison in marketing education.  
Result - not done.
- 4.1A.8 Produce recommendations for Governor.  
Result - not necessary as not opened.
- 4.1A.9 Approve recommendations.  
Result - not applicable.
- 4.1A.10 Implement programme.  
Result - not done.
- 4.1A.11 Annual Report to Mr. K. Warner, V.E.C., Governor and Board of Management.  
Result - no reports, no education.

**4.1B Review Prisoner Training against the background of budgetary restrictions following the Government decision of 11 November 2003.**

**Steps to achieve Target 4.1B**

- 4.1B.1 Establish Review group by May 2004.  
Result - completed.
- 4.1B.2 Decide criteria to maintain prisoner numbers in FETEC and other training as far as possible during ongoing budgetary restrictions (see 4.1A).  
Result - no, not completed.
- 4.1B.5 Evaluate and review the current work and training programme.  
Result - yes, evaluated in kitchen area.
- 4.1B.6 Make recommendations by November 2004.  
Result - yes, recommendation made re industrial training courses.
- 4.1B.6 Approve recommendations.  
Result - not within the Governor's remit.
- 4.1B.7 Implement approved recommendations by December 2004.  
Result - not approved as yet.

4.1B.8 Evaluate and review changes by January 2005.  
Result - no changes made.

**4.1C Produce Physical Education Development Plan for 2005.  
Steps to achieve Target 4.1C**

- 4.1C.1 Ensure that all relevant Prison Officers are qualified Gym instructors.  
Result - yes, completed.
- 4.1C.2 Establish Review group.  
Result - yes, done.
- 4.1C.3 Review and evaluate current practice.  
Result - yes, done.
- 4.1C.4 Produce report and recommendations for Governor.  
Result - yes, completed.
- 4.1C.5 Seek approval for implementation of recommendations.  
Result - yes, completed.
- 4.1C.6 Implement approved recommendations by December 2004.  
Result - yes, the majority have been implemented.
- 4.1C.7 Evaluate and review changes by January 2005.  
Result - ongoing.

**4.2 Provide for personal well-being of Prisoners, including Spiritual Care and Suicide Awareness.  
Steps to achieve Target 4.2**

- 4.2.1 Provide Religious Services, Sacraments and spiritual counselling to all denominations.  
Result - ongoing.
- 4.2.2 Continue to convene monthly multidisciplinary meetings to evaluate and review current and new suicide prevention measures, and implement as appropriate.  
Result - ongoing on monthly basis.
- 4.2.3 Implement recommendations as appropriate of the National Steering Group on Deaths in Custody.  
Result - completed.
- 4.2.4 Convene special meeting of the Committee in the event of a death or serious suicide attempt within one week of incident.  
Result - yes, being done.
- 4.2.5 Make recommendations as appropriate to the Governor.  
Result - yes, as required.

4.2.6 Implement recommendations when approved by the Governor.  
Result - yes, when appropriate.

**4.3 Provide care and rehabilitation programmes, ensuring equality of access for all prisoners.**

**Steps to achieve Target 4.3**

4.3.1 Continue to provide appropriate classes (Drug Awareness, Health Awareness, etc.) to meet current and future demand.  
Result - ongoing. (Drug awareness counsellors coming in.)

4.3.2 Improve and develop links with community enterprises.  
Result - ongoing - with community workers.

4.3.3 Library Committee to continue.  
Result - yes, ongoing.

4.3.4 Continue to support and refer Prisoners to the Focus Ireland and NGAs as appropriate.  
Result - yes, ongoing through the Probation and Welfare Service.

4.3.5 Facilitate St Vincent de Paul, NA, AA, Samaritans, etc., in providing continued access to those in need.  
Result - yes, ongoing.

4.3.6 Post-Release Services Co-ordinator to continue to facilitate transition from Prison to the Community.  
Result - not structured co-ordinator. (Through Probation and Welfare as far as possible.)

4.3.7 All new Committals to be assessed by the Probation and Welfare within 3 days of committal to ensure appropriate services within the prison, but in general within 48 hours.  
Result - does not happen.

4.3.8 All Reports to be completed by Probation and Welfare on all appropriate Prisoners on request.  
Result - does not happen.

4.3.9 Establish a Clinical Psychologist Service to individual/groups of Prisoners. Therapeutic Service to Prisoners aimed at addressing their mental health needs and/or offending behaviour needs. Quality of Service in accordance with the standards of best practice of the Psychology Profession.  
Result - yes, being done as far as resources allow.

- 5 TACKLE THE DRUG PROBLEM IN PRISONS.**
- 5.1A Implement measure to control supply of illicit drugs in Prisons.  
Steps to achieve Target 5.1A**
- 5.1A.1 Extend the present standard of netting to cover all recreation yards by December 2004.  
Result - yes, done. All yards covered.
- 5.1A.2 Ensure CCTV cameras in the visiting area provide high quality recordings.  
Result - yes, review of their cameras carried out and recommendations sent to HQ.
- 5.1A.3 Maintain policy of "No personal contact on visits".  
Result - yes, ongoing.
- 5.1A.4 Establish a policy of laundering all prisoners' personal clothing within the prison by April 2005.  
Result - yes, completed within the prison and also in Wheatfield Prison in the future.
- 5.1A.5 Ensure that staff are particularly vigilant on all visits, courts, escorts and reception.  
Result - yes, as far as possible.
- 5.1A.6 Report all prisoners endeavouring to procure or use prohibited substances.  
Result - yes, ongoing.
- 5.1A.7 Deal with all reported incidents in accordance with the 1947 Prison Rules and Regulations.  
Result - yes, ongoing.
- 5.1B Provide Drug Treatment and Addiction Services for Prisoners.  
Steps to achieve Target 5.1B**
- 5.1B.1 Seek placement of appointed full-time Drug and Alcohol counsellors by November 2004.  
Result - yes, looked for same from national team.
- 5.1B.2 Continue our association with Community-based addiction facilities.  
Result - yes, ongoing.
- 5.1B.3 Provide medical treatment and care to all substance-addicted prisoners.  
Result - yes, ongoing.

5.1B.4 Review IPS Drugs Policy with a view to local implementation.  
Result - review completed.

5.1B.5 Make recommendations on actions/initiatives.  
Result - not done.

5.1B.6 Implement approved recommendations within two months of publication.  
Result - not done - no policy received.

5.1B.7 Evaluate and review changes.  
Result - not applicable as yet.

## **6 PRISONER HEALTHCARE**

### **6.1 Implement agreed Healthcare Standards as appropriate, to ensure Medical and Psychiatric care for Prisoners consistent with standards that apply in the community generally Steps to achieve Target 6.1**

6.1.1 Healthcare Committee to remain in place.  
Result - yes, in place.

6.1.2 Review National Report and recommendations by May 2005.  
Result - yes, local healthcare standards report being implemented.

6.1.3 Identify recommendations that may be implemented in Cloverhill Prison.  
Result - this report not to hand.

6.1.4 Approve appropriate recommendations by May 2005.  
Result - not applicable.

6.1.5 Implement appropriate recommendations.  
Result - to be arranged when issued.

6.1.6 Identify whatever arrangements need to be put in place in regard to Prisoner Medical Records System, healthcare standards, etc., arising from conclusion of ongoing negotiations with Medical Officers in the Labour Relations Commission.  
Result - not done as yet but training programme being introduced next week.

6.1.7 Approve arrangements.  
Result - ongoing.

6.1.8 Implement arrangements.  
Result - yes, when applicable.

## **7 FACILITY MANAGEMENT**

### **7.1 Manage the agreed maintenance budget for the Institution. Steps to achieve Target 7.1**

- 7.1.1 Ascertain budget for 2005.  
Result - yes, completed.
- 7.1.2 Identify projects for year.  
Result - yes, done.
- 7.1.3 Prioritise projects for the year.  
Result - yes, done.
- 7.1.4 Review monthly.  
Result - yes, and ongoing.
- 7.1.5 Produce monthly report.  
Result - yes.
- 7.1.6 Make necessary adjustments by December 2004.  
Result - yes, completed and ongoing.

### **7.4 Ensure Safety Statement in place and updated as necessary, backed by effective health and safety procedure and practices. Steps to achieve Target 7.4**

- 7.4.1 Review Safety Statement by November 2004.  
Result - yes, completed.
- 7.4.2 Identify areas requiring change.  
Result - yes, done.
- 7.4.3 Redraft where necessary.  
Result - yes, completed and amended.
- 7.4.4 Construct updated edition.  
Result - yes, done.
- 7.4.5 Familiarise staff by March 2005.  
Result - yes, completed and staff informed.

**7.5 Establish arrangements to evaluate and review and implement, where practicable, recommendations of the Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention.**

**Steps to achieve Target 7.5**

- 7.5.1 Set up Working Group (Heads of Function areas referred to in the report).  
Result - completed.
- 7.5.2 Review recommendations of the Inspector of Prisons.  
Result - completed.
- 7.5.3 Prioritise and agree areas requiring attention.  
Result - yes, completed.
- 7.5.4 Implement recommendations as received from IPS one month after reception.  
Result - yes, done and ongoing.
- 7.5.5 Evaluate and review.  
Result - yes, ongoing.

**8 TOBACCO CONTROL**

**8.1 Implement new Tobacco Control Regulations as necessary in the Prison Service.**

**Steps to achieve Target 8.1**

- 8.1.1 Agree unified Smoking Policy with headquarters and Governors by August 2004.  
Result - yes, policy in place.
- 8.1.2 Set up working group to evaluate and implement.  
Result - yes, completed.
- 8.1.3 Implement new Smoking Policy.  
Result - yes, done.
- 8.1.4 Evaluate and review operation of new policy.  
Result - yes, ongoing.

## **9 ENVIRONMENTAL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

### **9.1 In line with Irish Prison Service Environmental Policy Statement set up systems to improve environmental and waste management in the prison service.**

#### **Steps to achieve Target 9.1**

- 9.1.1 Awareness Training for Governors by June 2004.  
Result - completed.
- 9.1.2 Appoint Environmental Co-ordinator in each prison as per Strategy Report.  
Result - done.
- 9.1.3 Provide relevant training for the nominated personnel and critical staff members by December 2004.  
Result - yes, completed.
- 9.1.4 Set up an Environmental Management and Implementation team in each prison.  
Result - yes, team set up.
- 9.1.5 Examine current practices with a view to improving recycling and waste management within the prison.  
Result - ongoing.
- 9.1.6 Implement local Environmental Management System by January 2005.  
Result - implemented but not by January.
- 9.1.7 Carry out annual management review of EMS.  
Result - yes, at year end will be done.

## **LOCAL STRATEGIES**

### **D1 Methadone Treatment Programme Steps to achieve Strategy D1**

- D1.1 Review of existing medical services including Methadone Treatment Programme within one month after implementation of new rostering arrangements.  
Result - new roster not in operation yet.
- D1.2 Examination of review.  
Result - not applicable.

- D1.3 Identify new structures and arrangements to introduce new programme.  
Result - not appropriate as of now.
- D1.4 New structures and arrangements put in place.  
Result - not done.
- D1.5 Develop protocol to collect and test urine samples.  
Result - not applicable - awaiting directive from HQ.
- D1.6 Develop educational and counselling services for prisoners in programme.  
Result - not in place.
- D1.7 Develop contact with outside Drug Treatment Groups.  
Result - yes, ongoing.
- D2 Introduce Drug-free Wing.  
Steps to achieve Strategy D2**
- D2.1 Appoint Working Group by April 2005.  
Result - not done. No drug-free wing.
- D2.1 Examine the feasibility of introducing a Drug-free Wing in Cloverhill.  
Result - not done.
- D2.2 Draft report based on examination for Governor by June 2005.  
Result - not done.
- D2.3 Implement recommendations (if any) approved by the Governor.  
Result - not applicable.
- D2.4 Evaluate and review one month after implementation.  
Result - not done.
- D3 Triple Quality Mark in Catering  
Steps to achieve Strategy D3**
- D3.1 Examine Excellence Ireland Quality Mark requirements.  
Result - completed.
- D3.2 Form a team to achieve Quality Mark.  
Result - yes, done.
- D3.3 Examine each guideline section: (a) Structural Hygiene (b) Operational Hygiene (c) Food Storage and Protection (d) Staff Facilities and Personnel Hygiene (e) Hygiene Management System

by June 2005.  
Result - yes, completed.

D3.4 Identify deficiencies.  
Result - yes, completed.

D3.5 Remove deficiencies by July 2005.  
Result - done.

D3.6 Apply for a Quality Mark in July 2005.  
Result - yes, completed and attained.

**D4 Industrial Cleaning Programme  
Steps to achieve Strategy D4**

D4.1 Identify and put in place structures to achieve cleaning standards that would contribute to Cloverhill achieving a Hygiene and Quality Mark.  
Result - no industrial cleaning programme at this prison but hopefully in next few months.

D4.2 Identify training area.  
Result - not applicable at present.

D4.3 Train staff to certification level.  
Result - staff trained in industrial cleaning but not operational.

D4.4 Proper selection of cleaning equipment, materials and control of same.  
Result - yes, completed.

D4.5 Introduction of Appropriate Standards in cleaning procedures of the prison.  
Result - completed and ongoing.

D4.6 Appropriate training of prisoners that would result in certification standards.  
Result - not as yet - hopefully in next few months.

**D5 Security Improvements - Exercise Yards, CCTV, Lighting, etc.  
Steps to achieve Strategy D5**

D 5.1 Establish Committee.  
Result - established.

D 5.2 Evaluate and review existing CCTV and Lighting.  
Result - completed and report gone to HQ.

D 5.3 Draft Report with recommendations for Governor.  
Result - yes, completed.

D 5.4 Present Report to Governor by August 2005.  
Result - yes, done.

D 5.5 Present Report to IPS by September 2005.  
Result - yes, done.

**D6 I.T. Development  
Steps to achieve Strategy D6**

D6.1 Training of promoted Clerk Grade 2s (General Office).  
Result - yes, done and ongoing with Clerk 2s and those acting-up.

D6.2 Training of promoted Clerk Grade 2 in Stores area.  
Result - yes, done.

D6.3 Training of promoted Clerk Grade 2 Pay Office.  
Result - yes, completed and ongoing.

D6.4 Training of A.C.O.'s.  
Result - yes, ongoing

D6.5 Training of Governors.  
Result - yes, ongoing

D6.6 Training of Chief Officers.  
Result - yes, ongoing.

D6.7 Training of Basic Grade Staff according to staff panels.  
Result - yes, ongoing.

**D7 Improve Methods of Communication of Information to Foreign  
Nationals.  
Steps to achieve Strategy D7**

D7.1 Establish review Group by October 2004.  
Result - yes, completed.

D7.2 Evaluate and review existing methods of communication.  
Result - yes, completed.

D7.3 Identify areas where change or improvement is required.  
Result - yes, done.

- D7.4 Make recommendations to the Governor.  
Result - yes, done.
- D7.5 Implement Approved Recommendations by December 2004.  
Result - yes, completed and implemented.
- D7.6 Evaluate and review changes by January 2005.  
Result - yes, ongoing.

## 5. Statistical Information

1	Governor Class I
1	Governor Class II
1	Governor Class III i/c of Escort Corps
1	Deputy Governor
2	Assistant Governors
1	Chief Officer Class I
4	Chief Officer Class II
1	Chief Trades Officer Class I
1	Chief Trades Officer Class II
4	Clerk Grade I
19	Assistant Chief Officers
11	Clerk Grade II
1	Industrial Supervisor
8	Assistant Industrial Supervisors
18	Nursing Officers
306	Officers
9	Trades Officers
<u>389</u>	Total

*Prisoner Statistics*

Category of those in custody (as of 9/11/05)

175	On remand to District Courts
141	For trial at Circuit or Central Criminal Court
50	Sentenced
2	For contempt of Court or for debt
4	For non-payment of fines
4	For extradition
17	For deportation
<u>393</u>	Total

**The sentence profile of the prisoner population**

Number serving sentences of up to & including 3 months:	12
Number serving sentences of over 3 months & up to & including 6 months:	5
Number serving sentences of over 6 months and up to & including 12 months:	10
Number serving sentences of over 12 months and up to & including 2 years:	5
Number serving sentences of over 2 years and up to & including 4 years:	8
Number serving sentences of over 4 years and up to & including 7 years:	7
Number serving sentences of over 7 years & up to and including 10 years:	2
Number serving sentences of over 10 years:	0
Number serving life sentences:	<u>1</u> 50

*Age profile of the prison population (as of date the forms were being completed)*

Number of prisoners aged 16, 17 and 18 years old (total number for the 3 years)	9
Number of prisoners aged 19, 20, and 21 years old (total for the 3 years)	45
Number of prisoners aged 22, 23,24, and 25 years old (total for the 4 years)	97
Number of prisoners aged 26,27,28, 29 and 30 years old (total for the 5 years)	91
Number of prisoners aged 31 to 35 years old. (including 35 years old)	64
Number of prisoners aged 36 to 40 years old (including 40 years old)	29
Number of prisoners aged 41 to 45 years old (including 45 years old)	26
Number of prisoners aged 46 to 50 years old (including 50 years old)	12
Number of prisoners aged 51 to 60 years old (including 60 years old)	17
Number of prisoners aged 61 years and older One age not known	3
Total	<u>393</u>

There are 110 foreign nationals in the prison from the following countries:-

15 Nigerian, 10 British, 10 Chinese, 10 Romanian, 5 Dutch, 3 Albanian, 2

Algerian, 4 American, 2 Brazilian, 3 Congolese, 1 Egyptian, 1 French, 1

Guyanese, 2 Iranian, 1 Italian, 3 Latvian, 2 Liberian, 5 Lithuanian, 2

Moldovan, 1 Mongolian, 2 Niger, 1 Northern Ireland, 2 Pakistani, 3 Polish, 2

Portuguese, 1 Russian, 1 Rwandan, 2 Scotland, 1 Somalian, 4 South African, 2 Spanish, 1 Turkish, 1 Ukrainian, 1 Welsh, 2 Zairian, 1 Zimbabwe.

There is a total of 13 different languages spoken in the prison as follows:-

English, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Afrikaans, Slavic, Arabic, Mandarin, French, Dutch, Yiddish, Italian and some prisoners can speak a little of two or three languages.

## **6. Tour of Inspection**

### *6.1 Visiting Area*

The entrance to the visiting area is via a corridor from the circle of the prison where prisoners pass through a metal detector, while the visitors enter from the opposite side via another corridor. On the prisoners' corridor there are two search cells where prisoners can be searched either coming from or going to their visits. There are five separate visiting boxes which are all screened with panelling from the top of the desk to the ceiling. The panelling consists of clear perspex. Conversation is conducted between the prisoner and the visitor via a grid in the table top. One of the boxes is fitted with a telephone facility linking one side of the barrier to the other and is used by people who have impaired hearing. The various boxes are used for the different categories of prisoners. For example, box one, the A & B prisoners use it, box two is allocated to the protection prisoners, box three is for C division prisoners, box four is for the sex offenders, and box five is for those hard of hearing and for special protection prisoners. There are 10 professional boxes for use by solicitors, gardaí, etc and they have no dividing

barrier. They have a table with chairs on both sides. There is glass in the door and the officer on patrol outside can observe what is going on but cannot hear. One of the visiting boxes is redesigned as a holding cell with seats fitted all around the walls and is used in the event of an overflow. They can hold prisoners there while awaiting a vacancy within the visiting boxes. Another of the small boxes is redesigned and divided by a barrier. It is used by personnel from ORAC or GNIB. This box is also used for the photographing and fingerprinting of prisoners. The opening in the barrier is large enough for documents to be exchanged between both parties. The officer at the visitors' entrance door records the names of those on professional visits. The officer also gives out clothing to visitors who request same for laundering. An officer supervises from within each of the visiting boxes and there are officers at both the entrance and exit doors to the visiting areas. The entire area was very clean and tidy, and floors were polished to a high standard.

## 6.2 *Main Gymnasium*

The main gymnasium is part of the new educational building. It consists of a large hall with a wooden floor and is fitted out with gym equipment. The equipment consists of bench presses, shoulder presses, leg-curling machine, pec-deck machines, arm-curling machine, low-pulley machine, lap pull-down machines, cross trainers, bicycles, treadmills, leg-press machines, steps, mats, gym balls, focus pads and a punchbag which was not in use. It is quite a large hall but the wooden floor and the ceiling render it unsuitable for any ball games. The floor is not supported enough or

suitable to hold weights. The ceiling is covered in air-board type material which would break if struck by a ball, so it has some drawbacks. This gym is in use for three sessions per day with a maximum of 22 prisoners per session. Qualified trained gym prison officers give the instructions and there is no PE teacher attached to the prison. It appears to be very well run, the hall itself is very clean, tidy and was in full use at the time of inspection. There were three gym instructors operating it and they informed me that all of their gym work is indoor. They do not use any of the exercise yards for football or other such activities. Just off the main hall there are two toilets, three showers and one wash-hand basin for prisoners' use. All of these areas were clean, tidy and fitted with non-slip mats.

All of the prisoners who participate in gym work have to be medically examined prior to commencement. A form is completed which outlines that if they have had any injuries they should declare them. While the inspection team was there some of the prisoners spoke to them regarding having chin up bars, dip bars and a punchbag installed. These matters were raised with the local gym officers and they said the problem with the punchbag was that it could not be attached to the ceiling as it wasn't strong enough to hold it and they are trying to get a stand to place it on. They are also looking at the possibility of getting a frame for the use of chin and dip bars. Another prisoner raised the question of the quality of the water being used in the gym which is from the taps. He said that in other prisons they have an outside company's water container in the gym. The staff said that the water was of the same quality as is used throughout the prison.

The staff raised an issue re getting a television set installed as they feel that one can play music off the television which goes hand in hand as part of the gym work. As well as which, when a football match is taking place which is of great interest to the prisoners, they decline the gym and prefer to wait back in the cells or recreation areas to watch it. In other prisons' gyms they can take part in the gym work and watch television at the same time. They were seeking to have a television set installed for those reasons. Another matter raised was fitness-testing equipment which calculates body fats and as of now they have no ways or means of calculating same. They do not know if a person is doing well at a build-up of muscle, of chest expansion, or whatever. A machine will give accurate readings on the person's development/performance. The Inspectorate feels that these matters are worth raising with management and the gym committee to consider their merits and supply if deemed necessary.

### 6.3 *Cellular accommodation*

The cellular accommodation consists of five two-storey wings, each going out in various directions, but all joined in the centre area known as the circle. Almost all of them are identical in layout and design in that there is a steel barrier at the entrance from the circle end, a small distance down the corridor or landing there is another steel barrier, then there are the cells on both sides of the landing. At the end there is another steel barrier and beyond the barrier is the recreation area. At the recreation end there is a

door that leads to an exercise yard and each of the wings has its own separate yard.

### 6.3.1 *A Division*

#### 6.3.1.1 *A1*

There are 22 cells on this landing consisting of six single cells and the rest of them are treble. At the entrance there are three showers on both sides plus a class officer's office. The showers are all tiled and well maintained and there is a toilet and wash-hand basin just off the showers. The single cells consist of a bed, mattress, chair, bench-type table, toilet and wash-hand basin. The cells are fitted with a television set and tea-making facilities (small electric kettle). Each cell has plastic cutlery and plastic delph and they wash their cutlery and delph in their cells. The three-person cell consists of one bunk bed with the first mattress about a foot and a half from the floor and the second bed about three feet above it. On the opposite wall of the cell there is a single bed which is raised to the same level as the top bunk of the bunk bed and underneath it there is a table which is used for their meals. There is also a small table at the end of the bunk bed.

The recreation area behind the steel grid barrier at the end of the landing consists of two pool tables, a smoking room off the main area which has a large television in it, another room with two table-tennis tables and seating around the walls. There is another room off the main recreation area which is used for prisoners' phones. There is also a toilet and wash-hand basin off same. There is an exit from the recreation area to the exercise yard which is

reasonably sized with seating provided and covered with netting. Most of the toilets in the exercise yards are out of use as there are contractors working on them carrying out renovations and changing their design. On talking to some of the prisoners on A1 landing they complained that there was no work and no educational facilities and they found the day extremely long. They also complained of the lack of hot water; it was just lukewarm. At the entrance to each of the landings on the ground floor there are serveries in which the meals from the kitchen are brought in bain-maries, placed in the hot distribution stainless-steel containers and served to the prisoners from there.

#### 6.3.1.2 A2

There are 22 cells on this landing, 6 of which are single and the rest are treble. It is laid out in exactly the same fashion as described in A1. The recreation area at the end of the landing has one snooker table with seating around the room. There is a telephone facility for prisoners, toilet, wash-hand basin off that room as well as a smoking room with a large TV and seating around the walls. There is a table-tennis room and a TV room. There is a computer room which was not in use. Prisoners on this landing exit by a backstairs which leads them down to the recreation area on A1 landing and from there they can go out to the exercise yard. So the exercise yard facilitates prisoners from both A1 and A2 landings.

The cells throughout the prison are suitable for single occupancy only.

Those that are used as trebles are most unsuitable as they are just too small

for that number. Prisoners are really cramped in them and furthermore the eating facilities with the table underneath one of the beds is most unhygienic. Someone may be lying on the bed while some of the other cell mates may be eating their meals at the table directly underneath, so it is most unsatisfactory. The location of the TV in the treble cell means that it cannot be viewed by the person lying on the top bunk, so some of them take the mattress from the top bunk, put it down on the floor and lie on it there in order to be able to see the television. The cells are all well maintained, very clean, bright coloured and have quite large windows which allow in a sufficient amount of light. But despite that, some of them had the windows covered with a towel, while some had posters or drawings put across them. The walls also had some paper cuttings plastered onto them. Overall the level of hygiene throughout the landings was very good.

### *6.3.2 B Division*

B Division was the next area that the Inspectorate examined and again it is laid out in the very same fashion as that described on A Division. It consists of 22 cells, 2 singles and the rest treble, and hold a total of 62 prisoners between B1 and B2. The recreation area and rooms are at the end, including a phone room . The exit to the exercise yard is off the recreation area. It is quite large with goalposts installed in it and again covered with netting. The class officers' offices are fitted out with a computer in each which contains the class roll, a record of searches and other information on prisoners. It has a table and chairs, and the electrical controls to the cells are contained there. It also has the cell panel call system as well as the

panel alarms. There is a toilet, wash-hand basin and a small storage facility just off the office. The cells, recreation areas and exercise yards on this division were again neat, clean and tidy.

### 6.3.3 *C Division and second gym*

There are 22 cells on C1 and C2 with a capacity for 54 prisoners on each which consists of six single cells and the rest of them are treble. The layout of the division is identical to that described on 'A' and 'B' Divisions. The recreation area at the end consists of the various games rooms. There is also an aerobic room with mats and step boxes on the floor for doing aerobics. There is a large gym room off the recreation area with various items of gym equipment such as shoulder and leg machines, chest bicep machines, pec deck, pulley row machine, pull-down machine, two bicycles, one stepper, one rower, two treadmills, one cross trainer, a punchbag and a gym ball. The records show that this gymnasium takes an average of 12 prisoners maximum at a time but it was closed at the time of our inspection. The exercise yard is relatively small with seating around it and netting covering over same. Again the cells, landing, exercise areas and yard were clean and tidy.

### 6.3.4 *D Division*

#### 6.3.4.1 *D1 (medical area)*

D1 is the medical centre for the entire prison's medical facilities. As one enters from the circle end the first room on the left is a urine-sample-taking room. The next is the holding area waiting room for prisoners coming from or going to the doctor. The next room is the nurses' office followed by the nurses' medical file room. Next are the dentistry facilities. There is a bathroom and shower which has facilities and accessibility for disabled persons. The landing continues with rooms for the optician, a dressing

room, a store room and the doctor's consultation room. There are 12 cells in this area, eight of which are single; the rest are treble. There is also a recreation room with a small gym and a snooker table on the centre of the landing. The food in this area is brought in by bain-marie from the kitchen and served from the bain-marie as there is no servery facility within the area.

#### *6.3.4.2 D2*

D2 is divided into two sections. One side contains special security prisoners and the opposite side contains prisoners that are vulnerable, while at the end there are the close supervision cells. The close supervision cells have a felt stone covered built-in bed base with mattress and the cells are fitted with televisions plus toilets and wash-hand basins. They are fitted out with special non-tearable clothing, the floors are tiled and there are extremely sensitive water sprinklers installed in each of them. All of the areas were clean, tidy and well kept.

#### *6.3.4.3 Conditions regarding placing a prisoner in a close supervision cell*

A special form is completed on every prisoner placed in close supervision or safety observation cells. The form contains the name of the prisoner, the sentence or remand time he is serving, his prison number, his landing, the date and time of placing him in the cell plus the reasons for same. The form also contains the name of the nurse officer present at the time he was placed there, the date and time he came out of it and it is signed by the supervisory officer. Section 2 of the form has the same particulars and is

signed by the Governor and then forwarded to HQ. There is also a similar type form which is in book format in the class officers' office which has the same particulars on it, outlining who authorised such placement and reasons for same. The person authorising the placement cannot be below the rank of Assistant Chief Officer. This book form also contains the various checks that were carried out on that person throughout his duration in the special cells. On checking the records of those placed in the close supervision or special observation cells, the average time spent there has been one day. When the prisoner is removed, the form is then signed by the authorising officer and a copy goes onto his medical file and the other copy goes to the general office where it is submitted to the Prison Service Headquarters.

### *6.3.5 E Division*

#### *6.3.5.1 E1 Landing*

The E1 landing contains eleven cells. Some of the cells are single; the rest are treble. The landing is blocked off with a steel grid and behind the grid is the class officers' office as well as the servery area for the serving of meals to the entire E division. There is an exit at the end of the landing that leads out to an exercise yard which is a reasonable size and covered with netting. The prisoners can also recreate on the landing itself and it is fitted with a snooker table, football games, TV and seating area. There are three showers on the landing and one wash-hand basin, tiled and fitted with non-slip mats.

#### 6.3.5.2 *E2 Landing*

The entrance to this landing is by a corridor and the first large room on the corridor is the Catholic church which is used by other denominations. It is very modern, well kept and from its appearance is very well respected by all its users. The corridor past the church contains the chaplains' office, various probation and welfare officers' offices, the psychologist's office, and then leads into the cellular accommodation. The accommodation has eleven cells and contains twenty-three prisoners; some are single cells, the rest of them are treble. The cells are of the same size and laid out the very same as the cells in all of the other divisions. There is also a class officers' office and a nurses' office, in which the nurse can meet prisoners and distribute medication. There is a gym also which is fitted out with the various gymnasium equipment such as walk machines, weight machines, leg machines, arm/chest stretching machines, punchbag, etc. It is quite small and with the amount of equipment in it there is barely any space between each of the items of equipment. It is not very suitable if large numbers use it. The landing and exercise yard were clean, tidy and well kept.

#### 6.4 *Kitchen area*

The entrance to the kitchen is just off the circle area and at the time of inspection there were four assistant supervisors, one supervisor and 15 prisoners working there. There is a delivery area at the opposite end of the kitchen to the circle where goods/vegetables, etc. are delivered directly into the kitchen. [They are not delivered to the stores first and then dispatched to the kitchen.] The delivery area has a weighing machine plus wash-hand

basin and containers which are colour coded for the various meats, fish, vegetables, etc. All of the floors are tiled and the walls are painted. Just off the entrance area there are two showers, one toilet and a wash-hand basin for prisoners plus lockers for their clothing. There is also a shower/toilet and lockers for staff. Further on there is a staff tea room with a table and chairs. There is another small room off the main kitchen which contains all of the cleaning materials and chemicals required for use in the kitchen, washing-up liquids, soaps etc. All of the areas are tiled, clean and very well maintained. They have achieved the highest mark possible in hygiene awards with 5 A's for the last two years, so great credit is due to all concerned for this achievement. They are also checked on a regular basis by the Environmental Health Officer from the Health Service Executive and all of their reports have been most favourable.

The first section of the kitchen is the dishwasher/hotwash area. The next section of the kitchen contains the cooking area which has three combi ovens, three fryers, two boilers and two bratt pans. All of the floors are tiled.

There are a number of storage/cold rooms off the kitchen area. The first one is a cold room which contains eggs, salad, cleaned potatoes, orange juice, mixed vegetables, etc. The next cold room contains milk, while the next unit off that is the freezer which contains frozen fish, pizzas, burgers, sausage rolls, frozen potatoes, ice cream etc. The next storage area is the dry food store which contains cereals, teabags, sugar, tinned food, mixed herbs and all the seasoning for soups, etc. and then the fridge freezer unit which

contained a large quantity of two-litre cartons of milk, butter, chips, ice cream, etc.

The workers in the kitchen make up packages which consist of tea bags, breakfast cereals, bread, jam, sugar, and salt and these packages are collected at the servery by the prisoners when collecting their meals and are taken to their cells.

There is a small laundry for the sole use of the kitchen staff just off the main kitchen entrance. They wash, iron, prepare all the whites for both prisoners and staff and there is a fresh outfit available every day for everyone working within the kitchen. All of the prisoners and staff working in the kitchen are dressed in whites with their hair covered in white hats. They were extremely busy at the time of inspection and it was a hub of activity. The entire and total area was spotless. The work was in full steam and there appeared to be wonderful co-operation between the staff and the prisoners. They all appeared to know what they had to do and were going about it with wonderful enthusiasm.

As one enters the kitchen there is a row on the wall of framed hygiene awards certificates and other awards on display which were presented to the kitchen over the last number of years. All concerned are very proud to display the awards and show anyone who enters their achievement, which is certainly worthwhile. It was the last day of duty there for the officer who conducted the tour of the kitchen, as he had got promotion and was moving

on to Castlerea Prison the following day. We wish him the best of luck and no doubt he will maintain the high standards that he has obviously set at Cloverhill.

The outside of the entrance to the kitchen area, just between the kitchen and the circle area, was quite untidy with wrapping papers, crisp bags, etc. Apparently this area is used by prisoners from E Division for access to the tuck shop and they wait there until they are served in the shop. It was the only black spot that appeared during the whole kitchen visit. However, this section is not part of the kitchen area as it is outside of the entrance door. It was an area that could do with being tidied.

#### 6.5 *Main Gate*

All the gates at the main entrance are electronically controlled from within the large control office area. The large vehicle gate entrance is big enough to allow a vehicle to enter, to be held between the two gates until the officers are satisfied re identification and security. Then the second gate is opened to allow the vehicle proceed. The pedestrian gates operate in exactly the same way as the large gates in that the first gate is opened and one proceeds to a holding area and after particulars are taken by the officers, the second gate is opened to allow entry.

There are a number of interview rooms plus a waiting room just off the pedestrian gate entrance area for use by people wishing to enter into surety bail bonds, gardaí business, plus other professionals.

The officers' station control section has several CCTV monitors plus mirrors to observe the entrance, exit areas and the contents of lorries, vans, etc. from the roof mirrors. They issue visiting docket to prisoners' visitors and arrange I.D.s with photographs for 'outside' workers such as contractors, builders, visiting officials, etc. They also take in cash for prisoners as well as clothing and arrange receipts for same. Most of their work is recorded on IT. They operate the entire control panels for the various gates including those leading to the car park. They control the committal and discharge of prisoners, movement of staff in and out of the prison including escorts plus deliveries and contractors' vehicles. Their office is designed in such a way that it has large viewing panels so that the officers can observe people approaching the gate area. The gate office is open 24 hours a day and the entire areas were clean, tidy and well maintained.

#### 6.6 *The console room area*

The console room is operated by an ACO and two staff and is open twenty-four hours a day. The entrance is observed with CCTV and there is a password pad key number to gain entry. The entry to the first area leads into the staff facilities, which is a reasonable sized room with table and chairs and tea-making facilities. There are sanitary facilities just off this room.

The console room is the nerve centre of the entire prison, from where almost all of the activities within the prison are monitored, controlled and operated. There is a computer which registers the night guards' tour of duty on the

landings and when the officers impress the recording clocks at the end of the landings it is recorded here and can be checked to ensure the patrols have been carried out. There is also a computer which controls and maintains the building management systems, which displays any maintenance faults, for example, extractor systems, fire alarm systems, pumps, water pressures, and other alarms. There are banks of monitors in a semicircular location on the floor and these are constantly monitored by the staff. There are also audio visual gate monitors whereby the person at a particular gate is shown on screen and the officer in the control room can either allow access or stop the person getting through. There is CCTV in 100 different locations and these are constantly being monitored by the staff present. The staff within the console room also receive and deal with phone calls from the general public and transfer them to the appropriate people within the prison. They also control the radio walkie-talkie system. There is a radio book with entry of every radio issued and the location of the person to whom the radio is issued. Within this area there is also a computer record of handset user terminals, plus a computerised Setanta fire alarms system which records the fire alarms and emergency break-glass units within the entire prison. There is also a facility whereby a control panel is linked to the cell call bell system and if a prisoner presses the bell in his cell the officer in the console room can contact the landing officer and tell that officer which cell has activated its bell push. They also use the video recording tape machines for the CCTV cameras and can hold the records of these for some time in the event of incidents or dispute of contraband being attempted to be passed into the prison. The area was clean and tidy. It is

quite airy and extremely busy with all of the various cameras, monitors, phones, etc. operating constantly.

## 6.7 *Reception area*

The reception area was being managed by an ACO and five officers at the time of our inspections. On entering the reception from the circle end of the prison there is a corridor that contains five holding cells in which prisoners are held when going out or returning from courts, etc. The floor covering in one of the cells was quite damaged and in fact the floor covering in nearly all of the cells was in need of replacement. The next section is the changing cubicle area which can process three prisoners at a time. Off the changing area is the locker room which has over 500 lockers. The lockers are in rows, free standing in the centre of the floor as well as around all of the walls. It was relatively tidy although there was a considerable number of bags with names and numbers on them on the top of lockers and at the end of some of the corridors. A room off the main locker-room contains an X-ray machine, and any parcels or clothing that they suspect may contain contraband are passed through this machine. It is used quite regularly. There is a provision where prisoners can exchange clothing or collect clothing that has been left in for them by their visitors. This is checked, computerised and on receiving same they have to sign off in a book for it.

At the opposite end of the reception is the committal area with an office just off it where a clerk inputs the particulars of the incoming prisoners on computer plus their cash and gratuity accounts. Once the prisoners' particulars have been recorded regarding their charges, warrants, etc. they then pass through another area and are photographed and from there they pass into the nurses' station where particulars are taken of their medical

record. They then pass into the main reception area where particulars of height, weight, marks, scars, clothing, property, etc. are recorded on computer. All the new committals have a shower and if necessary a phone call is made on their behalf, if they so request, particularly if it is late in the evening and they have had no access to a phone. The committal reception area also has five holding cells which are fitted with toilets and wash-hand basins. The floor covering in these needs replacing. These are obviously areas that are used quite frequently. While they are clean and tidy, they have the hallmarks of an area that is in constant use. The walls were freshly painted but the floor covering was well worn and in places coming away.

The reception area was very busy with constant coming and going of prisoners, some getting exchanges, some being committed from the courts, some being discharged on bail, etc. They also have a considerable amount of work with visitors leaving in clothing, etc. for the prisoners. It appears to be well maintained and was overall clean and tidy for the volume and the pressure that these people are working under. The officers operate the computer systems fully and have very little book work. A computerisation failure, would have very serious effects on the running of the whole area because that they are so dependent on computer records which include printouts of discharges, committals, properties, etc. On the odd occasions that the computer has failed, it caused tremendous problems. The cameras used to photograph the prisoners have also been giving trouble recently and again their failure would be a major problem as all of the prisoners coming in are photographed. The Inspectorate inquired regarding lost property and

the amount of claims that were lodged in relation to same and was informed that there were quite few. However, the claims are extremely time-consuming when staff try to trace every item or article that has come in and gone out for prisoners during the duration of their stay. Quite a number of the claims have been false and have been proven so in the court.

#### 6.8 *Tuck Shop*

The Inspectorate visited the tuck shop which is located in an area off the circle of the prison and is accessible from all of the wings. It was staffed by four officers and the officer in charge said that there were approximately 400 transactions per day which includes staff purchases. The opening hours are 9:15-12:15, 14:10-16:15, and 17:15-19:15 every day Monday to Friday. It is also open part-time Saturday and Sunday. It appears very well stocked with tobacco, biscuits, cakes, cereals, sweets, chocolates, drinks, crisps, cheese spreads, stationery, batteries, newspapers and toiletries. Sliced meat and cheeses are also available as well as fruit and greeting cards. The price list is displayed on the window of the Class Officers' Office on the different landings. They are checked every month and updated as necessary. The newspapers that are not sold are returned to the shop and the price refunded. They operate a system whereby the record (printout) of the prisoners' cash accounts is sent from the general office to the person in charge of the tuck shop twice per day. The prisoner signs for each transaction and a copy of this along with the receipts is sent to the general office at the end of each day's transactions. The staff purchases are recorded separately and a total for the entire day's transactions is also

shown. The prisoners from the various wings are organised to come to the tuck shop on specific days, mornings or afternoons and those on protection are taken on Saturday or Sunday. It appears to be a well stocked and well run shop. The officers who were there during the time of our inspection were most efficient, courteous and helpful towards the prisoners throughout our visit.

#### *6.9 Cellular Transport Vehicles*

The Inspectorate examined a two person cellular transport vehicle that was parked in one of the yards of the prison and it contained a locked area which had seating facilities within it for each prisoner. Outside of the doors of the locked area were facilities for an officer to sit. The prisoners are handcuffed on entering the cubicle. The vehicle is manned by one officer driving and one officer within the vehicle but outside the cubicle area. The staff who are not accompanying the prisoners in the cellular vehicle go to the court ahead of the vehicle. On its arrival, they look after the prisoners and transfer them from the van to the cells within the various courthouses. The vans appear to be well designed, and are reasonably comfortable and airy. The staff maintain that the prisoners are quite happy with the facilities within them. The entire fleet of vans, cars and larger transport vehicles are marked with the prison service logo; each of them is numbered in order to identify them in case of emergencies.

#### *6.10 General Office*

The general office deals with prisoners' warrants, their particulars, files, cash, etc. plus their correspondence to and from the courts. They also deal with bails, discharge dates, hospital appointments, etc. It is quite a large modern office, well laid out with computers and all of the normal office facilities. It was amazing that a considerable amount of the correspondence to and from HQ is done by fax and not by e-mail which one would presume would be easier. However, when this was discussed with staff, it was found that the staff do not know exactly whom they are dealing with in HQ and vice versa. One of the issues raised by staff was the lack of training in the use of computers. Their overall knowledge of the computers they say is quite limited and they felt that further training was badly needed. The recording on the computer of assaults (p. 45s) appeared a bit hazy and only one desk appeared able to locate such records. It was the normal everyday working office with each member of staff operating the computers, phones, etc. It was clean and tidy.

#### *6.11 Personnel Office Section*

The staff in this office deal with all of the personnel matters which includes medical matters in relating to the appointment of relief doctors when the primary doctors are not available. They are also responsible for the accounts of the prison which includes cash bails. They deal with the prison's impress, staff files, promotional competitions, transfers, sick records, social welfare records re staff on type 'A' insurance, hospital bills, probationary reports, subsistence, and allowances. The staff are paid directly from the accounts section in Killarney from the clocking-in records

within the prison. At the end of each week's transaction the Killarney staff send a printout which is checked to ensure it is accurate. Again like the general office it is a normal everyday working office, staff working on computers, answering phones and dealing with files, etc. It was clean and tidy.

#### 6.12 *Detail office*

This office is operated by an assistant chief officer (ACO) and four officers and they deal with the duty rosters of all of the staff, which are on an eighteen week rotation. They also deal with the day-to-day duties posting for both that day and the following day. They are responsible for the clocking-in and reporting system. Anyone who is reporting for duty beyond 8:15am (due on at 8.00a.m.) are deemed to be late. They also have problems with those going sick on the day or those who were sent on escort during the night and were due in the following morning for a different post. So all of the clocking-in records have to be checked to establish if someone is missing or placed on different duties or has forgotten their card or failed to clock in. The staff have to clock in at 8:00, out at 13:00, in at 14:00 and out then at 17:00 or 20:00 whenever their tour of duty ends . The entire office is computerised including the duty posts, and a printout is displayed so each member of staff knows as to where they are working the following day. They are responsible also for the shortfall of staff on the escort corps. They have to manually make out the number of staff required for the various escorts if the escort corps do not have sufficient numbers from within their own group. This escort corps will eventually be taken over entirely by the people involved

in managing it but until such time as that happens or sufficient staff are allocated, the shortfall in staff will have to be made up from the staffing levels of Cloverhill. The detail staff also do a check on the return that is sent to the finance section in Killarney for staff payment to ensure that the staff are paid the proper allowances. This takes up a considerable amount of time. It is quite a busy office with all working at their computers, and answering phones, dealing with queries at the hatches, queries from chief officers and staff alike, but clean and tidy.

#### 6.13 *Key Room/ACO's room*

This room or office is operated on a twenty-four hour basis by an ACO who is responsible for the issue of all the keys of the prison to staff, recording to whom they are issued and their location at all times. They also issue the walkie-talkie radios and have a record of who receives same plus their location. They are also responsible for the 'numbers book' re prisoners. The location of the prisoners, their various landings, any transfers, discharges, etc. that take place are all recorded and kept up-to-date here. They have a number of safes that contain some security issues and they also have the battery chargers for all of the radio walk-talkies plus other equipment such as batteries, lamps, etc. There are special safes for keys which are located along the walls and are numbered.

#### 6.14 *Chief Officers' Office*

The officer in charge makes out the duty details for the Assistant Chief Officers and the other Chief Officers plus their posts. There are a

considerable number of records kept here re Chief Officers' orders, Governor's orders, various other orders and other books such as the 'special observation books', report books, etc. They also have special safes which contains confiscated drugs, weapons, or prohibited articles found during searches or brought in with prisoners or visitors to the prison, plus a considerable number of confiscated mobile phones. The drugs that are found are handed over to the Gardaí after a specified period and there are records to show the Garda's signature for receipt of same. The control of tapes to the cells is operated from this office and they can also show football matches, films, etc. from this point, which are transmitted out to the cells throughout the prison. Again it was a busy office, people constantly coming and going and regular requests being made to the Chief while we were there. It was clean and tidy.

*6.15 Computer for personal information relating to staff*

On the corridor between the ACO's office and the Chief's office there is a touch-button computer installed for the convenience of staff members. It contains individual staff information such as annual leave, exchanges, absences, number of hours worked, clocking-in and clocking-out times, etc. This computer is protected within a wooden frame box and appears to be used on a very regular basis.

*6.16 Office responsible for prisoners' phone cards and ID*

There was one officer in charge of this office who outlined that the photographs taken of prisoners on committal are processed in this office.

The officer then makes out a card and issues the photo to the prisoner which also contains the prisoner's ID number. This card is then issued to the prisoner for identification purposes such as for sales in the tuck shop or for borrowing books from the library. He can also be asked for the card by staff when going on visits or if a foreign national requests something in order to identify him; as he may not be able to speak English, they can put his name down from the card for the various services.

The other matters dealt with in this office relate to the application of phone cards for prisoners. The prisoner gives three numbers, the first one must be his solicitor and the other two can be anyone of his choice. The officer rings the person and number given to establish that they are willing to accept the call from the particular prisoner, and then the card is made out accordingly. The card contains his number, name, his personal pin number and a card number. A prisoners has fifteen seconds to hang up if he does not wish to make the call (say, if he puts his wife down for the call but the child answers it) but if it goes beyond fifteen seconds it is then recorded as a call. A prisoner can change the person he wishes to telephone once per week provided he gets the Governor's permission for same. The monitoring of calls takes place in this office. There is no distinction between local and international calls; they are all treated in the same fashion. The officer informed us that occasionally there are abuses of the system, but by and large, for the number of calls made, it works quite well. It is quite a small office but very efficient. The officer appears to be really well up for the work involved which is quite technical.

### 6.17 *Staff facilities areas*

The staff canteen consists of quite a large dining hall with tables and chairs and is operated by an outside contractor. There is quite a large modern kitchen and all appears to be very clean. It is fitted out with stainless-steel shelving, tiled, etc. They charge €4.90 for a main course meal and have two other main course meals on the menu for which they charge €3 each but these do not contain vegetables or potatoes which are €1.25 extra. The staff who were using the facilities said it works well and they appear quite pleased with it.

The other facilities within this area include a leisure room with soft chairs, a large television and coffee tables in the centre of the floor. There is also a snooker room and a restroom with small lockers, tables and chairs. There are also two offices on the corridor, one for the Staff Service Officer and the other the POA's office. There is a staff gym which is fitted with all modern gym equipment, quite large and well equipped. There is also a smoking room and another television room with soft chairs. There are male and female locker rooms with showers and toilets off them. Some of the showers in the main locker rooms were being refurbished with new tiles and a new system to control the water supply to them. Beyond the shower area there is a row of toilets, wash-hand basins, urinals. There is also a room on the corridor which stores riot equipment and other training equipment such as B.A. (breathing apparatus). All of the areas were quite clean and tidy. The locker rooms were somewhat untidy with towels, clothing, etc. hanging

from various lockers and shoes, runners etc. left lying around. The shower area could do with being modernised.

#### *6.18 Stores section*

The stores are operated by one Acting Clerk 1 and four Acting Clerk 2's, and they are responsible for the prison's victualling, prisoners' bedding/clothing, all of the cleaning materials, the trade stores, miscellaneous purchases and uniforms. It is planned that the stores will be moved to another location as the premises now occupied by the stores will be taken over by the escort corps, once it is renovated and changed for different use. The staff when asked regarding the programme within the computer system 'Oracle' claimed it is working very well but that it is of more benefit to HQ than to the local system. They hold very little stock within the Cloverhill stores. There is a small storage facility with stock but overall the stock in the prison is quite small and they buy it on demand. They have a portable two-storey cabin in the yard outside of the stores which contains prisoners' bedding and clothing supplies. They have a 'dry food' store and a staff uniform store plus another store which contains all the cleaning materials required for the prison.

#### *6.19 Trades stores and office*

The trades section of the prison is staffed by one Chief Trades Officer class 1 and one Chief Trades Officer class 2, plus nine Trades Officers, consisting of two carpenters, one of whom is on temporary transfer, three plumbers and five electricians. It is planned that the trades section will also be moved to some other location as the area that they now occupy is going to be taken

over by the escort corps. They have not yet been informed of the plans or where they will have to go or when this operation is going to take place. The downstairs section of the trades stores contains workshops for the carpenters, the plumbers, and the electricians, which are reasonably large and suitable for the work they carry out there. The whole area was clean and tidy as far as working workshops go.

#### *6.20 Underground tunnel from prison to Cloverhill Courthouse*

There is an underground tunnel leading from the prison to the local courthouse which contains seven cells and three holding rooms downstairs underneath the courtroom area. There are steps leading from this area up to a holding area at the rear of the courthouse which has seating for three or four prisoners and when their case is called the prisoner is then passed into the courtrooms. The courthouse contains two courtrooms and between the two courtrooms there are solicitors'/barristers' consultation rooms where they can have consultations with their prisoners. The cells and holding rooms are in constant use and have all the hallmarks of such with cigarette butts, bits of paper, and various things lying around the floors. It was due to be cleaned at the end of business in the courtrooms.

#### *6.21 Escort corps*

The escort corps are located in the classrooms that were originally intended for educational use. On the evening of our inspection there was a total of 52 staff involved, which included a Governor, a Deputy Governor, 3 Chief Officers, 1 Clerk I, 2 Clerk II's, 2 ACO's and the rest were basic grade

officers. They have a total of 32 vehicles, some of which are in other locations outside of the Dublin area. All of their vans are fitted out in cellular design and each prisoner has his own individual compartment and is locked into same. There are two officers allocated per van to accompany the van to and from the courts. There is another transit van which conveys other staff members to and from the courts. At the present time, they are escorting prisoners required in the Four Courts complex plus the Cloverhill courthouse. They intend doing the escorts for the entire country once they have reached their full staffing complement which may be next February or March. The cellular vans are also used to escort prisoners from within the various Dublin prisons for court appearances or transfers.

There is a paper record of the transactions of the prisoners escorted and the officer in charge of the vehicle has to sign for receiving the prisoners. On returning the prisoners, the officer of the prison has to sign for receiving them. So there is a paper trail throughout for the entire transactions of the day. There is a service level agreement contract between the Prison Service Escort Corps and the Governors outlining the responsibilities on both sides.

It is only three weeks in existence and so far they are quite pleased with what they have been able to cover. They have covered the escort staffing needs for the Four Courts complex plus Cloverhill Courthouse with a number of other inter-prison transfers as well. So as their staffing numbers increase they will also expand to other parts of the country where their needs are required. If they haven't got sufficient staff to perform the required escorts

on a particular day they have to draw staff from either Cloverhill Prison or some of the other prisons where the escorts are needed.

There is a considerable amount of paperwork involved in establishing the number of staff required on a daily basis to cover the courts, the transfers, the hospital escorts, etc. and also in organising personnel. Considering their short time in existence they appear to be going very well. It will take at least a year or more in operation to establish if its use is good value for money and an improvement on the old system.

#### *6.22 Sensors and keys/handcuffs office*

The officer in charge of this office outlined that it was a one-person post and responsibilities included the issuing of keys to individual staff members.

The officer is also responsible for the issue of handcuffs. Each officer coming on duty is issued with an individual set of keys to allow the officers access to internal prison doors/gates but they are not security gates or doors. A lot of the officers would hand in their own personal keys (car and house keys) when collecting this bunch and when they return the keys their personal ones are returned to them. The officer is also responsible for the issuing of hand-cuffs to those going on escort duties. This transaction is recorded as to whom they are issued and also recorded again when returning off the escort.

The responsibilities of this officer also include the censoring of letters. The officer collects the letters from the postboxes on the various wings, as well

as the prisoners' letters from the general office, each morning and brings them back to this office for censoring. The incoming letters quite often have money in them which is recorded in a book and the money is then passed into the general office. A member of the office staff signs a receipt for same. The letters both coming in and going out are censored. Both the incoming and outgoing letters are recorded onto the computer. The class officers collect the incoming letters for their particular landing and also sign for their receipt. The officer outlined that quite often photographs, books, CDs or clothes are sent in, so in those cases the officer puts the property into reception and the staff there sign for same. Part of the officer's duty is to check, as far as possible, that the prisoners are not writing to or communicating with the victims of their crime or others who do not wish to receive any communication from prisoners. He stated that there are about 30/40 letters per day coming in and the same number going out but the introduction of phones has taken away a considerable amount of the written correspondence. He also informed us that, generally, all post received is issued on the same day of receipt. The office was neat and tidy as far as any working office can be with officers coming and going with bunches of keys, enquiries and officers calling for handcuffs, etc.

### 6.23 *F Block (videolink building)*

This is a stand-alone building linked to 'C' block of the prison by an enclosed walkway. It is a two-storey building. Downstairs contains six holding cells for those waiting to be called to the videolink centre upstairs. These holding cells are all tiled, with seating around the walls, and all have in-cell

sanitation. They are fitted for in-cell TV when in use. The area has a small kitchen which contains a tea/coffee-making facility, a sink and a few presses. The areas are tiled; it is new, fresh and very well laid out. There is also a control room downstairs which is independent of the control room within the main prison. It is operational from within this unit but the alarms are connected to the main prison's control system. There are staff toilets and wash-hand basins just off the stairwell between the first and second floor.

The upstairs section consists of five legal consultation booths, all fitted with audio-visual (tangberg unit screens and speakers) and there is a chair and a small shelf within each. The booth is soundproofed, carpeted and very well furnished. There are also seven booths for court videolinking fitted with cameras, a television, speakers and microphone. Each of the booths is fitted so that a fax machine can be added if required. The area is carpeted and fitted out to a high standard. Each of the booths is fitted with air conditioning, fire alarms, and staff alarms. Off the lobby there are also prisoners' toilets and wash-hand basins. This entire building has been changed from its prior use of cellular accommodation to facilitate the video linking with the courts and for legal consultations with barristers. It is ready but as of yet has not come into use. The building has been changed and renovated to a very high standard and is very presentable.

## **7. Health and Safety (especially the fire aspect of Health and Safety)**

- 7.1 The Inspectorate met the senior staff responsible for health and safety matters within the prison and they produced fire plans as well as all records relating to services being carried out by outside contractors and by the local trade staff.
- 7.1.2 There is a fire plan for the prison which was last updated in 2003 and all of the staff are familiar with it. They are issued with a small pocket-size booklet of same. The prisoners have access to some aspects of the fire plans and are aware through evacuation procedures and by the notices that are displayed around the various areas concerning fire, etc. There are no notices inside the prisoners' cells regarding the fire plans or instructions re evacuations. However, there are written notices given to them in the event of a fire drill exercise taking place. The prisoners are not given any instruction written or verbal re fire prevention or procedures at committal stages into the prison. If the fire plan is changed or updated the staff are informed through the safety statement and also through the electronic noticeboard which is displayed in the circle. They are made aware of same by having the little booklets reprinted and also the prisoners are informed of any change that would affect them. The fire plans include a map or drawing of the entire building which outlines the location of the fire hydrants, the location of the standpipes, hydrant connections, the location of the fire hoses/fire hose reels, the fire alarms as well as the hand-held fire extinguishers and their locations. The emergency exits of the buildings are highlighted in the fire plan as well as the assembly points for staff, prisoners, visitors, etc. There is a fire prevention committee attached to the prison and

its members consist of senior staff plus the staff health and safety representative.

7.1.3 There is a ring water main supply surrounding the prison and there is also a domestic supply for both domestic and emergency use. The water comes from the city's supply as well as from its own tanks which are located in Wheatfield Prison. There are 13 hydrants fitted to the mains and the hydrants are clearly marked with the covering of them painted yellow and there is a 'H' sign displayed at each individual hydrant on the wall very close by. They are quite easily identifiable. There are wet risers fitted within the buildings and there are fire hose reels and equipment for the hoses located within the buildings. There is also a first-aid water hose reel fitted within the landings and those reels reach to the furthest cell required on the landings. There are water storage tanks fitted within the prison for firefighting/emergency use which are shared with Wheatfield Prison, the capacity of which is 25,000 gallons. There are jockey pumps and booster pumps fitted to the system at the water storage area which are both battery and electrically operated. The water pressure on the prison hydrants is four bar which is compatible with the local fire brigade's engines. The fire brigade have carried out checks regarding the water pressure and connections with their fire engines but these checks have not been done of recent times. There are water sprinklers installed in the close supervision cellular accommodation on D2 class only.

There are approximately 180 fire extinguishers of various types [plus fire blankets in cooking areas] located within the prison and the other buildings that are occupied. The extinguishers are contained either in cabinets where prisoners have access to them or they are attached to the walls in various locations. They are clearly marked 'fire extinguishers' and are easily identifiable.

There are air-sampling smoke detectors installed in all of the cellular areas as well as the -head type smoke detectors installed in offices, stores and other buildings that are occupied. The detectors are linked to central control panels, which if activated, display the location and area of the smoke. If smoke is detected in the detection system, it activates an alarm. There are break-glass fire unit alarms installed throughout the prison and in the event of a fire, the glass is broken and the button is pressed which will activate the alarm. The break-glass units can also be used for raising the alarm for security purposes. There is a general fire alarm as well as a siren type. There are written and verbal instructions as to the procedures to follow in the event that such alarms are activated.

There is a smoke-extraction system installed in the prison which is the "Colt" type which has louvre ventilations in the roof. There are also smoke-extraction fans in D1 area and in block F. These are activated by the sensor within the fire alarm system but can also be turned on manually. The smoke extractors are linked electronically to the smoke detectors. They can be activated manually from various locations and they also control the roof

vents, if necessary. There are fire doors installed in some of the corridors. They are not operated electronically through the smoke detector system but are closed manually. The fire doors installed serve two purposes: they are fire doors and also security doors. There are also fire doors installed in the stairwells.

There are emergency exits from all of the cellular accommodation as well as from the various work areas, offices, stores, education area, etc. There are emergency illuminated exit signs throughout the prison as well as emergency lighting installed. In the areas where the emergency lights are installed, if prisoners have access to them they are protected by a grid. The prison also has its own power generator.

7.1.4 The prison has contracts with outside contractors to service the various fire and emergency equipment. The particulars of same are as follows:- the fire extinguishers are serviced annually and this was last carried out in October 2005; the SCAB are serviced six-monthly, the last being October 2005 as was the BA cylinder pressure test done at the same time. The following are done annually: the smoke detectors which were last done in September 2005, the control panels re smoke detectors, the smoke extraction system, the break-glass units, the emergency exit doors and the emergency lighting all, done in September 2005. The jockey pumps are serviced every six months and they are the responsibility of Wheatfield Prison as they are located there. The alarm system is done annually and was carried out in September 2005 as were the control panels, the printouts, and the

emergency cut-off points in the electric and gas supply. The hose reels and fittings are checked annually. The generator is serviced every six months and the last time it was serviced was May 2005.

Checks and services are carried out by local trade staff on fire and safety equipment, some of them monthly, others weekly. The records show that the extinguishers are checked monthly, the BA cylinders are checked weekly, hose reels and fittings weekly, emergency exit doors weekly, emergency lighting weekly, three-monthly and annually, the break-glass units weekly, the alarms are weekly and the smoke extraction tests carried out weekly. The sprinklers are done monthly, both visually and by pressure checks. The fire-escape routes are checked out daily and the drinking water quality is checked every six months. The hot-water checks are carried out daily to ensure its temperature is at 41 degrees. The records of the inspections and checks are very well recorded and up to date as are the records of the maintenance contracts on the fire and emergency equipment.

7.1.5 Regarding staff training, 250 staff receive part refresher training in BA [that is in donning and doffing only] in the past year and 40 staff received full refresher training in BA. No training took place in phase one, two or three of C & R which is a pity but hopefully will be commenced shortly with the new annualised hours. The records show that 16 fire-drill evacuation exercises took place which involved staff and prisoners. They were carried out in different locations. These evacuations commenced when the prisoners were in their cells. One of the fire-drill evacuations also included outside

caterers in the canteen. The average number involved in each of the evacuations was 85 and the average time overall was 2 minutes 20 seconds, [the longest being 5 minutes for the 'A' division]. 40 staff received refresher familiarisation training in the use of fire hoses, standpipe connections, fire extinguishers, etc in the past year. There are booklets issued to all staff regarding fire prevention and fire evacuation procedures in the event of a fire within the prison. All cells are fitted with an inundation facility for the fire-hose reel-head. It requires a cap to be removed and the head of the hose reel placed in the opening. The cell doors are also fitted in such a way that they can be removed from their hinges when in a locked position, in the event of their being barricaded.

The records show that the last time the fire brigade personnel were on a familiarisation tour of the prison was in 2004 and at that time they brought in the fire engines with them. They also connected the prison hose reels and fittings to their engines. There are plans in place regarding the fire brigade being called to the prison and who to meet them on arrival, etc. There is an understanding between both the fire brigade authorities and the prison authorities as to what each have to do in the event of an emergency at the prison.

7.1.6 There are designated smoking areas for prisoners and also regulations as to where staff can smoke. The prisoners are allowed to have only matches in their possession, they are not allowed to have cigarette lighters. There are no restrictions or policy re the amount of combustible material allowed in a

prisoner's cell. The following articles are allowed in their cells:- television, radio, electrical kettle, [no computers, no electric razors, no laptops] PS1 but not PS2 and a CD. There is a purchasing policy within the prison stores specifying that all cell furnishings including the bedding and duvets conform to non-flammable standards.

The special blankets that are used in the special observation cells are washed as frequently as necessary. The duvets in the prisoners' cells are washed at three-monthly intervals and the duvet covers are washed monthly. A sample of the duvets and the covers are sent out for testing regarding the retention of fire retardancy within them after so many washes.

That completed the meeting with the senior staff responsible for Health and Safety and I then met the staff representative.

## *7.2 Meeting with staff H & S representative*

During the course of our discussions he raised the question of D2 landing which does not appear to have had a fire drill evacuation carried out in recent times. It was of concern to him also that the class officers were not involved in some of the B.A. 'donning and doffing' refresher training, as they were engaged at the unlocking of the prison at the same time as this training exercises was being carried out.

He outlined that he felt that there was very little time allocated for his actual health and safety work. The very fact that he is doing other work within the

prison and trying to perform the health and safety role when he gets an opportunity is not a very good system. He states that he gets only eight days per year for H & S work. This is about three hours per week or every second Sunday and is dependent on the availability of staff on the day. His office has not been fitted with a computer or printer and he feels that it would be of benefit to him to have one, as he is going around various offices trying to type up material.

These issues were raised with management who undertook to look into the matters raised and rectify them if possible.

## **8. Meeting with various groups and individuals**

### *8.1 Meeting with Prisoners*

The Inspectorate met various groups of prisoners. He spoke of the role of the inspector, his experience on VCs, plus visitations to prisons in other countries. They spoke of the conditions, regimes etc within the prison. They thought the food was very good but they got too much chicken. They had no complaints regarding the tuck shop. They said that there was boredom in the place, that they had very little to do and found it very hard to pass the day. They outlined that the staff were very good and got on fine with them. They also got on very well with other prisoners and that there was no bullying or racism within the prison. They stated that the exercise yard was good for football only during the evening recreation period. Some of them said they saw the psychiatrists at least once per week. The psychologist and chaplains were doing a very good job and were very good and

supportive. Some of the prisoners complained that they were not getting proper meals when out at court particularly in some of the district courthouses such as Kilmainham but Cloverhill Court was okay. The food that they were supplied with in court they could not eat. Some were looking for a transfer back to Mountjoy or Wheatfield Prison. They also complained that there was no school within Cloverhill. The best prison was in the Midlands. Some of the group disagreed with the other speakers and said that a lot of bullying was taking place in Cloverhill and that there was also racism by both staff and prisoners. There were not enough phones for prisoners' use and they could do with more TV channels within their cells. This was the main outline of the overall groups' views.

## 8.2 *Meeting with the Psychologist*

The Inspector and Dr. Ledwith met the psychologist. He informed us that he was the only psychologist in the prison. He is a TCD graduate and is two years postgraduate, having spent some time working in St. John of God's and Granada. He has a M.Sc. in counselling psychology. Clients are referred through the surgery (GPs), psychiatrists, nurses and the prison chaplains. A handful are self-referrals and there was one from the Governor. The waiting list is usually two to three weeks. He sees six or seven prisoners a day.

The problems that he deals with are very varied. There may be mental health problems, panic disorder, post-traumatic disorder, sleep disorder (night sedatives are not prescribed), childhood abuse, managing crisis, family issues, financial issues and adjustment to prison. He does not

provide treatment to sex offenders. He spends half his time in Cloverhill and the other half in Wheatfield. He has been in Cloverhill since January 2005. He had to establish his role on his arrival and the need for his service. He also deals with the ordinary prisoners as well as the remand prisoners. He believes there is a need for an addiction service. He has a problem with therapy with some prisoners in that they have opened up on very sensitive issues and he cannot continue with them as they are discharged during therapy to other prisons. He does not know how long a prisoner will be in Cloverhill. This is an ethical problem for the psychologist in not knowing how deeply to delve into very sensitive areas. There is a need for more psychologists in other prisons so that therapy can be continued when they are transferred to other prisons. It is up to the prisoners to continue therapy when they are let out on bail. Boredom is the biggest problem among the prisoners, he informed us, and it is essential that "something" be done to address this boredom. They do nothing all day long. He does not do psychological reports for the courts. He informed us that a school would make a huge difference to the prisoners and he informed us that literacy skills are needed. There are a number of intellectually disabled prisoners who are not supported as they should be and he would wish to address this issue and support them. He is very satisfied with his consulting room and he has a prison officer allocated to him. He believes that his filing system is adequate and closed files are kept in a secure filing system in Clonskeagh. He would wish to have at least one more psychologist in Cloverhill.

### 8.3 *Meeting with the Psychiatrists*

Dr. Sally Linehan and Dr. Conor O'Neill were seen by the Inspectorate in Cloverhill Prison. They provide, with Dr. Kennedy, a daily service to the prison. There are also psychiatric residents attending on a daily basis and nurses from the CMH also attend regularly. All Wings are seen. New or acute prisoners are seen by consultants and follow-up visits are by psychiatric registrars from the CMH. Every Wing is seen at least once a week by a psychiatric registrar. Prisoners are tested for illegal drugs, only if they are suspected of taking them. They do realise that illegal drugs are available in the prison. The prevalence of mental illness is very high in the prison, they informed me. Prisoners have been arrested because they are showing signs of mental illness and as they are often homeless it can be very difficult to have them admitted to a psychiatric hospital because they do not live in a regular catchment area, so the different psychiatric hospitals are likely to say, "It is not our problem." Medical records do not follow prisoners from prison to prison as smoothly as they might. The result is that prisoners may not continue to receive psychotropic medication when they are transferred from prison to prison. Sleeping tablets are not prescribed. Benzodiazepines (Valium, etc.) are not prescribed except for Detox. Methadone they feel is helpful for acute withdrawal. They would like to be able to see more prisoners during their visits as there are unnecessary gaps, they feel, between prisoners coming to see them. They informed us that there is a major problem in that there is no addiction counselling service available.

They also felt that not having any activities for the prisoners had a very bad effect on them. This affects all prisoners, especially foreign nationals on remand. Racism they informed me is no different in this prison than elsewhere. On a positive side the interpreter service is very good and the surgery staff will arrange for an interpreter if possible without too much trouble. Some prisoners could be managed in local psychiatric hospitals. They informed me that this is a good prison, better than most if not all the other prisons they visit. Dr. O'Neill told me it was much better than a similar prison where he worked in Australia!

#### *8.4 Meeting with Doctor*

We met with the doctor who told us he was a "permanent part-time GP". He has been in the prison since July 05. He visits the prison from 9.30am/10.00am until 4.00pm/4.30pm. Each new committal is seen first on his arrival. The new committals will have been seen by a nurse previously and a medical report will be filled out by them. At least 50% of new committals are on drugs, either heroin or cocaine. Those who are on drugs have a standard 16-day detox, using methadone applied. The 'methadone doctor' who works in a drug treatment centre outside comes once a week and will sort out any problems. New methadone patients are handed out medicine by the nurses as a priority. Having extra nursing staff would be a help, he informed us. He sees 10 to 15 prisoners per day which includes new and old prisoners. Each unit has its own medical office. He told us that he urgently needed a defibrillator, a langascope and endotracheal for prisoners who may be ill or unconscious. Emergencies are usually sent to

Tallaght hospital. There should be basic medical equipment in each surgery including a B.P machine and a auroscope. He will prescribe psychotropic medication to psychiatric prisoners who usually go to D2 landing. He felt that the design of the 'special cells' is poor because there is a stainless-steel sink and toilet so prisoners can hit themselves off these. He felt that a camera in these cells would be helpful.

### 8.5 *Visit with the Nurses*

The Inspector and Dr. Ledwith met some nurses. There are no medical orderlies in the prison. We were told that Cloverhill Prison was the busiest prison in the country. Prisoners can stay there from two hours to two years. They ideally informed us about primary care. There are about 100 prisoners on methadone. They feel they should have eight nurses per day instead of six. The two nurses at night, they feel are sufficient. They need a nurses' manager with power and influence to explain to the authorities their needs. They would like to have a designated prison officer to accompany them on their rounds. At present the prison officer is borrowed from each unit when they visit the different units. They need to have their skills updated in CPR, wound management and drugs pharmacology. There should be support for nurses doing courses, they informed us. There is no encouragement to do any course, even if they do it in their own time.

Though the prison is open for only six and a half years the medical equipment needs to be updated. The CPR is new but they have no training in its use. A portable suction machine is necessary. They need training in taking blood as at present the doctor takes all bloods and the nurses could, if trained. They feel a CPR trainer in the prison service would be of help. They are happy with the daily roster. There are two nurses on maternity leave at present and these are replaced by their own staff on overtime. There are five or six prisoners who are HIV-positive and they are on "triple therapy". The nurses have no experience in applying this therapy and they

need it urgently as they believe the number of positive prisoners will increase.

They feel that Cloverhill is a 'dumping ground' for sick prisoners and they spoke about a suicidal prisoner from Limerick who was sent there recently. They do have, they informed us, a good relationship with the doctors from the CMH. The "special cells" are not safe, they informed us, because of a stainless-steel washbasin. Some of the prisoners on D2 landing are chronic psychiatric patients and some are also brain-damaged.

They said that they need an examination light in the medical room and that the surgery in the unit is not suitable. Prisoners do not get lectures on general health and they would like to be involved with this aspect of their care. The nurses feel that help is not a priority, though the prisoners are generally fit, healthy men.

I visited the medical unit and I was impressed by its general cleanliness and its security. It was, I felt, very "up to date". I felt they had a very up to date filing room for records of past prisoners and the security in the medical unit was first-class. We felt that the nurses were very keen to improve the quality of life for the prisoners and their needs seemed to me to be quite reasonable and legitimate.

#### 8.6 *Meeting with the Dentist.*

The Inspector and myself saw the dentist. She informed us that there are three sessions a week of approximately 2 -3 hours per session. She informed us that it is the most efficient prison among the Dublin prisons. Most prisoners have dental problems and information on this has been collated in the Dublin area. Basic dental care is provided to relieve pain. Surgical dentistry is sent to Mountjoy. There is no orthodontic work. Prisoners do not always continue their treatment because they may be elsewhere when the dentist visits.

The equipment is old especially the dental chair which does not meet legislation and needs to be replaced. Up to date sterilising equipment is also not available in the prison and again, bringing unsterilized equipment to the dental hospital is not right and should not be happening. She is very concerned about cross-infections that may occur because of the current use of the dental chair. The dentists take their own dental nurses with them from the dental hospital and this causes problems in the hospital as there is a chronic shortage of dental nurses there. Her major worry was that the dental chair is not safe and needs to be replaced as a matter of some urgency.

#### *8.7 Meeting with the Visiting Committee*

The Inspector, assisted by John S. Smyth, retired registrar of the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg (with whom he worked for over thirty years), met most of the visiting committee. Unfortunately the chairperson was indisposed and sent regrets. However, a very articulate and interested committee attended the meeting and were extremely vocal. Most of them

had been on the VC for many years, even since the prison opened in 1999. There are some new members. The VC were extremely agitated about the educational centre. Unanimously they told me they had campaigned very hard for the last three years to have an education centre. Finally in their 2004 report they stated that the vocational centre is finally furnished including a top-of-the-range gym and fully fitted classrooms. It was hoped that six to eight full-time teachers would be put in place.

However, at the time of our inspection the school was not operational. In fact, its opening has been further delayed. A new corps has been set up to run the prisoner escort service. It was originally talked of as being run by an outside agency. However, it will now be run by the Prison Service and they are using the school as their HQ. This is a temporary arrangement. The stores, which occupy a separate building on the campus, will be moved into Wheatfield where there will be joint stores for the two adjoining prisons. Once this happens it is hoped that the escort service corps HQ will be moved into the stores area. The school will then be available for teachers. At the time of the first report of the Inspector, the Minister waxed enthusiastically in the Oireachtas about the school and its impending opening.

The committee impressed on me very strongly that they were very concerned about the delay in providing a school. There were seventy-one prisoners serving a full sentence here; they are locked up for eighteen hours a day. They are employed in painting and maintaining the services, and

polishing corridors and working in the kitchen, but this only provides work for a small minority of the prisoners. Many of the prisoners cannot read or write. It would be a great benefit to them to escape from the prison of ignorance. They should at least be able to learn, no matter how short their stay, how to sign their name. The Inspector promised to emphasise and stress the importance the committee attach to the immediate activation of an educational facility. In fact they felt that the school should as a matter of urgency be opened "yesterday"! A prisoner had complained that he had six months left to finish his MBA and cannot access the Open University. If this be true it is a very serious matter. I hope the VC will pursue this matter. One member of the committee suggested that there could be very limited, indeed totally restricted, access to a laptop computer. In other words that the only thing visible on it would be the Open University. They assured the Inspector that that is a very feasible operation.

The Inspector explained to them that to the vast majority of prisoners that they (the VC) had become irrelevant and that this had been produced mainly by the antics of the various Ministers and their officials. The Minister had told the CPT that he was restricting and changing the powers of the VC as established by the 1925 Act and the 1925 Rules. This restriction was imposed by Section 19 of the 1997 Act, or rather by a subsection of that section, which removed most of the powers of the VC. However, undertakings were given to the CPT that there would now be a meeting of chairpersons of all the visiting committees to discuss matters of mutual concern. This was to replace the traditional visit of one VC to another which

was a pleasant perk. The VCs apparently cost €600,000 a year in travelling expenses and this was presumably the reason, if it was nothing more sinister, for stopping one VC meeting another. However, the substitution of meetings between chairpersons was normally held every six months. The Chairperson of VC in Cloverhill, I am told, has not been invited to any meeting of chairpersons for a year and a half. They did make inquiries and were told none had been held. The next alteration which Section 19 purported to deal with was that all the decisions of the Governor relating to punishment of prisoners on P19's could be appealed to the VC according to rules made under that Act. That is undoubtedly the law but there were never any rules made under that Act. There are Prison Rules which are supposed to come into operation in November of this year (2005), but which apparently have not yet been signed into law by the Minister, in which he purports unilaterally to alter my appointment which I will resist in any way that I legally and possibly can.

I want to be a totally independent Inspector otherwise my position should be treated as it was in 1835 when the troublesome Quaker was dropped. He was my immediate predecessor! It is a disgrace, if in fact the undertaking given to the CPT about the meeting of chairpersons has already been allowed to lapse. The Minister has produced a Prison Bill and he indeed has, as I have pointed out, drafted Prison Rules but none of these undertakings which were to be completed has been implemented, although some of them are in fact also contained in the Five-year Programme for Government drawn up by the present Government. [Since writing this report,

I have been informed by a senior civil servant that the Section dealing with the Inspectorate has been removed from the draft Prison Rules.]

The VC asked me what they could do. I told them they could be a little more aggressive and that they should take up the cudgels on behalf of matters in the prison. They were not aware that there was any racism in the prison. I assured them that there was and that now there was a pamphlet in its second edition dealing with racism and bullying in Cloverhill. I heard that there was racism in Cloverhill as there probably is in most communities in this island. I also pointed out that there were lots of leaflets on sexually transmitted diseases, alcoholism and various drug treatment centres available outside the doctors' surgery, however, they were all in English. I suggested that the VC keep pressure on management of the Irish Prison Service or they themselves contact the embassies of various countries like Russia and ask them to provide information in the Russian language about the consular services available to prisoners who are Russian nationals and ask if there were available leaflets dealing with health concerns. They should ask various people such as the dentists, the chaplains, the prisoners, had they any worries. They should also study this report and if any of the items mentioned in it excites them they should pursue them and not allow them to just fade into oblivion.

The Governor invited all the visiting committee to join the Inspectorate team for lunch which was deeply appreciated by the Inspector and by the VC. It was a first time that they had ever been so treated. However, I think it is a

good idea for the VC to meet various groups and I think the Governor showed great imagination although one cynic said, 'Ah sure, he did it because he's new!' It would be more charitable and more accurate to say he did it because he thought it was a good idea, which it undoubtedly was.

#### 8.8 *Meeting the Prison Chaplains*

The Inspector met Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Carmel. The Catholic chaplaincy consists of these two sisters and they are led by Fr. Ciaran Enright whom the Inspector had met at the chaplains' mass the previous Sunday. They also have as an assistant a Sr. Ann who has had years of experience of prison chaplaincy in New Zealand. I congratulated them on their annual report which was summarised in the newspapers. They promised to supply me with a copy of the report before I left the prison. I told them that I was delighted with what I had read. Sometimes I feel I am like Don Quixote tilting at windmills and feel isolated and alone. However, I am full of hope. Also, there are wonderful people working in different branches of the Irish Prison Service. However, the chaplains are confirming my own view that there needs to be a radical shake-up in the whole system. I have asked in each of my last annual reports, as I will now in my next annual report, that there should be an outside independent group to help assess the whole present management structure and organisation of the Prison Service and its many manifestations and to answer simple questions - Is it efficient? Is the tax payer getting value for money? Is it accountable to the public?

Their first concern was about the school. I have highlighted the school in all my reports of Cloverhill. A great deal of money was spent on building a modern new school premises and it was suitably equipped. The Minister proclaimed it was about to be opened the following January. They asked me to stress that the opening of the school is an urgent priority. While the normal remand prisoner in this institution is here normally for four months there are seventy-one prisoners serving their sentences who are here for many years. The new corps has been established to provide an escort service. Their temporary HQ is in the new school. The prisoners are locked up for eighteen hours per day and then have nothing to do other than use the gym or other indoor activities such as 'pool'. The chaplains felt that, even as it stands, certain courses could be started. There should be anger-management courses. Illiteracy, which is widespread and a big problem, could be approached at the moment with co-operation between all the different units. It should be possible to provide the basic three "Rs". There could be courses such as Safe-Pass. Anyone going onto a building site is expected to have this certificate. It can, according to the nuns be done in one day. Also, there is a course leading to a certificate for manual handling which is required in many industries particularly the building industry.

The chaplains also highlighted that there were no drug counsellors in Cloverhill and they are badly needed. The chaplains gave me a copy of their annual report. It is a very, very telling indictment of the Minister and his officials.

It should be compulsory reading for all those involved in dealing with the prisoners.

The Inspector is thrilled to find such statements which he wholeheartedly endorses. They express his sentiments probably more eloquently than he has done himself.

A problem raised by the chaplains was that detainees never knew when they are going to be deported. The Gardaí have told them that it was for security reasons that they were not informed beforehand. The chaplains said that several people had just been placed outside the prison at unearthly hours with their luggage and no Gardaí to collect them. The chaplains have on occasions picked them up. However B&Bs are slow to take them unless they can pay and unless they have some identity. The chaplains have themselves with credit cards paid for accommodation for these unfortunates. In one case they notified the Gardaí who told them that the person in question was “missing”.

Another aspect which the chaplains pointed out is that the detainees may have a bank or post office account but cannot access it before their departure so when they are sent to their homeland, their money remains for the benefit of some Irish financial institution.

With goodwill on all sides it should be possible to simplify these bureaucratic problems.

At the request of the chaplain the Inspector then visited the Catholic church which is quite a large room, and apparently there is very good attendance at Sunday mass. Because of the segregation of various units there have to be three masses. However, there are symbols along the wall for Jewish, Muslim and Hindu and other religions. There are stations of the cross, a statue of Joseph and Baby Jesus and of the Virgin Mary. The sacrament is retained in a modernistic tabernacle. There are some pamphlets.

#### *8.9 Meeting with Heads of Function*

The Inspectorate met the senior staff responsible for their particular areas of the prison and were as follows: Tadhg O'Sullivan, Chief Trades Officer maintenance manager; Maurice Whelan, Clerk I in charge of general office; Dan Fanning, Chief Officer; Mary Lynch, acting clerk I in personnel office; Gerry Bracken, Assistant Governor; Charles Smith, Assistant Governor; Ronan Maher, Deputy Governor.

The Inspector welcomed all those outlined and stated that he was sad to hear that the education unit had not opened and that it had been taken over by the escort corps. He felt that this was a retrograde step. To have built an education unit and for it to be used for this purpose was most regrettable. The Inspector then gave an outline of his role and the areas that he could cover. He then asked them to give an outline of their various areas of

responsibility, the good and bad aspects about it and opened the meeting for full discussions.

The first speaker outlined that they were saddened also at the fact that the school hadn't opened and in fact they would describe it as a disgrace.

There was great difficulty and a lot of discussions had taken place with the POA regarding agreement on its use. Having reached fruition stage it was now taken over by a completely outside group. They had also reached the stage of seeking teachers and then to find that the escort corps had been assigned to it was a kick in the face to all concerned in getting education into Cloverhill Prison.

A member outlined that there was no staff training worth noting. The staff in the office had got no training, particularly those who are "acting up".

Essential training such as C & R and full BA was not being carried out.

Cutbacks were at fault for a lot of it. They outlined that Cloverhill was a modern prison and well run. The food was excellent and they felt that the cooking standards would be comparable with those of any top hotel. The standard of hygiene was also excellent and the fact that the prison was relatively new meant that it could be maintained at a high level. He also said that as regards to the establishment of the escort corps, while it was a good thing for the service, the planning that went into it had been slipshod. They had put the cart before the horse, in that they had no premises, and no proper resources and as a result a lot of the escorts are dependent on the

staff already in Cloverhill. It is an additional burden on the already overworked staff here.

The next speaker outlined the problems regarding illegal drugs. He said that they were pouring in over the walls on a daily basis and asked what must happen before action is taken, perhaps even a death in custody. It was outlined that there is new fencing going up in the area where the drugs are coming over the wall and this may be of some assistance. The discussions then went on to procedures or systems that are operating in relation to illegal drugs in other jurisdictions and in particular in Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland those who are caught bringing illegal drugs into the prison are brought out and charged in the courts. Such very seldom happens here, if ever. He also outlined his experience of observing the drug dogs in operation in one of the prisons in Northern Ireland and felt that they did a very good job.

A speaker then outlined that the new annualised hours had actually worsened their conditions. They have been allocated 120 hours each, which doesn't cover the additional burdens and responsibilities that have been placed upon them. The agreement outlines that the Governor grades work Monday to Friday and off Saturdays and Sundays. The reality is entirely different in that they now must also work at the weekends without any additional payments. In a recent High Court case the Judge outlined that a prisoner must not be denied the right of release on bail after normal office hours due to the non-availability of a peace commissioner. [Governor

grades are normally peace commissioners.] The speaker felt very frustrated with the introduction of a new order from Headquarters which states that a Governor grade must be available from 8.00 a.m until 8.00 p.m seven days a week to deal with bail bonds. The group also outlined a legal problem involved with the appointment of new Peace Commissioners. This problem is supposed to be taken up by Headquarters' staff but so far, there doesn't appear to be much advancement made in this area.

The group stated that the Courts Services' administration closes at 4.30pm each day and is closed at weekends but that the prisons are expected to deal with bail bonds on a 24-hour basis. They also felt that the courts' staff were referring people to the prison with cash bail bonds when such could be dealt with in the courts' office. They also felt that the courtesy extended to the courts service is not reciprocated.

The next item was the plight of foreign nationals held in the prison. The group felt that they shouldn't be held here and that the majority of them are not convicted of any offences. Another issue highlighted by the group was that there are no prison-based interpreters to deal with these foreign nationals. They felt that prison staff should be given the opportunity to learn foreign languages in order to be able to communicate with them on a daily needs basis. They use interpreters for doctors, psychiatric and other such consultation but their everyday needs where the prison staff are concerned are equally important if not more important.

They spoke of items within the business plans that had not been achieved and there were no resources given from headquarters to achieve same.

They stated that the business plans were generic for the entire service and not devised for individual prisons and that it was a waste of time and money having to go through it year in year out.

Another matter raised related to the introduction of the new Prison Rules that are intended to come into force in November 2005. There are difficulties envisaged regarding dealing with disciplinary reports where solicitors may have to be present at the prisoner's request. This may lead to a backlog of disciplinary reports being dealt with as solicitors may not be available to attend the hearing during normal working hours. The next item of major concern to them was the deliberate leaving out of section 172 of the 1947 Rules in which prison staff are entitled to medical care. The new Bill's omission of this rule may allow the department to withdraw its contributions to the medical aid fund. They claim that this is a matter of grave concern to a considerable number of staff and feel that staff in general do not realise its implications.

They again referred to the prison escort corps which has not got the full equipment or clerical back-up at present and as a result puts an extra workload on the clerical staff at Cloverhill Prison. They also claimed that there were problems with the IT being extended to the escort corps. They gave a rundown on the IT in general within Cloverhill Prison and said that it was working quite well. They discussed the recently announced waste of

public money of possibly half a million euros in relation to the IT [human resource programme] which did not work and was highlighted in the Auditor and Comptroller General's recent report. They claimed that they had attempted to operate the new programme but despite their best efforts, it simply just wouldn't work and it wasn't suitable to the prison system.

Regarding the doctors using the IT system, there was a reluctance on their part but they acknowledged that it was part and parcel of the agreement which they entered into last year. They have now organised training next week for the regular doctor attached to the prison. The problem at Cloverhill is that they had not got a permanent doctor for quite some time and it is always locum doctors who are standing in, so they had difficulty in getting those to use the IT system. They also outlined that at present the nurses were not using the IT system either, again because the doctors were not using it. They may find that the paper work is easier rather than having to sit down and log things onto the computer. They feel that with the new hours system and the new training programmes being introduced, that the nurses will start operating it. Staff in general do not use IT on a regular basis. It causes problems as they forget their password and perhaps some of them might be reluctant to use it anyway. So while some of the staff are quite proficient in its use, others are not as familiar with it.

Another problem raised was the late court demands where the escorts have to be provided without prior notice which means stripping services to prisoners. The staff who are involved in those services have to be taken off

to form part of the escort. The group felt that perhaps the new arrangements with the escort corps might overcome this problem.

The photographing of prisoners coming and going into the courts was another problem highlighted plus the fact that they cannot control the photographers from taking the photographs. The fact that the photographers and the press personnel in general can get so close to the prisoners is alarming. The present facilities within the courts [especially the Four Courts area) does not allow for any other means of bringing prisoners in and out of the courts.

The group also highlighted the fact that some time past they requested the use of sniffer drug dogs, but were refused on the grounds of costs, but now it appears that such costs are okay following the Minister's announcement of yesterday.

The new agreement will have a particular impact on the trades officers who are going into a new process. The person who is currently the chief trades officer in Cloverhill will become in charge of maintenance work in Cloverhill, Wheatfield and Shelton Abbey. Outside contractors will be used far more frequently than they are at present and the meeting felt that the services provided to the prisoners may be reduced as a result of this change. The group gave an example of breakages, faults, leakages, electrical faults, etc. which occur at present and are dealt with by the local trades staff almost instantly. But with the new agreement there is a possibility that such

maintenance work may take a longer time to repair and as a result cells and prisoners' facilities may be affected.

The classification of prisoners on D2 landing was raised, where vulnerable prisoners are held. It was felt by the group that this landing is being used as an overflow for the Central Mental Hospital. They felt that the area was not a hospital ward and therefore should not be used for that purpose. They have found that prisoners with psychiatric problems in Limerick Prison and in Cork Prison have been sent to D2 while awaiting transfer to the CMH. They felt D2 was not in keeping with the ethos of a hospital setting. It was still a prison and it shouldn't be used as a hospital.

A member of the group outlined the law and regulations regarding Health and Safety, environmental management requirements and the Assistant Governor's responsibilities in carrying out this work. Health and Safety plus environmental management should be the sole responsibility of one person. That person should not have other duties as is the practice at present. They felt that the role should be examined with a view to having a full-time health and safety manager and that this person could be responsible for the complex of Cloverhill and Wheatfield Prisons.

This concluded the meeting with the "Heads of Functions" and the Inspector thanked them most sincerely for their wholehearted contributions to the meeting. He felt that they were very forthcoming with their views and he very much appreciated their contributions. He would meet them again, if

necessary, if they felt that they required some other clarifications or wanted to raise other points.

#### *8.10 Meeting with prisoners' visitors*

The Inspector saw three people who were visiting prisoners in the prison. The first two were concerned about a prisoner who was about to be deported. He belonged to one nationality but had a false passport for another nationality. They were concerned about him and as to which country he might be sent. The Inspector pointed out that he was absolutely powerless in the matter. He suggested they might like to contact the Immigration Council, and the Refugee Trust. However, he said their best mark would be to go to the Garda National Immigrants Bureau (GNIB) on Burgh Quay. However, he informed them that they would need to be there at 3.30am to ensure they were dealt with during the day. I told them it was certainly outside my remit to interfere but as it was something which affected prisoners I would mention it in my report but I was not optimistic that the present methodology would be altered. They thanked me and understood my position.

#### *8.11 Meeting with the Probation and Welfare Officers*

The Inspector with Mr. John Smith met the senior and two other Probation and Welfare staff assigned to this prison. All were appointed in the last twelve months. They agreed that the tradition in the service was that you were assigned for three years. They agreed that three years was too short. However, they also felt that the youngest members of the probation staff

should not be sent to prison for their first job. They should certainly be appointed for three years but if they wished and if they were deemed suitable they should be allowed to continue for a maximum of five years. They thought that during a longer period than that one might be “institutionalised”. It was very important for an officer to meet fresh challenges and not to lapse into a routine. All of them had experience before of prisons. The senior officer twenty years ago had been in Mountjoy. They agreed that a Probation Officer should get exposure in the general community so that they understand how things work and should not be thrown out of their depth in their first job.

The fact that there was no school was of major concern. The building is here, but the building is being used to house a new corps of court escorts. They all felt that the school should be working immediately. They themselves do a certain amount of drug counselling and indeed the senior is a qualified drug counsellor. However, they agreed that there was no full-time drugs counsellor in the prison. They felt there should be someone for the long-term to do in-depth consultations with prisoners. Drug addiction (including alcohol) is rampant among the bulk of the prisoners in this institution.

They also feel very strongly that the Probation Service should be a stand alone independent institution well away from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. They had problems already dealing with orders coming from on high. They felt the Probation Service was an alternative to

prison and should be seen as such. They expressed themselves strongly about the importance of their independence but stoically added “it will never happen”. The Inspector sincerely hopes that a bit of reality will come in the mind of the Minister and the Department and that they will realise that empire building is not necessarily a forward step. They feel they are perceived as being under the Department and would far prefer to be seen as independent.

They agreed that AA was available in the prison but said that most prisoners were shy about admitting to needing its support. People going to meetings in the prison could hardly be anonymous.

They confirmed what the chaplains already told me that it would be possible for FÁS to teach the Safe-Pass certificate course. It is essential now for anyone on a building site to have done the course. There seems absolutely no reason why this could not be provided. They also felt that people doing other work, such as gardening or in the kitchen, should be able to get accreditation for their work but this is not available in this institution. There is some work in relation to the Open University. They also felt strongly that no person under eighteen should be sent to Cloverhill. There was one recently and he had to share a cell, which they also regarded as reprehensible. They confirmed that the prison staff were most anxious to help them and are indeed extremely supportive.

It seems to the Inspectorate that three Probation Officers are hardly sufficient to look after the needs of a transient population of at least 411 people.

#### *8.12 Meeting with Individual Prisoners*

Mr John Smyth and the Inspector met a prisoner who had specifically asked to meet them. He was very concerned about conditions in the prison. He praised the prisons in Northern Ireland and one in particular with which he was very familiar. He said it was light years ahead of that in the Republic. However, he admitted the staff were fine in Cloverhill and that the food was excellent. He had also received some mental abuse, racial abuse, and physical abuse. He personally was called a "red neck" or "a mullet". He agreed that some ethnic people such as the Nigerians or the Chinese might be abused from time to time. However, he made the point that the Chinese seemed impervious to an insult and were fantastic workers. They were perfectly happy as long as they had work to do. Unfortunately there was very little work in Cloverhill.

He was very concerned at the total lack of education. He had left school at a very early age and such education that he has was a tribute to his sojourn in a Northern Ireland prison. He is a remand prisoner. He said there are no facilities and no rehabilitation. While he feels he gets on reasonably well with his fellow prisoners and the staff, there are far better communication skills in Magaberry. He complained bitterly that there was nothing to do. He also said there is a lot of bullying where he was in E wing but that he is able

to look after himself. He certainly is a strong sturdy looking male and I have no doubt can withstand bullying. He was full of praise of the staff without exception.

He told me that there was a new listening system but that it was only introduced last week. He said that the Samaritans come to E division on Sunday. He is trying to quit smoking but he cannot get any cigarette patches until he is a sentenced prisoner as he said they are not available to remand prisoners, which seems very strange. He says any suggestions coming from prisoners are nearly always rejected by management stating "no staff, no staff, no staff"!!!

The Inspector met another prisoner who was a pathetic creature. He claimed that he had T.B, AIDS and hepatitis. He is presently awaiting sentence for assaulting a prison officer. He stated that he spent 152 hours in a padded cell in another prison. He appeared to me to need psychiatric treatment and in my opinion should be in a hospital, as prison staff are not trained to look after a person like this who is in such a mentally disturbed condition. He claimed several of his close family relatives have died from various diseases. He became very agitated at times

### *8.13 Meeting with the POA*

The Inspector and John Smyth met with the chairman, the assistant secretary and the vice-chairman of the local branch of the POA. They were very, very concerned about the position in D division. They said it was a

dumping ground for people waiting admission to the Central Mental Hospital. They agreed that Dr. Kennedy and his staff provided excellent coverage. However, they said many of the prisoners were very volatile and dangerous. It was impossible for untrained staff to cope with very disturbed people.

AIDS is another matter that worries the POA and they feel they are not adequately trained to cope. They are afraid of being bitten or assaulted with blood or urine. They were quite clear that these people were not suitable for prison. Prison could not do anything for them.

The Inspector then asked about prison officers who had been charged with bringing drugs into the prison. They told him that two officers had in fact been tried and they were disgusted with how leniently the courts treated both of them. It reflected on the honour and the professionalism of all the other officers. The behaviour of these offending officers smeared the great majority of officers doing a dangerous but essential duty for the public and the State.

#### 8.14 *Report: "Immigration-related detention in Ireland" - Comments*

Mr. O'Mahony of the Irish Refugee Council sent me a copy of a report by Mark Kelly, a human rights consultant. It is called "*Immigration-related detention in Ireland*" and it was undertaken on behalf of the Irish Refugee Council, the Irish Penal Reform Trust and the Immigrant Council of Ireland and was published in 2005. I am very grateful to Mr. O'Mahony and his

Council for sending me a copy. I am also grateful to the author, Mr. Mark Kelly, human rights consultant, who also sent me a copy. In this report he says (p.6)

“Until recently it was comparatively rare for people to be detained for immigration related reasons in Ireland however, over the last few years the range of statutory detention powers have been introduced to authorise detention in Garda Síochána stations and prisons of:-

- a. People refused permission to land,
- b. Applicants for asylum,
- c. People due to be deported.

The bulk of those are held in detention.”

The report recommends that for so long as immigration detainees continue to be held at Cloverhill and at the Dochas centre they should be kept in more spacious living conditions. It also recommends a number of other specific measures designed to improve the quality of their daily lives. These include providing all newly admitted detainees with an information booklet including details about life in the establishment and about the legal rights and entitlements of immigration detainees. That booklet should be made available in the languages most commonly spoken by those detained for immigration-related reasons.

“The holding of immigration detainees in Irish prisons has been repeatedly criticised by authorities including the

Council of Europe, the Inspector of the Prisons and Places of Detention (sic), the Visiting Committees to establishments concerned and the National Prisons Chaplains.”

The findings of this independent report serve to confirm that prisons are, by definition, inappropriate places in which to hold immigration detainees. It recommends that the practice of holding immigration detainees in prisons in Ireland draw to an end.

This report stresses that Irish Law and practice should be amended in order to bring it into conformity with international standards. Many people wanted to share the benefits of “the Celtic Tiger”. They may be economic migrants. Is that a crime? They want to escape intolerance or persecution in their own country. Is that a crime? We now belatedly have “full employment”. Irish people are no longer interested in a career in service industries. Hospitals and hotels and many other businesses depend greatly on imported labour. Sadly, the main attitude controlling this country seems to be “mé fein”!

I strongly recommend that anyone who genuinely has an interest in this aspect of “penology” should procure a copy of Mr. Kelly’s report to the Irish Penal Reform Trust, and Immigrant Council of Ireland and the Irish Refugee Council. The Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention wholeheartedly endorses the information and recommendations contained in this excellent report.

#### *8.15 Final Meeting with Governor prior to departure from prison.*

The Inspectorate team met the Governor prior to departing from the prison and the Inspectorate conveyed their sincere thanks to everyone who had been so good in organising the entire inspection and making it run so smoothly. The Inspector then outlined the procedures regarding the report on the findings of the inspection and informed the Governor that when the report is drawn together he will receive a copy of it. We will return to meet the Governor to discuss same and to ensure that the facts regarding the statistics are correct but the report's contents will not be changed.

The Inspector then outlined that he found the prison very clean, perhaps the cleanest in the entire system but that there are also contract cleaners employed here as he observed them working prior to his departure in the evening time. He raised the question that perhaps prisoners could be used for such cleaning in view of the scarcity of work within the prison. He raised a matter with the Governor concerning remand prisoners, who, he understood, were not being issued with the 'no smoking patches' if they wanted to give up smoking. The Governor said that he wasn't quite sure of that as it was a medical issue and that he would check it out with the doctor.

The Inspector then outlined that he was informed that there is bullying and racism within the prison. He also said that he was concerned about the lack of education and it was a major factor when meeting all of the various

groups of prisoners. He said he was saddened by the fact that the escort corps had taken over the education area. He was made aware that the present stores and trades area are to be moved to another location and that the escort corps would be moved into those buildings. However, this is very much on the long finger and they have waited so long to have a school and to find it used in this fashion to him was unacceptable.

The Governor responded by saying that he was of the same opinion regarding education and that he was anxious that it should be up and running here. It was badly needed and he supported same. However, it had not been his decision to put the escort corps into the educational area, his hands are tied in this matter and he very much regretted it also. The Governor said that the Education Unit is named as the Learning and Developmental Unit where other skills could be taught within it rather than just strictly education, such as life skills, etc. There was also a question raised regarding some qualified staff within the service with the necessary teaching qualification. Perhaps they could be used there also if they were willing.

There was a discussion then regarding the average stay of remand prisoners within Cloverhill Prison and the Governor felt the overall average was twelve to fourteen weeks.

The Governor then stated that he was most disappointed that the Inspector was informed that there is bullying and racism within the prison. A

tremendous amount of work had been done in this area and he found it hard to accept that such claim is justified. The Governor said that outside consultants had been engaged in this area and the consultants claim that the perception by people is that there may be bullying and racism but, in reality, it does not exist and there is no proof whatsoever that it does. The Inspector stated that he was informed that there was racism and bullying here and that some of the groups of prisoners also outlined the very same to him. So as far as he was concerned that was proof enough for him to justify such a statement. The Governor again restated his disappointment at such remarks and that he takes 'Governor's parades' in different wings on various mornings and that no prisoner has ever made such a complaint to him. In fact, some of the prisoners who are foreign nationals and who were here on remand, had gone to court, got sentenced and applied to return here. He felt that if there was racism or bullying in the prison they wouldn't be seeking to return here. The Governor also said that he would pride himself in having staff that deal extremely well with such. He said that all his staff are so aware of it with the enormous amount of training that has taken place in this area that he finds it very very difficult to accept that it is going on in a manner as outlined by the Inspector. He was extremely sorry to hear such and doubted its proof. It was most disappointing. The Inspector responded that as far as he is concerned there is racism here and he has been told so.

The Inspector then outlined that he found the food very well cooked and well presented. He also outlined that it was brought to his attention that drugs were awash within the prison. The Governor outlined that there were illegal

drugs in the prison, that they were being thrown in over the boundary wall and he hoped the erection of the new fence in the adjoining open space would improve the situation considerably. However, he would not accept that the place was awash with drugs. That was very much overstating the fact and exaggerating it considerably. They carry out constant searches of prisoners, they closely monitor the visits and they punish those found to have illegal drugs in their possession. So everything possible in their prevention is being done and therefore the statement of the prison being awash is exaggerated.

The meeting concluded with the Governor thanking the Inspector and all the members of his team involved in the Inspection for their courtesy and co-operation throughout the entire inspection and said that it was a pleasure to have them on board and that he looked forward to the report in due course.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 That there should be a better information flow regarding the history/background of prisoners committed into the prison from the gardaí, courts staff, and IPS headquarters. [3.12, page 12 .]
- 9.2 That the educational facilities provided for prisoners' education be vacated by the escort corps as soon as possible and the classrooms returned to their original intended use. [3.3, page 8.]
- 9.3 That the medical staff use the IT system provided to record the medical records. [8.9, page 94.]
- 9.4 That local management (both Cloverhill and Wheatfield) and IPS examine the workload of their local H & S co-ordinators to establish if one overall full-time co-ordinator for both prisons is required. [7.2, page 74 and 8.9, page 97.]
- 9.5 That local management and gym committee examine the need for fitness testing equipment (and perhaps a TV) for within the gym area and, if considered necessary, to arrange for the supply of same. [6.2, page 39.]
- 9.6 That the cells be used for single occupancy only, as the present system of mostly three persons to a single designed cell is unacceptable. [6.3.1.2, page 41 to 42, and 10.3, page 112.]

- 9.7 That the principal medical officer's consultation room be fitted with a defibrillator, a laryngoscope and an endotracheal for emergency use. [8.4, page 79.]
- 9.8 That the various medical officers' rooms on each of the landings be supplied with basic medical equipment including a BP machine and an auroscope. [8.4, page 79.]
- 9.9 That a nursing promotional structure be established within the service so that there are nursing managers in each of the larger institutions. [8.5, page 80.]
- 9.10 That the nursing staff be facilitated with ongoing training in the areas management deem necessary. [8.5, page 80.]
- 9.11 That the dental chair in the dentistry be replaced as a matter of urgency. [8.6, page 82.]
- 9.12 That the dental surgery be fitted with up-to-date sterilising equipment as soon as possible. [8.6, page 82.]
- 9.13 That the prison get the services of qualified counsellors for the prisoners' drug and alcohol addiction problems. [8.2, page 76; 8.3, page 78; 8.8, page 88 and 8.11 page 99.]

9.14 That the psychology services be extended to at least two days per week. [8.2, pages 76 to 77 and 10.6, page 113.]

9.15 That the floor covering in the holding cells in the reception area be repaired or replaced. [6.7, page 52 and 53.]

## **10. Conclusions**

10.1 Cloverhill Prison is maintained to a high level of hygiene. It is bright and freshly painted. It is mostly a 'remand' prison with over 4,000 prisoners committed during the year. On the first day of our inspection there were 411 prisoners in custody but the daily numbers vary greatly with the turnover going and coming from the courts.

There are approximately 50 sentenced prisoners held here and they are employed at various tasks throughout the prison. There are approximately 290 prisoners who are daily idle and there are no work or education facilities for them. They find their days extremely boring and meaningless, just walking around exercise yards. (Some take part in the gyms.) The fact that a school building was erected and never opened for educational purpose and is now taken over by the Prison Service Escort Corps is a total disgrace. (That they are supposed to be housed elsewhere when facilities are made available for them demonstrates the very poor forward planning by HQ.)

- 10.2 Approximately one-third of the prison population are foreign nationals. There were over 20 prisoners awaiting either deportation or extradition. Almost all of these prisoners have committed no criminal offence in this country and I do not think a prison is a suitable place for their detention. They should be elsewhere and should not have to be confined to a prison setting.
- 10.3 The prison was originally designed for single-cell occupancy but practically all of the cells are now trebled. They are far too small for such use. It is terrible to have three adults in such a confined space and living with a toilet within the same area. The sooner it is returned to single cell occupancy the better.
- 10.4 The prisoners' facilities are quite good; sanitary, showering, change of clothing/laundry, visits, TVs, etc. are acceptable. (Some prisoners complain that the 'screen visits' destroy family life and prevent contact with their children, but the prevention of illegal substance/articles into the prison must also be taken into consideration.) They have telephone and written communications freely available to them and have a Samaritan Listener scheme in operation as well as a dedicated phone for Samaritan contact. The fact of no education for the prisoners is a major drawback as is no work or activities for about three-quarters of the population.
- 10.5 Regarding prison discipline there were 963 disciplinary reports (p. 19s) in the past six months which appears to be a very high number. There were 38 prisoners on report for assault on staff while 196 were on report for assault

on fellow prisoners. Regarding attempting to smuggle illegal substances into the prison, 165 prisoners were reported for trying to give or receive unauthorised articles while 194 were reported for having unauthorised articles in their possession.

10.6 Staff morale appeared good and there was good rapport between staff and prisoners. Staff work an average of eleven hours overtime per week while 7% of staff work no overtime. There are 190 staff seeking a transfer out of the prison but management state that most of the transfer requests are seeking same to live nearer their home. There was a staff turnover of 153 in the past year. There were no escapes from the prison, while on escort or accompanied on temporary release, in the past twelve months. Some staff training and development took place during the year but there needs to be much more done in future. No staff (oral) disciplinary hearings took place before the Governor last year and no dismissals.

10.6 The medical needs of the prisoners are well cared for with two doctors acting in a temporary capacity. [Interviews for a permanent doctor were in progress during our time of inspection.] The team of psychiatrists from the Central Mental Hospital in Dundrum provide a very good service but there were complaints from some staff that they felt some prisoners should be held in a psychiatric hospital rather than the prison. A psychologist attends the prison for a half day per week and there is a need to increase the psychological services to the prisoners as it is almost impossible for one to operate with these numbers of prisoners.

10.7 The probation and welfare staff have been increased from October 2005 to two officers and one senior. There has been practically no Probation Service prior to this. The increase in staff is very welcome and badly needed but with such a turnover of prisoners it is difficult to get worthwhile programmes operating. They will be very much involved in crisis demands and day-to-day problems.

10.8 There are three chaplains attached full-time to the prison and their work has been praised by both staff and prisoners. They all say that they work beyond their role and are extremely dedicated. Their annual report is worth reading and I fully support its contents.

I wish to thank the Governor, staff and liaison officers for their courteous manner in dealing with the Inspectorate team and making facilities available to us so that the inspection went so smoothly. It was very much appreciated. I also wish to thank my special consultants who attended the prison and gave of their time and expertise during the inspection. Thanks to one and all.