

## REPORT ON VISIT TO ARBOUR HILL PRISON

### COMMENCING THE 3rd NOVEMBER 2003 TO 7th NOVEMBER 2003

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 On the 3rd November 2003 to the 7th November 2003 an inspection of Arbour Hill Prison was carried out by the Inspectorate Team which consisted of:

Mr. Justice Dermot Kinlen	Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention
James Woods	Special Advisor to the Prisons Inspector
Dr. Jim Ledwith	Consultant
Prof William Binchy	Consultant
Paul Ward	Consultant

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

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

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The original prison at Arbour Hill was completed at the end of 1797 on the site of St. Bricins Hospital and was known as Arbour Hill Hospital and Prison. It was later partially re built, renovated and renamed the King George V Hospital. The prison which was relocated to its present site was constructed in 1845 and opened in 1848. It became the responsibility of the Department of Defence on the transfer of powers from Great Britain to Ireland and remained in that Department's control until it was taken over by the Department of Justice in 1973. It was renovated and reopened as a civilian prison on the 4th June 1975.
  
- 2.2 It is located in Arbour Hill close to the Phoenix Park and north west of the City. The prison opened with a capacity of 95 single cells but with accommodation pressure within the system, its capacity was increased to 116 by converting Class Officers offices into treble cells and some single cells into double cells.
  
- 2.3 In the mid 1980's the number of prisoners with H.I.V virus were increasing within the prison system and the policy at that time was to isolate them. A number of prisoners who were effected by the virus in other prisons, but mainly Mountjoy, were transferred to Arbour Hill Prison and located in one of the wings. There were considerable difficulties encountered in the management of this group in Arbour Hill and eventually they succeeded in gaining access to the prison roof by breaking out through the ceilings. They also gained access to the adjoining R.C. church roof and a small number escaped but were recaptured. This group was transferred to Mountjoy Prison and was replaced with the present category of prisoner.

2.4 In the late 1980's a small group of prisoners escaped during a Sunday afternoon recreational period by cutting the steel bars of a cell window, gaining access to the boundary wall and escaping.

2.5 The incell sanitation facilities were provided in the mid to late 1990's.

### **3. GOVERNORS BRIEFING**

3.1 On Monday the 3rd November 2003 the Inspector and Special Advisor, Jim Woods, attended at the prison to commence the inspection with a meeting with the Governor. The Governor and his senior staff welcomed us and outlined the facilities he was placing at our disposal for the duration of the inspection. He assigned a Clerk to act as the liaison person. He outlined that we had the full co-operation of the staff and were free to inspect any aspect of the prison and if we encountered any difficulties, (and he doubted if we would), we were to come back immediately to him and it would be rectified. Nothing but full co-operation was afforded to the Inspectorate team throughout the inspection.

3.2 The Governor stated that the cell capacity of the prison was 116 consisting of 95 single cells, 15 double cells and 5 treble cells. There is one cladded cell but no strip or isolation cells. There are no observations or medical type facilities for those awaiting to go to hospital or those returning from a hospital. The numbers in custody on that day was 139 with five prisoners on daily temporary release. The breakdown of offences were approximately 100 for sex related offences, about 30 serving life sentences for murder, and the balance for robbery, larceny, assault etc. The prisoners all mix freely together at work, education and recreation.

Some were there as a result of request for transfer as they may have been on protection in other prisons and therefore their movements and involvement in prison activities were restricted. He said some of the prisoners had served a long time in custody and he has some who has served over 25 years. All of the prisoners except two attend work or education everyday, and of the two, one has impaired vision while the other is physically disabled. Two prisoners got creditation certificates in catering recently.

- 3.3 The Governor then went on to outline the various programmes that were available to the prisoners. The enhanced thinking skills programme which is a ten weeks course delivered by a multidisciplinary team of education, prison, probation and welfare staff, managed and supervised by the psychologists. It consists of two sessions per week and two programmes per year are delivered. The sex offenders rehabilitation programme runs for 46 weeks and is delivered by the Probation and Welfare staff and the Psychologist. They deliver three sessions per week and there are eight prisoners participating on it at present. The Governor outlined that if there are not sufficient number of applicants in Arbour Hill for the programme then it is advertised in other prisons where other sex offenders are held. This means that some prisoners have to transfer to Arbour Hill to partake of the course. He also outlined that there was no reward for doing the course such as getting extra remission or temporary release, therefore the uptake is slow a lot of the time. Some of the criteria sought to qualify for the course is that the prisoner accepts his guilt, hurt or damage done to the victim and that he is in the last two years of his sentence. The prisoners also considers the programme to be difficult. The other courses delivered at the prison include anger management, pre-release, aftercare for those who have done the 46 weeks programme, group skills and thinking skills.

- 3.4 The Governor outlined that in his time, which is the last fourteen months at the prison, he has had no evidence of a drug problem or making hooch within the prison. The entire prison is declared drug free. There are ongoing urine tests being carried out and sent out for analysis. The prisoners are made aware of the policy on arrival and generally they have no difficulties in getting a urine sample if the staff are suspicious that particular prisoners are abusing. However he did state that he had very few drug addiction prisoners in the prison, therefore there was no serious problem of drugs being thrown over the boundary walls, or being attempted to be brought in during visits or otherwise.
- 3.5 In relation to the type of prisoners being held at the prison and the general public opinion of sex offenders, he found it most difficult to obtain accommodation for them on release. Those of clerical background can generally return to some religious community but a lot of the others are just not wanted anywhere. The media also highlights such releases and even though the prisoner has completed his sentence he can still gain some unfavourable headlines which leaves it almost impossible for him to return to his community or even get bed and breakfast accommodation. The media also reported on some prisoners' educational achievements within the prison in a most unfavourable and unbalanced fashion which also adds to the prisoners' difficulties. A lot of the community groups or organisations on the outside don't want to get involved with the prisoners at this prison due to the stigma attached to sex offenders and unfortunately all of the prisoners are painted with the same brush even though a third of them are not convicted of sex offences.

- 3.6 The Governor gave a breakdown of the staff attached to the prison and when questioned re nurses he stated that he had two nurses. One was a general and the other nurse was psychiatric, along with five medical orderlies. He said that of his overall agreed compliment of staff he had a shortfall of ten which were mostly in the workshop areas.
- 3.7 That completed the Governors briefing and the Inspectorate team then proceeded to discuss the Prisons Business Plans for 2003 with the Governor and his senior staff. Herewith are the targets set and results.

**BUSINESS PLAN 2003 (GOVERNOR)**

2.1	Devise standard arrangements for recording assaults in prison population by end 2001
	Central Committee establishing an I.T system for national records. No report to hand from Headquarters.
2.2	Conduct annual audit for prisoners assault W.E.F. 2002
	Dependent on report at 2:1 awaiting same
3.1	Annual review of security commencing in 2002
	Established committee - meet yearly – achieved
3.3	C.C.T.V in visiting rooms by end 2002
	In 95% of V/rooms one room not covered
3.4	Prisoner profile for every prisoners due to be escorted outside W.E.F. 1/1/02
	Up and running. Prison I.T. system doing same.
4.1	Maximum take-up of places in Education, training and employment facilities by September 2003
	All prisoners attending. Committee formed
5.1	Adequate standard of preparedness re emergency planning by May 2003
	Reviewed and updated. Ongoing.
5.2	Liaison arrangements with fire authority by end 2003
	On-going with local fire brigade personnel who have already visited the Prison on familiarisation tours.
5.3	Prepare a detailed video record of prison by end June 2002
	Done own video at the prison. H.Q wanted national video with talk over not done due to finance.
6.1	Arrangements for a designated drug free area by end 2003
	This is already a drug free prison (Random drug tests)

6.2	Multi-disciplinary suicide prevention meetings to be held four times per year
	Yes up and running (Problems with M.O attending)
7.2	New prisoners telephone system to be installed by end 2003
	Delivered up and running (1 call per day) (6 mins duration) (Downside to 5 seconds waiting time)
7.3	Report by end 2001 on increased levels of telephone contact prisoners/family
	In place
7.4	Assist prisoners keep in touch with wider community improved access to written and spoken media W.E.F 2001
	15 stations available in cells and video channel, newspapers, magazines, etc available but have to be ordered by them in the local shop
8.1	Implement all accepted recommendations contained in Health review group report by end 2003
	On-going not complete due to resource implication awaiting Headquarters sanction
8.4	Improve the links with community to ensure continuation of Health Treatment for prisoners at committal and discharge stages by November 2003
	On-going. Difficulty with some problems that have arisen
8.5	Improved arrangements for treatment of prisoners with mental health problems, including improved access to C.M.H and local psychiatric hospital - report progress by end 2002
	No difficulties in recent past with C.M.H. Do not go outside of C.M.H
9.1	Information booklet to all new committals re-entitlements/regimes by mid 2003
	Yes done. (Produce standard booklet at H.Q not yet to hand)
10.2	Annual questionnaire and report re rapport between prisoners and staff by end 2003

	Questionnaire not produced or designed at H.Q as yet
11.3	Maintain the prisoner participation rate in education at 50/50% - Head teacher, produce statistics of numbers in education in January/April/July/October each year
	Done – achieved
11.4	Review educational curriculum by September 2003 to ensure relevance to prisoners needs (Head Teacher)
	Report produced
11.6	Implement the recommendations of the report of the P.E. Development group by June 2003 (Head Teacher)
	No change
12.2	Programme of interaction with wider community for prisoners activity by July 2003
	Problem with getting community involvement, drama groups - withdraw due to type of offence some of prisoners are imprisoned for
13.1	Delivery of at least one multi-disciplinary programme re offenders behaviour per year
	Achieved (enhanced thinking skills)
14.2	50% of work/training courses are pursued to recognised certification by end 2003
	Work ongoing. No work training workshop facility
28.1	Prepare and complete by February 2003 business plan for prison and Headquarters Directorate
	Done

**GENERAL QUESTIONS BUSINESS PLAN 2003 – GOVERNOR**

1	Use of outside waiting room to accommodate spl family occasion visits?
	Done. (outside waiting room used)
2	Security alterations in waiting room by May 2003
	Done (security grid installed)
3	Heating and lighting output reduced by 5% on going- result?
	Work to be done not achieved as yet
4	Recycling of waste paper, cardboard, magazines by February 2003
	Done. Delivered to company. Savings of €8,000 - €10,000 established
5	Contract cleaners for staff accommodation - ongoing- result?
	Delivered
6(a)	Installation of gas detector in staff quarters kitchen - April 2003
	Done
(b)	Installation of gas detector in locker room plant house June 2003
	Done
7	Install fire doors in staff quarters by July 2003
	Not done. Costs and headquarters consideration of staff accommodation facility may be phased out.
8	E.L.C.B installed in staff quarters by September 2003
	Done
9(a)	Health and Safety audits - on going- result?
	On-going being done
(b)	Staff training in Health and Safety and prisoner awareness in Health and Safety - on going result?

	Training not done (Refresher) Health and Safety week for both prisoners and staff - done by video.
10	Set up garden nursery in glass house - on going - result?
	Done
11	Certified training of prisoners in catering on pilot basis by February 2003
	Done - 2 successful graduates
12	Improve cell flooring and put inundation points in cell doors by June 2003
	All cell doors done but not flooring due to financial constraints from Headquarters

#### 4. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

4.1 The total cell capacity of the prison is 115, plus a cladded cell, consisting of 95 single cells, 15 of which are doubled and 5 cells containing 3 in each.

4.2 The total prisoner population was 139 of which 16 were awaiting trial, while 123 were serving sentences. There were 6 prisoners on long term temporary release. There were 16 non nationals from U.K, Portugal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kosovo, Algeria, China, Malaysia, Northern Ireland, Nigeria.

#### 4.3 Breakdown of Sentences

Serving sentences up to 12 months	3
Serving sentences of over 12 months and up to 2 years	4
Serving sentences of over 2 years and up to 4 years	16
Serving sentences of over 4 years and up to 7 years	31
Serving sentences of over 7 years and up to 10 years	19
Serving sentences of over 10 years	14
Serving sentences of life imprisonment	<u>36</u>
	123
For Trial	<u>16</u>
Total	139

#### 4.4 Age Profile of the prisoners

Aged 16 to 18 years old	Nil
Aged 19 to 21 years old	04
Aged 22 to 25 years old	09
Aged 26 to 30 years old	25
Aged 31 to 35 years old	18
Aged 36 to 40 years old	26
Aged 41 to 45 years old	17
Aged 46 to 50 years old	10
Aged 51 to 60 years old	17
Aged 61 years and older	<u>13</u>
Total	139

#### 4.5 Offence Profile

Murder	32
Sex offences	71
Manslaughter	07
Drugs offences	05
Others, robbery, larceny, assault etc	<u>24</u>
Total	139

#### 4.6 Staffing

The staff numbers as of the 29th October 2003

Governor	1
Assistant Governor	1
Chief Officer	1
Industrial Manager	1

Chief Trades Officer	1	
Clerk 1	2	
A.C.O. Detail	1	
A.C.O	7	
Clerk 2	3	(1 Female)
Basic Grade officers	91	(6 Females)
Nurse officers	2	(both females, one is a qualified psychiatric nurse as well as a SRN the other nurse is an SRN)
Industrial Supervisors	3	
AIS	4	
Trades Officer	<u>4</u>	
Total Staff	122	

#### 4.7 Other staff providing services to the prison but not prison staff

Doctor	1	One hour per day 5 days per week (week days only)
Psychiatrist	1	3 hours approx per week
Dentist	1	5 hours approx per week
Psychologist	1	3 days per week
Optician	-	On call when required
Chaplain	1	Full time R.C. Chaplain and a Presbyterian and a Church of Ireland Chaplain available when required.
Teachers	3 (+16)	3 Full time teachers Monday - Friday while the 16 other Teachers teach in Arbour Hill and also in the other Dublin based prisons.
Probation & Welfare	1(+1)	Vacancy for one officer. There is a part time Probation and Welfare officer

- 4.8 There are a number of counsellors who attend at the prison and give of their expertise e.g. A.A. N.A. etc

## **5. TOUR OF INSPECTION**

- 5.1 The cell accommodation comprises of three wings or blocks, each with two landings, one at ground floor level and one at first floor level. The wings are built in the figure of a cross with the west and east wings opposite each other and joined by a circle in the centre and off the centre of the circle is the north wing. The south wing is opposite the north wing and it is much smaller than the other wings. It is used solely for facilities and administration purposes such as offices, control room, medical, dental, facilities etc.

### **5.2 WEST WING**

#### *WEST ONE*

West one consists of 13 single cells and 1 treble cell. There is a Class Officer's office which is for both West 1 and West 2 Class Officer's use. The office is fitted with a computer, table and chairs. Each cell has a stainless steel unit comprising of a toilet and wash hand basin. The unit is very compact and does not use up much space within the cells as the cells appear smaller than the standard size. The design of the unit is one of the better type used in the refurbishment programme of (in-cell) sanitation. The modesty doors surrounding the toilet/wash hand basin unit in the treble cell is not very effective insofar as it is only a quarter of a

standard size door and when the toilet is in use the person can be easily seen by the other two occupants of the cell. The cells are all fitted with tv's and some have videos, dvd's, kettles and a few have lap top computers. The cells are fitted with a small locker/wardrobe which are manufactured in the carpentry shop attached to the prison. There is a toilet, wash hand basin, and slop hopper in a small area off the landing. There is a shower area with three shower cubicles, one of which is fitted for invalid use, all tiled and fitted with non slip mats. The entire landing and cell floors are tiled. The area is maintained to a high hygienic standard, some of the cells have better hygiene standards than others, but overall they are to a very acceptable level.

### 5.3 *WEST TWO*

This second floor cell accommodation holds 21 prisoners in 18 single cells and one treble cell. It is identical to that described on West one with in-cell sanitation, tv's etc and showers, toilets, wash hand basin and slop hopper in an area just off the landing. All of the areas were clean and tidy. The treble cell had a bunk and single bed and again a small door surrounding the toilet/wash hand basin area.

#### 5.4 **NORTH WING**

##### *NORTH ONE*

The landing holds 27 prisoners in 14 single and 7 double cells. Each of the double cells are fitted with a bunk bed which has a protection rail fitted to the top bunk to prevent the person from falling out. The rail protects the person from falling out but it could also be used to attach a ligature in the event of someone contemplating suicide. The steps at the end of the bed could also be used for the same purpose. It had the exact same facilities as the other cellular accommodation already described and it was very clean and tidy.

#### 5.5 *NORTH TWO*

This landing held 33 prisoners in 14 single cells, 8 double cells and 1 treble cell. The double and treble cells have bunk beds provided and all have the same facilities as the other cellular accommodation. A couple of tiles in the shower cubical were cracked and slightly broken should be replaced. The overall hygiene and tidiness of the areas were up to an acceptable standard.

#### 5.6 **EAST WING**

##### *EAST ONE*

The accommodation here provided for 20 prisoners in 17 single cells and 1 treble cell. The treble cell has a bunk bed and a single bed within it. Again the cells, showers, toilet area, and class officers office is identical to those already outlined on west wing. All are clean, tidy and brightly painted with tiles on the floor throughout.

### 5.7 *CLADDED CELL*

There is a cladded cell on East one landing and it is the only such cell within the prison. There is cladding on the floor and walls. The window is covered with perspex sheeting and there are two water head sprinklers installed. There is a call button system within the cell which if pressed activates the red light outside of the cell door. This red light remains on until it is manually switched off outside the door. There is a mattress and a special blanket within it but it has no in-cell sanitation. A plastic chamber pot is provided. Immediately outside of the cladded cell door and the door onto the landing. There is a space in which the prisoner's clothing is placed. There is also a shelf on the wall in the same area which contains check lists forms on which is recorded the time, signature and remarks of the officer who checks the prisoner placed in the cladded cell every 15 minutes. When the prisoner is removed from the cladded cell this is also recorded and the form is then placed on the prisoner's personal file. The form also outlines the reason for his placement in the cladded cell, the date, and time placed there. There is also another record kept in a book in the control room office outlining the names, times, reasons, and date of placement and removal from the cladded cell. This records shows that this cell was used 6 times in 2003 and that two of the prisoners placed there were at their own request. The cell was clean and tidy.

### 5.8 *EAST TWO*

There are 23 prisoners held on this landing in 20 single cells and one treble cell. As in the other treble cells, there was a bunk bed and a single bed in it. The cells, showers, and toilet areas were identical to the other landings. They all had tiled floors and the general cleanliness and hygiene was excellent. There was a broken tile in one of the shower cubicles which needs replacement.

## 5.9 GYM

The gym was a purpose built area with a very large hall. A medical form is filled out before taking part because of claims of injury while there.

Over 50% attend. Exercise machines are professionally chosen. There are two sessions from 10.00a.m to 11.45a.m and from 2.00p.m to 3.45p.m daily. It also operates from 10.00 a.m - 12.00 p.m on Saturdays and Sundays.

Programmes are made out on exercise machines and are made out individually for prisoners.

There are five prison staff and they are happy with their number. There is also a P.E educational teacher attached to the gym. The staff would like to have it available in the evening time too. Three times a week is a recommended time and most prisoners get this.

Basketball and badminton is also available. It is difficult to keep prisoners interested in a long term basis within the gym, some drop off for a while and come back. There are very few problems of violence among prisoners the staff told us.

A formal prison P.E group visits and are pleased with the standards in Arbour Hill. They observed no violence, not even in a rough game of basketball. If there is a staff shortage, the gym, is the first place to be closed. This is unfair the staff say. A prisoner taken as an inpatient to hospital takes up to six staff. There would appear to be a good relationship between staff and prisoners in the gym.

#### 5.10 *KITCHEN*

The kitchen is located just off the circle or centre area of the prison and the entrance to the servery area is controlled by a steel shutter. The prisoners collect their meals on a tray at the servery area and return to their cells where all their meals are eaten. It is not a purpose built kitchen therefore the various sections is divided by pillars or sections of support walls resulting in it having various spaces jutting out and a lot of corridors or edges for trolleys to bang against. It is tiled throughout both the walls and the floors and it is spotlessly clean and hygienically operated.

The servery area is fitted out with all stainless steel containers and equipment. There is a refrigerated milk dispenser there for the prisoners to use as required. The next section is the main cooking area which has both gas and electric cookers in the centre of the floor. It is also fitted with two convection ovens and four water boilers. Stainless steel sinks are located around the walls. Just off the main cooking area there is a wash up section and another area off that is the walk in refrigeration storage facility. This refrigerated section is fitted with free standing stainless steel shelves. A door way off the refrigerated area leads into an office/classroom section which is fitted with a computer, flip charts, filing cabinet, presses etc. Training instruction is given to the prisoners in this area. All the records relating to the kitchen is also maintained there.

The back of the kitchen contains a double fridge which holds cold foods for the daily use. Another door leads into the prisoners toilet area which also has a wash hand basin and was very clean and tidy.

The next section leads into the dry food storage section which is fitted with stainless steel shelves and contains morning cereals, soups, tins of peas, beans etc. There were also large containers in this area which held flour, sugar, custard powder, rice etc. It also contained a fridge freezer. A small section was assigned to keeping filed records of temperatures and heat checks carried out, plus other records relating to cleaning schedules, job allocations, prisoners assignment, stock, etc. It also had a filing cabinet.

Another area off the cooking section was used as the pot wash up location which had stainless steel sinks and shelving for holding pots, pans, etc. The back door of the kitchen lead out to an open air enclosed yard where mops, scrubbers, buckets etc were stored. It also had a hot and cold water supply to wash out the mops. There were also tanks there for the storage of waste cooking oil.

The ceiling of the kitchen has been replaced in recent times with a Hadel style model. This system extracts the hot air/steam from over the cooking section in the centre of the kitchen and blows in fresh air through the outside panels of the ceiling around the walls area. This leaves the working conditions much better as the ceilings are quite low within the entire kitchen sections.

The kitchen is operated by two officers, one of whom is a supervisory officer, and ten prisoners. All of the prisoners must participate in induction training course which involves the principles and practices of food hygienic, food handling, health and safety, etc. Two of the prisoners were successful in the Leonardos training certificates this year. The kitchen provides approximately 560 meals per day.

#### 5.11 *MAIN VISITING FACILITY*

The visiting facilities for prisoners' visitors consist of a reasonably large room with a wide table placed in the centre of the floor the full length of the room. The visitors enter by one door while the prisoners enter by another door on the opposite side of the table. Two officers observe the visits taking place from a raised seat at both ends of the table. CCTV is in operation and are being taped while visits are taking place. The room can seat eight prisoners at a time.

A corridor off the main visiting area leads to two small visiting facilities and a visiting facility for conducting professional visits. The two small visiting areas have a small table in the centre of the room with a small barrier running down the centre of it. There are chairs on both sides of the table and it can facilitate one visit at a time. These two rooms are used for family occasion type visits, such as a first holy communion, death in a family or family difficulty discussions. Both rooms are covered by CCTV. The professional visiting facilities consist of a room with table and chairs and again can facilitate one consultation at a time. It is not covered by CCTV and those inside can be observed by a glass panel from the corridor but the observer can not hear the discussions taking place.

There are no complete screen visiting facilities at this prison.

#### 5.12 *LIBRARY*

The library is located on the first floor just off the circle area. It is well stocked with books, CDs, video tapes, law books, etc. It also supplies magazines. It is fitted out with shelving all around the walls, table in the centre of the floor and a counter or desk with a computer. The table contains information leaflets re health promotion matters such as abuse of drugs, alcohol, AIDS etc. There is also information regarding agencies and services available on release concerning accommodation, clinics, meeting points etc. There is no librarian attached to the prison but it is operated by library officers. The books are exchanged with the Mountjoy Prison library. Due to staff shortfalls the library is only open at weekends and very occasionally during the week. There is an average of 12 prisoners per week avail of it but the teachers claim that if it were open more often, more prisoners would avail of its services.

### 5.13 *RECEPTION AND LAUNDRY*

The reception is located in the building to the left of the main gate on entrance to the prison. The work is carried out within three separate areas of the reception with an officer in charge and an average of 10-12 prisoners working there daily. The reception section deals with all prisoners being committed and discharged and recording of all their personal clothing and belongings. There is a counter with computer and books into which is recorded each of their items of clothing and property plus any particular marks or scars on their bodies. Their height and weight is also recorded. All of these particulars are recorded onto the computer.

Next to the reception area are three showers and a bath with a non slip mat provided in each of the shower cubicles and outside of the bath. All of the areas are tiled and were clean and tidy. Just off the shower area are two holding cells which are used for prisoners awaiting being discharged, or being escorted to court, or being committed. There is a seat fitted to the floor in both of them and they were clean and fresh. The floors were tiled.

Further down the corridor there were two toilets one for prisoners use and one for staff. There is also a urinal plus wash hand basin installed there. The entire area is tiled and it is clean and tidy.

The end of the corridor led into a locker room which held all the prisoners personal clothing and belongings. There are sufficient lockers for each prisoner to have one assigned to him and each locker is numbered. The prisoners clothing is fitted with the same number as the locker and he retains that number for the duration of his stay in the prison. He is also issued with the same number for his prison clothing, including bed clothing, and when he returns his clothing for laundering weekly, he is

guaranteed to receive the same clothing back each time as a result of the numbering system. The lockers are made of steel material and are placed all around the walls as well as free standing in the centre of the floor. The floor is tiled and the area is clean and very well maintained.

A door off the locker room area leads into a store room which holds prisoners jumpers, shirts, runners, jeans, bed linen etc. They are stored in presses and lockers and again the area is clean and tidy.

There is another store room on the entrance corridor in which is stored washing powder, washing liquids, mops, brushes, etc. There are some clothing which some prisoners failed to return back to the prison to collect on discharge. There is another room off this store room which contains a computer which operates the card phones for the prisoners and a server for operating same. There is also a section where prisoners photographs are taken.

The other end of the entrance corridor leads into the laundry area in which are installed three commercial washers, three commercial dryers and a presser. The laundry needs of the entire prison are conducted within this area and the work was in full swing at the time of our inspection. A small number of the prisoners who wear their own clothes leave their laundry out to family or friends weekly. The entire area is tiled and it was very clean and well organised.

#### 5.14 *CONTROL ROOM*

The Control room is located in the south wing and operates 24 hours per day under the supervision of an Assistant Chief Officer. It contains the security requirements of the prison as well as the control display panels for the fire and alarm systems. There are viewing screens for the CCTV's in the visiting boxes as well as the general security areas. It is fitted with a computer which contains the records of the prisoners and the cell locations. The electric control panels are also contained there as well as the communication systems to the prisoner's cells. There are safes and steel cabinets for storage purposes as well as record books with the staff tours of duties and reports on checks which they carried out are held. It was clean and tidy with the appearance of an office in constant use.

#### 5.15 *CHIEF OFFICERS OFFICE*

The Chief's office is located in the corridor next door to the control room. It contains safes for holding security materials. It also has the prison camera recording facility within it. The control systems for operating the DVD's to the cells is also located there. It is a normal type office with desk, chair, filing cabinets, computer and printer provided. It was clean, tidy and well laid out.

#### 5.16 *STORES*

The stores are operated by two clerks, one of which is a supervisor (Clerk I grade). They provide the necessary vitcualling and other requirements of the prison such as furniture, fittings, clothing, cleaning materials etc. They also operate the manufacturing aspect of the prison in the purchase and resale of materials for the workshops. They manage quite a large storage facility with free standing shelves placed in rows down the entire length of the stores and their office is just off the main store area. All of the stock and exchanges are recorded on computers but the orignal system has not been introduced to Arbour Hill Prison. They claim the computer system operates quite well, but can be slow at times when the demand is high, and in such cases, the transactions are recorded manually and placed on computer when demand time has eased off. This is really a duplication of work. The overall stores were neat and tidy and the materials on the shelves were well displayed and accessable. They also manage the maintenance store which is located outside the boundary wall adjacent to the trades staff workshops area. This store holds timber, electric fittings, plumbing, etc for maintenance work within the prison. They also have a paint store separate from this store.

#### 5.17 *OFFICE*

The office is operated by one Clerk I and two Clerk II's one of whom is job sharing. They are responsible for all of the prisoners records, files, applications, hospital appointments, court appearances, cash, gratuities, remission and discharge dates.

The other section of the office deals with staff files, records, sick and special leave, applications, transfers, travel and subsistence as well as the overall cash accounts for the prison. The method of recording the staffs' sick leave records are in the process of being changed on the computer system at present but the clerical staff considers it no improvement. Infact it may even give them more work. They think it is a more cumbersome system than the old one. It is quite a well laid out office with all the necessary requirements for its operation and was clean and tidy.

#### 5.18 *DETAIL OFFICE*

The duties of the detail office entail the rostering of staff for all the various tours of duty. It also involves the recording of overtime worked, submitting overtime for payment, the checking of printouts of the time recordings clocks for the staff coming on and going off duty. It also entails the recording of daily sick leave absences, recording lates and dealing with some of the staffs' applications for special leave etc. It is operated by an Assistant Chief Officer and an officer. It is quite a small office with the normal office furniture and fittings. They also censor the prisoners' letters coming in and going out of the prison. Their computers operate reasonably well, but more programmes could be installed in them, as the staff have to perform some of the work manually which should be capable of being done by computer, thereby reducing some of the work load.

#### 5.19 *MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS, STORAGE AND STORES*

These are stand alone buildings in a yard outside the boundary wall of the prison. The massive water storage tanks for the prison are located there as well as the plant houses for the electrical supplies and generators. The main building has storage facilities on the ground floor level for the various equipment needed in the maintenance of a prison, e.g air compressor for the filling of cylinders, scaffolding, ladders, planks, hoists etc. The store also holds the necessary building materials required for the upkeep of the prison as well as a paint store. The first floor has workshops for the various trade staff to assemble or repair materials required for the upkeep of the prison. The Chief Trades Officer's office is just off the workshop and there are toilets and shower facilities provided for all of the staff.

#### 5.20 *STAFF LOCKER ROOM*

A new locker room has been provided in very recent times and is located directly behind the former Governor's residence. Entrance to same is from the main gate area and its entrance is electronically controlled by hand print method and personal key pad numbers. It is a very modern building, well laid out with steel cabinet lockers placed around the walls as well as rows down the centre of the floor. Seating is also provided along the bottom of the lockers. The wash/shower areas consist of four showers, four wash hand basins with urinals and toilets off them. It was clean and fairly tidy. Upstairs had similar type lockers and seating facilities. A section of the downstairs locker room is for female staffs use and consists of fourteen lockers with seating facilities. It also has two showers, two wash hand basins and two toilets. It is kept clean and reasonably tidy. There is a smoke extractor ventilation system in the side windows of the stairwells of the building.

#### 5.21 VISITORS WAITING ROOM

The visitors waiting room is located near the main entrance gate outside of the prison boundary wall. It contains a large waiting room with seating placed all around the walls and a cluster of small coffee tables in the centre of the floor. A ladies and gents toilet facility is just off the room at the end. There is a closed in office with an officer in charge situated immediately inside the entrance door. Off the officer's office is quite a reasonable size store room. The officer communicates with the visitors through the hatch which has clear glass fitted in it. The officer takes the names of the visitors on arrival and the prisoner they wish to visit. The officer then telephones the names and particulars through to the Assistant Chief Officer in Charge in the circle area of the prison and on authorisation of the visit, the Assistant Chief Officer then has the prisoner concerned escorted to the visiting room. The officer in the waiting room is then instructed by phone to pass in the relevant visitors who are issued with a pass docket which is then presented to the Officer in Charge of the main gate and escorted into the visiting room area.

The officer in the waiting room also accepts cash for prisoners and issues receipt for same. The officer also takes in clothing for prisoners and also takes in hand bags or other such bags which visitors are not allowed bring in with them on the visit. They collect same on the way out.

On the day of inspection there were three ladies waiting in the room to go into the prison for a visit. Two of the ladies were from two different parts of Dublin City while the third lady had travelled by train for over 100 miles from the West of Ireland. They had no complaints concerning their treatment regarding visits or conditions. They were very pleased with the courtesy and friendliness shown to them by staff and had been coming to Arbour Hill Prison on a weekly basis for quite a long time. They suggested that a child minding service for the duration of the visit would help as they had availed of this service in Cloverhill and Mountjoy prisons.

The entire waiting room area appeared to be freshly painted and it was bright and cheerful with pictures on the walls. The area including the toilet and wash hand basins were very clean and tidy. There was a coffee/tea making machine facility in the corner which was being used by the visitors at the time of our inspection. The average waiting time for visitors from time of arrival until the visit commences was ten minutes.

#### 5.22 *GARDEN AREA*

There is a grassed garden with tarred walk ways down the centre of it located between the prison boundary wall and the railings along the footpath on the roadway which extends the full length of the prison. The grass area has flower bed margins along the entire length of the walk way as well as flower beds inserted at various intervals. The flowers were in full bloom and it was a beautiful setting. The flowers were grown from seeds in the glass house which is situated in the east exercise yard. The grass is trimmed very neatly. A trustee prisoner is fully occupied keeping the entire area looking so well. It displays a lovely setting for the front of the prison. The same prisoner also takes care of the grass areas and the flower beds around the outside of the staff accommodation area.

### 5.23 *TUCK SHOP*

The tuck shop is located in an area just off the entrance to the recreation hall and it is operated by an officer five days per week. It is open for remand prisoners every day while sentenced prisoners can place their orders on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is quite well stocked with the usual cigarettes, tobacco, biscuits, minerals, cereals, sweets, chocolates, crisps, tea, coffee, sauces, vitamin tablets, soaps, shampoo, toiletries, etc available in it. They do not stock or order in newspapers or magazines but if the prisoners wish to have these, their families or friends can place the order with a local shop or they can be purchased through the general office and the shop delivers them to the prison as ordered. The officer allows the prisoners to spend their complete gratuity as otherwise some of them could not afford to purchase anything. The prisoners who perform special tasks or extra work beyond the norm such as cleaning toilets, grounds, landings, kitchens etc are issued with a voucher free of charge from the Chief Officer. The prisoner can purchase what ever he wishes in the tuck shop. When the Inspector met the prisoners as part of his tour of inspection, the prisoners complained that the prices of the articles in the tuck shop were too costly and even more costly than the major stores outside. The officer in charge of the tuck shop stated that prices were equal or 12 to 15 cent dearer than the big supermarkets but much cheaper than the smaller shops or corner shops. He stated that he was guided by the retail price that the wholesalers who supplied the articles recommend. The Governor when questioned regarding profit margins stated that the profit was very low and the most of the profits are spent on the free vouchers given out by the Chief Officer.

#### 5.24 *STAFF CANTEEN/ACCOMMODATION AREA*

The staff accommodation facility is a stand alone building outside of the boundary walls of the prison and within this building the canteen is situated. It is quite a modern building of two storey high and contains 26 bedrooms, 21 of which are occupied while the other five rooms are used as offices or for administration purposes. The cleaning of the area is carried out by an outside contractor who works two and a half hours per day Monday to Friday.

The canteen area is also operated by an outside contractor who works from 6.30 a.m to 4.45 p.m in providing breakfasts, lunches and teas. They will also facilitate staff with a snack or special lunch outside of the normal meal time hours. The price list appears very reasonable. The entire kitchen and dining area as well as the overall landings and foyer of the building were very clean, tidy and well maintained. The Inspector undertook to do "a spot check" on the staff canteen as he was very critical of the staff canteen in another prison.

## 5.25 **WORKSHOPS**

### 5.25(1) *CARPENTER SHOP*

This workshop is operated by an industrial supervisor and an acting industrial supervisor plus two discipline officers with an average of 18 prisoners per day. They made the podiums for the Special Olympics which were very much appreciated by the Olympic organisers. It also gave tremendous satisfaction to the staff and prisoners involved as the work was publicly recognised. They also manufacture cell lockers and small wardrobes for the prisons. They have secured a contract at present in the manufacturing of bookshelves, computer desks, workstations and full educational kitchen for the teaching staff at Cloverhill Prison. They are also working at providing a childrens enclosure and play area for the visitors crèche at Cloverhill Prison.

In the past number of years they have been supplying Barrettstown Gang Camp with beds, blanket boxes and small wardrobe lockers all of which are manufactured within the workshop. The beds are of special design to accommodate children with different disabilities. Again great praise has been received from staff and organisers of Barrettstown for the work they have done for them.

The workshop was very busy at the time of our inspection and all the prisoners were fully engaged at the various workstations throughout the area. The staff are very supportive and very enthusiastic in relation to the work they do and most encouraging towards the prisoners under their instruction. It gave the appearance of a well run workshop and appears to have all the modern equipment such as saws, workbenches, tools etc to carry out the work.

### 5.25(2) *PRINT SHOP*

The print shop is situated in one of the ground floor areas of the educational buildings. It is managed by two officers and ten prisoners on a daily basis. The work is operated in three different areas of the workshop. The large print room has machines free standing down the centre of the floor with shelving all along one wall and storing large volumes of paper of various sizes on same. There are other machines placed along the end wall and just off the centre of the floor as well. Shelving and tables are located along another wall where the finished products are stored.

The type setting room is just off the main print shop which is fitted out with computers, plate maker and desk top publishing system.

There is an office within a corner of the print workshop which is fitted with a computer and colour printer. All of the stocks, records, orders etc are on this computer.

The workshop depends mostly on tenders or orders being received from outside but they also do some work for the various prisons' own use. When the work material is received in on disk or manuscript form it is typeset onto the computer and a copy produced for proof reading for the customer plus the proposed layout. When the customer is satisfied with the layout and print format then a printing plate is made up. The printing plate is then placed in the printing machines in the large print work area and printing begins on the number of pages and copies required. The number of different colours required in a finished article will determine the number of times the process takes on the printing machine. The printing completed, the copies are then placed on the guillotine machine and cut/trimmed to the required size of the customers' order. The copies are then placed on a collating machine and the pages placed in numerical

order. They then proceed to the binding machines. Depending on the customers order they are bound in whatever style is required. They are then placed in packages, wrapped and delivered to the stores for despatch to the customers.

The major part of the work is for Government Departments mostly Justice Equality and Law Reform. However, they also do work for the public and for members of staff requiring stationary. The workshop is very bright and there is a pleasant atmosphere. The prisoners tend to take great pride in their work and the whole area was very clean and neat.

#### 5.25(3) *FABRIC SHOP*

The workshop is managed by an Assistant Industrial Supervisor and an officer. They generally have about 25 prisoners working there daily but maybe less some days with school, visits, etc. They make duvet covers, pillow cases and sheets for all of the prisons. They have introduced a small bit of craft work lately making leather wallets, and small timber medal holders/heart shape photograph holders to add some variety to their work. They have a number of sewing machines and a large cutting table with a number of small tables for making up the various bundles required for each order. There are presses placed all around the walls.

The workshop was clean and tidy but some of the prisoners were not fully engaged as they stated they had all of their orders filled and up to date. The officers were supportive of the prisoners work and were willing to teach them the skills of operating the machines. They also did some work for the Special Olympics of which they were very proud.

#### 5.25(4) *BRAILLE SHOP*

The Braille shop employs fifteen prisoners under the supervision of an Industrial Supervisor and an Assistant Industrial Supervisor. The workshop is situated in an area on the ground floor of the educational building. Their work consists of making books, magazines, school reports, newsletters, telephone directories, maps etc for the visually impaired. A lot of the work is for the schools for the blind in transcribing the written word in text books into braille. The work is done on computer unlike some years ago when all of this work was done on special braille typing machines.

There are twelve computer presses all along the walls of the workshop with tables and shelving for storage of books, paper and finished material. They also operate a binding machine to bind the books when printed.

They did a lot of work for the Special Olympics such as, spectator guides, instructions and guidelines for the competitions, as well as programmes for the opening and closing ceremonies. Both staff and prisoners were very enthusiastic concerning the praise and acknowledgement they received for doing this work.

They also produce a magazine "blind citizen" every two months for the National Council for the Blind in Ireland. They have numerous letters of thanks and acknowledgements for work carried out from several people. It was a very quiet peaceful workshop with staff and prisoners fully engaged in their computer work. The entire place was very clean and tidy.

## **6. MEETING WITH THE VARIOUS GROUPS**

### **6.1 MEETING WITH THE DOCTOR**

The doctor attending Arbour Hill prison attends once a day, five days a week between 8 a.m and 9 a.m. A local General Practitioner is on call 24 hours a day. There is no waiting list as such and the daily list is fully taken up. The service provided by the doctor is for general medical complaints for the 138/139 male prisoners.

- 6.1(a) Generally, the doctor sees all prisoners within 24 hours of committal unless the committal is on a Friday when the prisoner will be seen on the Monday. If the matter is urgent, a prisoner will be seen over the weekend. As Arbour Hill has relatively few committals, this is in general not an issue.

- 6.1(b) There is no active health screening for such matters as Hepatitis A,B, and C, HIV and prostate. Any screening is ad hoc in nature and conducted by the nursing staff. The Doctor indicated that such screening was time consuming and would have to be conducted by someone else.
- 6.1(c) Medical records of patient visits are hand written and not electronically stored. The hardware for electronic storage exists but is not utilised owing to instructions from the Doctor's organisation not to use the equipment. The nurse does record those patients that do attend the doctor on a daily basis, but the consultation is not electronically stored. Any use of IT facilities originates from the doctor's private practice and generally for the production of medical reports for solicitors. Any use of IT facilities would require administrative support as for the doctor to do so would adversely consume prison visiting time.
- 6.1(d) The Doctor indicated that there was a gap in the provision of health promotion education. Such was not considered to fall within the doctor's remit and would be time consuming. While literature on health promotion was available (such was evident in the library, it was not located in the right places). It was estimated that fifty per cent of prisoners smoked. There was no dietician and those who required special care for diabetes attended outside clinics. The doctor felt he could deal with the general health requirements of the prisons. The age of the prisoners was not an issue.

- 6.1(e) The requirement for a drug free area did not arise, as drugs were not a problem in Arbour Hill.
- 6.1(f) There are four multidisciplinary suicide prevention meetings annually at which the doctor does NOT attend. Suicide attempts are generally not a problem with one attempted suicide in the last decade. There is some evidence of prisoners "scratching" themselves to which the nursing staff attended.
- 6.1(g) There was some confusion surrounding the implementation of the Health Review Group recommendations.
- 6.1(h) There are on average 12 prisoners discharged per annum. No formal examination of the prisoner is conducted but both a prescription and medication for 7 days is provided where necessary. Prisoners with medical issues are told to contact a GP on discharge and if the Doctor knows the GP contact is made informing the GP of the prisoner's condition, prescription and medication. The Doctor prior to discharge sees any prisoner on medication. There is a problem with medical cards on discharge as well as the prisoner not knowing where he will be residing on release. Owing to the nature of the offence, the prisoner is often incapable of returning to their local area/family. This makes liaising with health services in the community difficult. The Governor confirmed that no prisoner leaves the prison on release without knowing where he will be accommodated for at least a week.

6.1(i) Access to the psychiatrist and the CMH services was stated to be a major problem.

6.1(j) Generally there was no problem in the ordering of medicines and pharmaceuticals. There was always an adequate supply and in the event of a problem there was a good relationship with the local pharmacy to cover any eventuality. The deficiencies in the Doctor's opinion were the absence of a dictaphone and a fax machine which would greatly improve the administration of seeing prisoners. In addition secretarial/administrative backup would improve matters. The Doctor also indicated that better communication from the prison referring a prisoner would assist in the arrival/committal of the new prisoner at Arbour Hill.

## 6.2 *MEETING WITH PSYCHIATRIST*

The psychiatrist is a senior registrar and was seen for about 40 minutes. She stressed she was under pressure for time and that she had to see prisoners and could not stay very long with us.

The psychiatrist has been working in Arbour Hill since last July and has worked in Mountjoy and Cloverhill and has been two years in the CMH. She also lectures in forensic psychiatry in TCD. She has a weekly clinic in Arbour Hill on a Monday from 2.00p.m to 5.00p.m. Not more than seven prisoners are seen at a clinic though a new prisoner can take up to one hour.

6.2(a) She does not see everyone who is admitted to Arbour Hill "not necessary" she states.

She sees herself as a person dealing specifically with psychiatric patients only.

She has several prisoners who suffer from schizophrenia or schizoaffective illness, bipolar disorder and also someone who self harms. She also told us that she gets inappropriate referrals where she believes her time is wasted such as family, social problems which she believes she should not see.

She told us there was a low rate of acute mental illness in the prison.

She told us that there were lower drug problems than at other prisons and significant alcohol problems.

She does feel that counselling would help prisoners but this is not her remit.

She feels the psychologist could do more in the line of anger management.

She is not always sure who refers prisoners to her but the medical orderly helps her here and she is organising a formal referral system or referral letter.

She sees her role as seeing prisoners with a mental illness.

She is not involved with sex offender problems

She thinks there is one person who is on hormonal treatment who is a sexual offender.

She is asked to prescribe sleeping tablets but she will not do so unless under psychiatric condition.

She does realise that cannabis gets in and that there is random testing for cannabis.

She stressed that mental illness is her major role.

6.2(b) She was told by the Inspector that prisoners had told him that it was very difficult to see her, unlike the others before her, but she disputed this fact. She left simply saying she had a lot of work to do.

### 6.3 *MEETING WITH THE PSYCHOLOGIST*

The psychologist who says she is a basic grade psychologist and has been in Arbour Hill for about a year. It took about nine or ten months to process her application for the job. She thinks bureaucracy was the reason for the delay.

She has a four day week from 9.30a.m to 5.00p.m Tuesday to Friday. Three days are spent in Arbour Hill from Tuesday to Thursday and on Friday she goes to the Department of Psychology in Clonskeagh which is part of the Prison Service Headquarters.

She is involved with two specific programmes.

#### 6.3(a) 1. *Enhanced thinking skills programme*

This is a ten week programme with two sessions a week and has been adopted from the Home Office Programme. Each session is videoed. Her role is to view the video of each session with the programme tutors and she advises on the next session.

This course is run twice a year for eight prisoners. All the prisoners are advised of this programme. 35 applied this year and after a selection process with the prison staff eight were selected.

There is a cognitive element present so the prisoners must have

sufficient intellectual skills to participate. There is a certificate and “celebration” at the end of the course.

6.3(b) 2. *The sex offenders programmes*

Eight clients are in this programme and it is available to prisoners from other prisons also.

A similar course is being run in the Curragh.

There are three sessions a week and each class last two hours.

This is a ten month course and a probation and welfare officer and herself deliver this course.

There are several elements:

- (i) Three months exploration of “why” the abuse took place. The participants looking at their own lives and getting in touch with their own feelings. This takes about three months
- (ii) Victim empathy. This takes another two months
- (iii) Input from the Rape Crisis Centre - tapes of victims and poems from children in a childrens hospital who would have been abused
- (iv) Write a letter re the abuse from the victim viewpoint
- (v) Present a collage of the “the old me” and “the new me”
- (vi) Family involvement, they are invited to four sessions so the incentive to do the course is increased.

Families are met individually to find out how they can support the abuser.

6.3(b) This is a very painful programme she informed us which needs to be rewarded in some way. At present there is no reward for doing it and this needs to be addressed. So the incentive is to do the course and to finish it which is an achievement in itself.

6.3(c) Most sex offenders do not go home when they leave prison but their families will visit. There are no Irish figures on repeat offenders.

6.3(d) She has no time to do individual work with prisoners at present though she does plan to do a limited amount of individual work starting in January when the enhanced thinking skills programme has been completed.

6.3(e) She gets good support from the psychiatrist if someone is upset on the programme.

6.3(f) She finds the Governor and Senior Management to be very supportive.

#### 6.4 *MEETING WITH THE DENTIST*

There are no problems in providing an adequate dental service to Arbour Hill. The prisoners have the same type of care that health board clients would have. Routine dental work is not a problem. Routine x-rays can be done in the prison but more extensive x rays are performed at other centres such as the dental unit at Mountjoy or the dental hospital. More difficult dental work can be dealt with either in the Mater or the dental hospital. On average there are two acute dental cases a month and these are dealt with without difficulty.

6.4(a) If a prisoner is in acute pain at the weekend it is usually dealt with by the doctor on duty on an acute basis and the prisoner is seen as soon as possible. Though the dental unit is adequate more modern equipment has been recommended by dentist.

6.5 *MEETING WITH THE PROBATION AND WELFARE*

There are two Probation and Welfare Officers (P & O) assigned to Arbour Hill Prison but there is one vacancy at the moment and has been since April of 2003. There is also a part time P & O Officer. There is one Senior Probation and Welfare Officer part time in a supervisory role. There is no clerical or administrative support for the P & O Officers. The P & O Officers provide 2 rehabilitation courses (Anger Management and Lifers programmes). The type of course offered depends upon the prison population needs.

There are four multidisciplinary courses/programmes being offered (Group Skill, Enhanced Thinking Skills, Preparation for Release and Sex Offenders Programme).

6.5(a) All prisoners are seen within five days of committal and usually within 2-3 days. Occasionally as the need may appropriately arise, the P&O will attend prisoners at weekends but this is very rare.

6.5(b) On average five prisoners will have daily sessions with P & O.

- 6.5(c) P & O assist in a number of programmes to help prisoners address their offending behaviour.
- 6.5(d) The multi-disciplinary programmes are as follows:
- 6.5(e) Group Skills provided by P & O teachers and prison officers
- 6.5(f) Enhanced Thinking Skills provided by P & O psychologist, teachers and prison officers. There are 8 places for the course given over 20 sessions.
- 6.5(g) Preparation for Release provided by P & O and the teachers. 10-12 places are available for this programme which is given in 10-12 sessions.
- 6.5(h) Sex offenders programme caters for 8 sex offenders in a 200-hour programme given once a year.
- 6.5(i) Prisoners are assessed at committal stage for the various programmes depending on the offence and the psychiatric/medical assessment.

Active sentence management is provided for the lifers and sex offenders. Remand prisoners are not catered for. Existing life prisoners are assisted with their sentence and new life prisoners are provided with a specific programme. Life prisoners as they approach the end of their sentences can avail of the Training Unit with a view to reintegration in the community. While sex offenders are provided with sentence management programmes, they cannot avail of the Training Unit, temporary release or supervised release.

- 6.5(i) Owing to the prison population in Arbour Hill, mostly being sex offenders and lifers, there is little community liaising with community groups for the former category of prisoners as there is no temporary release or supervised release. As for the latter, the Training Unit caters for life prisoners approaching the end of their sentences.
- 6.5(k) In the last year Dublin City Council has established a special team to deal with the homeless. Such would benefit sex offenders with supervision but there is limited support for sex offenders. The Health Board, through the community welfare officer, assesses the requirements of prisoners on release and will provide emergency accommodation, medical cards and welfare allowance. Further the Health Board provides some psychological and counselling services. Otherwise there is little re-socialising provided, save through the school programme, which is limited.
- 6.5(l) The P& O officers participate in four multi disciplinary programmes for offender's behaviour. There is no linkage programme.

6.5(m) In general the P & O service operates well with the prison service. The latter being supportive and facilitating the former. The P & O noted that better incentives were needed for sex offenders to encourage participation in sex offender programmes. In particular, sex offenders did not derive any sentence reduction for participation in sex offenders' programmes. An incentive that the P & O considered should emanate from the judiciary at sentence/sentence review stage . Obviously the availability of 8 places on the sex offenders' programmes is inadequate for the needs of Arbour Hill. The programme is not exclusive to Arbour Hill prisoners and sex offenders from other prisons participate in the programme.

#### 6.6 *MEETING WITH THE CHAPLAINS*

The Inspector had a meeting with two chaplains the Presbyterian who is also attached to Findlater's Church and the R.C. Chaplain who is also now the Head Chaplain in the Prison System.

6.6(a) They both expressed very grave concern about prisoners being released without any prepared structured release programme. There is no temporary release for sex offenders. The R.C. Chaplain gave an example and said he was given about €300 by the Governor to bring a prisoner out to fit him out with new clothes and he was released a matter of hours later having completed a very long sentence. This is probably fear of the media who if they saw a sex offender in the street before he was due to be release would embarrass the politicians by screaming about temporary release. It is quite inhuman to take a man from a prison environment in which he is incarcerated for years and put him immediately into society.

6.6(b) There is also great difficulty in finding accommodation. Anyone giving a former address as Arbour Hill is not welcome in bed and breakfasts. This of course is perfectly understandable. However the Presbyterian chaplain said that the churches should be much more involved in dealing with this situation. He stated that in his church they make a special effort to deal with non Irish and bring them to the church and make them welcome. They get them involved with the congregation who will try to provide accommodation and possibly employment.

6.6(c) Since the officers quarters may be phased out, it might mean that the accommodation there might be used as a half way house for six months or thereabouts.

6.6(d) I warned the chaplains about the dangers of becoming part of a growing empire. They were very aware of this danger. Infact the head chaplain had been told there was a special room for him in the Clonskeagh building of the ever growing headquarters staff. I am delighted to report that he refused this offer. He stated that he had a perfectly adequate room in Arbour Hill and could operate as head chaplain from there. Of course the Chaplains must work with the Prison Service but they should not be perceived as part of the structure. They should not be "under" anyone no matter how meritorious that person maybe. They are trusted by prisoners with confidences. The same of course can be said for the Probation Service. However I am glad that the Chaplain has yet not fallen for the blandishment of being a part of the new proposed correctional organisation.

6.6(e) They praised the Governor and staff for their co-operation and for their very humane approach to the prisoners.

#### 6.7 *MEETING WITH THE PRISONERS*

The Inspector accompanied by one of his team met the prisoners. Firstly they met six prisoners. The next day the Inspector and a member of his team met five prisoners again in a group. We had well over one hours conversation. It was interesting that two of the prisoners had never received a visit for the duration of over twenty years they have already spent in prison. All of the prisoners spoke very highly of Arbour Hill and of the staff. Some who had experience of three or four other institutions stated that it was the best prison in Ireland. They had great praise for the new Governor, his attitude and his listening skills. They agreed that it was more difficult to see the psychiatrist than it had been with her predecessors but said that she worked very hard and was often in the prison until 7.30 pm. The earlier group of prisoners had complained that there was a long delay in seeing the psychiatrist. Several of them were on extensive medication for serious psychiatric illnesses.

6.7(a) One prisoner wanted to see the Inspector alone.

He wanted to know if he could appeal. I told him that it was not my function to give legal advice, however if he had pleaded guilty the Judge had no option but to sentence him to life in prison. He seemed appreciative of having an opportunity of discussing his case. The Inspector pointed out that firstly he couldn't take up any individual case under the terms of his contract and secondly he could not see what the Courts could do due to the fact that he had pleaded guilty and got the mandatory sentence. I told him that it was for his Solicitor to advise him on whether or not to appeal. My personal view, under the circumstances was that, there was nothing to appeal.

6.7(b) Some said boredom was a big problem and on the courses such as the joinery most of the people were just sitting around. They were delighted to have so much t.v available in their cells. While the cells were small they were also grateful for the incell sanitation but they complained about them being cold in the evening. The water pressure in the pipes was too loud and the colour scheme could be brighter. Lights were turned off at 11. 00 p.m, save for a small light beside the bed. Other prisons had a much better lighting system which could be controlled by the prisoners themselves.

6.7(c) A major complaint related to the great difficulty in getting temporary release. Several prisoners had said that they had received no response to their requests for temporary release. The Governor stated that he has not received any complaints of any nature in this regard.

6.7(d) A further substantial complaint was the lack of certainty about the date for ultimate release which effected those convicted of murder. (serving life sentence)

- 6.7(e) It was said that the rehabilitation was very minimal. Prisoners complained that they had to wait for three to four years to get on a thinking skills course. Prisoners complained about the lack of access to the sex offenders course and expressed the view that it involved heavy burdens. It was long and strenuous; prisoners' families were involved.
- 6.7(f) There were complaints about the lack of preparation for release of prisoners into society after long sentences. It was not even possible to go out to visit the shops for a few days beforehand in order to familiarise prisoners with the new reality of a changed city.
- 6.7(g) Another prisoner complained about being transferred to another prison as part of his release programme but that he was returned to the prison as the new prison did not comply with the review boards recommendations.
- 6.7(h) One prisoner complained about the fact that the sex offenders register operated retrospectively. He regarded this as an unfair further punishment on those who had already been sentenced for their offence.

6.7(i) *Herewith are the mains issues raised*

6.7(i)(a) *Food*: The quality is all right but there is little imagination in its preparation. There is a 14 day cycle menu while there is a 28 day cycle menu in other prisons and there is also a greater variety of breakfast cereals in other prisons. They stated that all prisoners threw out their corned beef dinner and that lunch at 12.30 p.m was too early: at 4.30 p.m prisoners would be starving.

6.7(i)(2) *Workshop*: Some prisoners say that few prisoners are actually working. There is nothing for people to do the prisoners stated. In the carpentry 10 - 15 people are doing nothing. There is a lack of things to do unless you go after it yourself.

Prison officers do the work themselves in the workshops. This statement is very strongly denied by the prison authorities.

6.7(i)(3) *Probation and Welfare*: One Probation and Welfare officer has too much to do and as they are involved in the programmes they only have one day a week to see the prisoners which is not sufficient.

6.7(i)(4) *GP*: We were informed that "you don't get a medical exam". There are no routine examinations. We were informed that the GP comes in at 8.00a.m has his breakfast. "If you go to see the doctor your breakfast is cold when you get back to your cell afterwards".  
"The medical orderly and the Nurse are okay".  
There is no confidentiality in regard to your medical file. It can be read by any of the prison officers. The authorities strenuously deny this statement.

6.7(i)(5)*Psychologist*: “you can not get to see her. If you need a psychological report and a welfare report before a review of your sentence you can not get to see the reports either”.

“The psychologist is very good at delivering programmes but more psychologists are needed for one to one counselling”.

6.7(i)(6)*Psychiatrist*: The psychiatrist sees quite a few people. A prisoner said that previously access to the psychiatrist had been satisfactory but that now one needed a doctor’s letter before seeing her. It was hard to build up trust as a new person kept coming into the position.

6.7(i)(7)*Visitors*: There is no problem in this area. They are well treated by the staff. However there are no special facilities for children of prisoners when they visit at the waiting room. However the second group complained about the visiting regime. The counter was very wide; there was no physical contact with one’s children and no family room.

6.7(i)(8)*Staff*: Prisoners generally have a very good relationship with the staff and there is no tension. “99% of the staff are okay and you can have banter with them”.

There is a relaxed atmosphere in the prison and people feel safe.

6.7(j) Other points raised

Alcohol: Hooch is made from time to time but it is not regularly available.

"Incell sanitation is very good".

This is a very clean prison

The staff are most compassionate here.

The padded cell is seldom used.

Bullying is not a real problem.

Racism is not widespread and if it does exist it is without malice. The other group of prisoners stated that the prison was "full of racism". An English long-term prisoner said staff members had said to him that he should have hanged himself. He regarded this as indicating racism on their part. It was said that a South African prisoner was called "banana tree" by prison officers.

There is no parole system.

The shop prices are a scandal, far too expensive.

There is no special effort made for Christmas and there is no concert at Christmas. [The Governor in his briefing outlined the difficulties involved in getting groups/organisation from the community to come into the prison due to the type of offence of which a lot of the prisoners is convicted.

However every effort is made in putting up x-mas trees, lights providing carol services and bingo plus the normal seasonal fare such as turkey, ham, pudding etc]

6.8 *MEETING WITH THE POA*

The POA were satisfied on the whole with the conditions in the prison.

One described it as "a pearl" in the prison system. There was a very relaxed relationship between the staff and the prisoners. They were all on first name terms. They felt that being a small prison was very important. They got to know the prisoners well. The prisoners were nearly there for life or for a very long sentence and therefore it was easier to get to know

them. There was not a great turnover. Naturally prisoners particularly if they got bad news had ups and downs. If you knew them well you were on hand to help them with occasional difficulties. Also you could draw the attention of the nurses or the chaplain or other appropriate agencies if there was a problem because you knew your prisoner. The prison officer having a smaller group to supervise were themselves able to give more time for the different needs of the prisoners.

6.8(a) They found dealing with the officials in the Prison Service unsatisfactory. Infact one complaint was that there was a great deal of condesention displayed in relations between them and one particular individual. They are pleased to work in Arbour Hill and there was a very good relationship with the Governor, management, staff and the prisoners. Management was extremely helpful.

6.9 *MEETING WITH HEADS OF SERVICE*

The Inspector team met the Heads of Service i.e Chief Officer, Industrial Manager, Chief Trades Officer and the Clerks Grade I with responsibility for the office and stores.

- 6.9(a) The Inspector gave a full account of his role, experience, individual prison reports, his annual report plus an outline of various meetings which he has had concerning his office.
- 6.9(b) The group raised the concerns of the fall off in the numbers participating in the sex rehabilitation programme and the fact that there was no incentive for them to take part. Some felt that the sex offenders go into remission while in prison but are a high risk category of re-offending on release, therefore, they should pass through one of the therapeutic services programmes prior to release. It should be compulsory for them to attend. It was suggested (and not in anyway interfering with the independence of the Judges) that a judge when sentencing a prisoner for a sex offence may recommend that he undertake a therapeutic programme in prison. If successful on the programme, consideration could be given to him for a period of temporary release towards the end of his sentence under supervision. The Courts might respectfully engage in a sentence management policy which compels the prisoner to partake in courses but also gives him some light at the end of the tunnel with the possibility of the temporary release under supervision or balance of sentence suspended. The Parole Board would also have a part to play in the scheme as well as all of the other professional services. Those who are unsuccessful on the programme or those who don't take part would not be considered for any of the concessions or for temporary release.
- 6.9(c) They also raised the problem of accommodation on release and spoke of the stigma attached to being detained in Arbour Hill Prison.

The maintenance budget was also mentioned on how well the prison was maintained. It was said that generally sex offender prisoners are intelligent and are not disruptive, therefore they do not have the problem of breaking toilets, wash hand basins, etc which is a major problem in other prisons. However, the cut in the maintenance budget for the coming year would have an impact on the upkeep and facilities of the prison. It would be a pity if this were to happen.

6.9(d) The Inspector raised the point about open air facilities, football pitch or exercise yards for the prisoners. The group felt that the two exercise yards plus the recreation hall were quite adequate. A third of the entire population was between the ages of twenty and thirty years therefore a lot of the prisoners did not take part in sport to any great extent. The issuing of tv's in their cells has resulted in a considerable number of prisoners returning to their cells off recreation at 6.00 p.m to see the news followed by the soaps. So the present yard facilities are sufficient.

6.9(e) The Inspector then spoke of his experience regarding the staff canteens in other prisons and enquired about the canteen facilities at Arbour Hill. The group outlined that two outside contractors were involved, one cleaning the accommodation landings etc area and the other providing the meals and looking after the dining areas. They stated that they were working out quite well. There were problems in keeping chefs but that the present chef who is a South African lady is excellent. There is a complaints book in which the staff can lodge their complaints. The complaints are then discussed with the chef of the day plus the Director of the catering contractor. There are not many complaints but an example of complaints received consist of chops being too small, some things overcooked, or lumps in the mash potatoes. The staff overall have taken to the new change over very well.

#### 6.10 *MEETING WITH NURSE*

The Inspectorate met one of the nurses attached to the prison who had been a prison officer and then took time out to go and qualify as a registered nurse (SRN). She now works full time in the medical area. The Inspector told her that he had heard great reports about her so he was anxious to meet with her.

She stated that she had no problems as a female working in the prison despite the type of persons held there. She gets on very well with all the prisoners and treats them all the same. She listens to their problems and the fact that the prison is quite small she gets to know each of them very well. She thinks it is a great place to work and gets great support from the staff and the prisoners.

6.10(a) She then outlined a fund raising exercise she undertook for an orphanage in Moldova in which she was set a target of €2,600 to raise. She organised sponsorship cards that the prisoners and their families supported significantly along with the staff. The prisoners ran a 10K mini marathon around the exercise yard while another prisoner who had a physical problem and unable to run, undertook a rowing exercise of 10K in the gym. He insisted he wanted to be part of the fund raising. She raised €4,500 for the orphanage and gave two weeks of her holidays working there voluntarily. This was a fantastic achievement not merely for the nurse herself but also for the prisoners. The staffs support for her was also very much appreciated.

6.10(b) She gave an account of a prisoner who had barricaded his cell one night and how she coped with same in getting him out without injuring himself. She spoke of another incident of a prisoner attempting suicide and by her intervention he eventually gave up and walked out of the cell peacefully.

6.10(c) She would be in favour of a small prison rather than a big one where everyone operates independently of each other and do not get to know the prisoners or staff as closely as one does in a small prison.

6.10(d) She would like to have a second nurse or medical orderly on day duty at all times as when one is off on annual leave or sick leave they are not replaced and the surgery has to operate on those occasions with just one person.

#### 6.11 *MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE VISITING COMMITTEE*

The Inspector and a member of the Inspectorate team met the chairman and a long serving member of the visiting committee. Both members came from the former Ministers province and were on their monthly tour of visitation of the prison on the date of our meeting.

6.11(a) The Inspector spoke of his involvement in visiting committees over the years and their powers being eroded of late times. He also spoke about the proposed new prison rules not being implemented into law and therefore their powers were effected as a result. The Inspectors' first annual report was also discussed. He suggested that they should received the report of this inspection when it is publicly available and discuss its contents at their meeting.

- 6.11(b) They were full of praise regarding the management and operation of Arbour Hill but they also had concerns similar to those already expressed regarding pre release courses, boredom and lack of psychology services.
- 6.11(c) The visiting committee were very keen on the idea of sentence review and also after care allowing ex prisoners to continue with psychologists but accepted that the psychology services are acutely inadequate. This is true throughout the prison service but is pretty acute where there are courses which are run by psychologists in conjunction with Probation and Welfare and prison officers.
- 6.11(d) The difficulties for prisoners especially sex offenders in obtaining accommodation on release was another problem encountered by the committee. Some of the prisoners cannot return to their families and even their own communities or districts do not want them. The committee suggested that if the staffs accommodation building was being phased out, then it should be looked at with the possibility of using it as a half way house/hostel type setting for a short period for prisoners on release and perhaps to continue on the therapeutic course being provided by the psychologist.

6.12 *MEETING WITH THE HEAD TEACHER AND EDUCATIONAL STAFF*

We met the Head Teacher and a number of prisoners as well as touring the education facilities. The head teacher described the main features of the Education Centre's programme and supplied us with supporting documentation. She explained that there was a greater interest in third level education in Arbour Hill than in many other prisons in view of two features. The fact that sex offenders included prisoners of more advanced educational progress than prisoners in general and the fact that Arbour Hill contained prisoners serving longer sentences than average. Ten prisoners were studying for the Open University. Recently one student had been awarded the B.Sc degree and he was now studying for a Masters.

Around 30 people were studying English at basic level. There was interest in cookery, pottery and the guitar. A sizeable number of prisoners had an interest in computers, maths and accountancy were also popular. The FETAC (Further Education Training Awards Council) non-examination model worked well.

6.12(a) The head teacher said that staff numbers looked acceptable but they involved the sharing of some staff with other prisons. The physical education teacher attached to this prison also tours other prisons in the course of his work as co-ordinator of physical education.

6.12(b)The head teacher felt that she could discern certain characteristics among prisoners which reflected the fact that they had been convicted of offences involving high social stigma. They were more cautious and less forthcoming than prisoners in other prisons about all aspects of their lives. Filming did not work as an educational resource as they tended to be camera shy. She had noted however that prisoners had become more forthright about their situation than formerly. Today, a prisoner might say “I’m here for a sex offence”. This did not happen even five years ago.

6.12(c)The head teacher said that there was no drama at the moment. No teacher was available. There had been drama a couple of years ago. If a local dramatic society were to come to the prison, there would be a need to examine the script to avoid potential difficulties. It was a subject to which prisoners were slow to commit themselves.

6.12(d)An inter cultural day involving cooking and music had been run very successfully last summer. There was racism among the prisoners, as any traveller would confirm. The head teacher also outlined that “prison officers tended to be a bit older than the norm and were generally kind to the prisoners”.

- 6.12(e) The head teacher said that there was a problem with the library. The Governor could not staff it. It was open only in the evening and at the weekend. Prisoners could take books to their cells.
- 6.12(f) The head teacher had no complaint about the equipment available in the educational centre. She mentioned that many visitors - especially women - found it difficult to come to Arbour Hill in an educational context. It was hard to get people to visit for educational purposes.
- 6.12(g) The teachers working at Arbour Hill included more men than women. They had given fairly long term commitments to working there. It was not possible for prisoners to study for transportation involving passengers eg driving licence. Another inhibition arose in relation to the Internet, which was (save in limited areas), out of bounds for prisoners because of the possibility of their accessing sexual material. This meant that prisoners could complete only six of the seven elements of the ECDL, (the European Computer Drivers' Licence Course). The Inspector suggests that maybe the teacher should look at a facility for blocking certain Internet sites so that the course could be completed.
- 6.12(h) The Inspector and a member of his team made a tour of the education facilities. During this tour, they briefly met a group of students of English and their teacher, where morale was high, with the teacher appearing to have a comfortable and empathetic relationship with the students. They also went into a room where a number of students were working with computers and spoke briefly with their teacher (the students not displaying an inclination to turn back from the computers to engage us in communication). The physical state of the rooms in the educational area was good.

## **7. HEALTH AND SAFETY (particularly fire aspects)**

- 7.1 The Inspectorate team had meetings with the two senior staff members responsible for Health and Safety matters within the prison as well as the staff's representative health and safety officer.
- 7.2 They produced books which contained records of the various inspections, examinations and evacuations which were carried out as well as records regarding outside contractors coming into the prison and checking the various fire prevention equipment. The outside contractors carry out the following services. The fire extinguishers are checked yearly, the break glass units, smoke detection units, special equipment within the cladded cell, personal alarm systems, emergency exit doors, are serviced four times per year and the fire pumps plus jockey pumps are serviced twice yearly.
- 7.3 There is a water mains ring surrounding the prison and a branch off this main supplies the necessary domestic water requirements for the prison. There is also a very large water storage facility which holds three quarters of a million gallons which are plumbed and fitted with the necessary fire pumps and jockey pumps for emergency use. These pumps operate electrically but in the event of a power failure there is a stand by diesel engine installed which operates off batteries.

- 7.4 There are nineteen hydrants attached to the mains and they are located at strategic locations around the institution and all of their steel covers are clearly marked with yellow paint. There are four fully charged water hose reels located in steel cabinets in the circle area which can reach to the furthest points within the wings. There are also four wet risers in the circle with full pressure at all times. The cell doors are fitted with “bungs” or indentations so if a fire has to be extinguished within the cell without opening the door the bung can be removed and the hose head placed in the opening with the full water pressure applied. There are hose reels also fitted in the staff accommodation building, the new locker room and trades work shop buildings. These are mains pressure supplied. The hydrants operate on a six bar water pressure which is compatible with the fire brigades requirements. The equipment and attachments required for the use of the hydrants are stored in special boxes adjacent to the hydrants.
- 7.5 The fire brigade personnel from two different stations have been on familiarisation tours of the prison on a regular basis, the last being on the 20th October 2003 when nine crew members and two fire tenders were brought into the prison exercise yards. There is an outline (map) of the prison held in a break glass unit at the main gate and in the event of the fire brigade being required they are given the plan outlining the wings, yards, etc with all of the hydrant points clearly marked. They return the map on leaving the prison.
- 7.6 Fire extinguishers are located at strategic locations throughout the prison as well as in offices, stores, staff quarters, locker rooms, etc. The trades staff carry out regular checks on extinguishers and replace those requiring replacement as well as checking the break glass unit and emergency exits. These checks are recorded and are in addition to the outside contractors’ contract for servicing same.

- 7.7 The control panel in the control room, which is staffed 24 hours per day, displays the location pre warning fault or alarm activation. All of the systems throughout the prison and in the staff quarters are connected into this display panel. This system displays the exact location of the activated alarm and not just the wing and building in which it is activated.
- 7.8 There are smoke detectors fitted in all of the cells and all of the other buildings such as offices, stores, education, locker rooms, etc. The cladded cell is fitted with both an air sampling unit and a detector head as well as two water head sprinklers. Smoke extraction vents are installed in the roofs and in the event of a detection of smoke in the cell block areas, the vents automatically open immediately the detector is activated. These vents can also be manually operated by a switch in the event of very warm weather.
- 7.9 There are emergency cut off points installed in the kitchen, workshops and trades officers areas. There is also an integrated ceiling installed into the kitchen within the last few years.
- 7.10 Fire drill evacuation exercises have taken place on the 10th March 2003 in North one and North two classes at 2.p.m with 9 staff involved and 59 prisoners the time taken to perform same was recorded as three minutes. On the 20th of April 2003 a similar exercise was carried out on North one and North two at 2 p.m with seven staff and 58 prisoners involved. It took two minutes and twenty two seconds on this occasion to clear the wing. On the 21st October 2003 an evacuation exercise took place in the education unit at 11.00 a.m. There were 34 prisoners, ten teachers, two probation and welfare officers and six prison officers involved. It took one minute fifty seconds to have the unit cleared and all accounted for, at the assembly point.

- 7.11 The records did not show of any other landings being evacuated other than North one and North two. No such exercises have taken place in the staff residence.
- 7.12 There are good signage displays throughout the prison and staff quarters concerning the evacuation and the assembly points. There are emergency exit gates and stairs on each of the first floor landings. The gates are locked during the hours of unlock but are open when the prisoners are in their cells. There are emergency exit doors and stairs in the staff accommodation area. There are instructions given to prisoners on committal re health and safety issues which includes fire precaution as well as induction training in safety in the workshops. The health and safety statement for Arbour Hill Prison has been revised in June 2003 and updated accordingly.
- 7.13 There has been no C & R refresher training carried out or no refresher training in breathing apparatus taken place in the last twelve months. No staff familiarisation refresher training in the use of fire hoses, fire extinguishers, or B.A, donning and doffing exercise have taken place in the last twelve months or longer. The Inspectorate were informed that shortage of staff and curtailment of overtime prevented these exercises and training from taking place. This is a serious situation which should be rectified as soon as possible.

7.14 There was a headquarters national policy concerning staff receiving the hepatitis vaccination, free of charge, which has not been administered for over two years. The staff are seriously concerned about this lapse and their health welfare. They state that Prison Service Headquarters have been dragging their feet regarding getting this service back up and running again. The Inspector recommends that this facility should be reintroduced as a matter of urgency in view of the risk involved working in such environments

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

8.1 Arbour Hill Prison accommodates nearly all very long sentence prisoners and as a result there is very little turn over of prisoners from one year to the next. The fact that there is such little movement of prisoners results in staff and prisoners getting to know each other very well. Staff state that is the reason for such good interaction and excellent atmosphere between both groups. Staff knows when a prisoner is having difficulties or ups and downs. He can then be supported at this particular time or referred to some of the other services to help him over the crisis. The fact that the prison is relatively small accommodates this one to one interaction. The cost of keeping a prisoner in Arbour Hill for a year is €74,500 but this figure may not be accurate as I believe headquarters costs are also included in this figure, which if true, should be calculated separately.

- 8.2 The prison is very clean throughout and very well maintained regarding painting, and general upkeep. The in-cell sanitation and installation of t.v in the cells contribute enormously to better living conditions for the prisoners and working environment for the staff. The prisoners' daily use of telephones also helps a lot. There are good shower facilities for all the prisoners and those involved in gym work or other physical work can have an additional shower at the end of the session or days work. They all can have change of underwear three times per week and bed linen, towels, etc once per week. Most of the laundry is done within the prison except those who wear their own clothes. The food is very good and the menu operates on a 14 day cycle. The inspectorate team sampled the prisoners mid day meal on each of the days of inspection and found it to be of good quality, well presented and tasty.
- 8.3 It is an easy going prison and the prisoners appear quite content within it. The age profile of the prisoners, mostly middle age, contributes to its quietness. There has only been 6 prisoners on disciplinary reports (P.19)s in the past 3 months. Two of those forfeited remission of sentence while none of them forfeited recreation for 4 weeks or longer. None of the disciplinary reports were for assault on staff or fellow prisoner or for smuggling of any illegal substance. In the past 3 months one prisoner was placed in the cladded cell at his own request. There were no suicides or attempted suicides in the past 6 months. There was the death of a prisoner in an outside hospital, which appears to have been from natural causes.

- 8.4 The medical welfare of the prisoners is looked after by a G.P who attends the prison for an hour each day, five days per week as well as weekly hourly sessions by a psychiatrist and a dentist. The psychologist's time is taken up in the delivery of sex offenders rehabilitation programme and enhanced thinking skills programmes. No one to one psychology counselling service is provided at present.
- 8.5 There is a very good educational facility provided by the 19 teachers attached to the prison. The daily average number of prisoners attending educational classes is 40 with a further 12-15 attending P.E . There were 7 prisoners who sat the leaving certificate examination last year of which 2 of them sat 2 subjects and the other 5 took one subject each. 3 prisoners sat the junior cert with 1 of them taking 2 subjects while the other 2 took one subject each. Ten sat open university exams while another 50 took various exams such as Fetac (N.C.V.A) environmental health (food hygiene) chartered institute of transport (CPC) and European computer driving licence etc.
- 8.6 There is a shortage of 10 staff in the allocated number of staff for the prison, most of the vacancies are in the workshop areas. The staff turnover for the year was 9, consisting of 3, new staff, 4, retired and 2 were transferred . There are 4 staff requesting a transfer out of the prison at present. There is approximately 1000 overtime hours worked per week and a quarter of the staff do not work any overtime. There is an average of one staff member per day on sick leave and no member of staff have been on continuous sick leave for six months or more. No staff disciplinary (oral) hearing have taken place in the past year. There were no escapes either from the prison or while out on escort duties during the year. There is a big lapse of staff refresher training in C & R, B.A, fire drill familiarisation or other developmental training. This needs to be rectified

despite the overtime constraints. Most of the staff have received in-house training in the use of the computers.

- 8.7 Overall, it is a well run prison. Both prisoners and staff appear happy to reside and work there and there is good rapport between both. Staff morale appears very good. There are difficulties in finding accommodation for a lot of the prisoners on release. There is no incentive for prisoners to partake of the sex offenders programme which needs to be addressed in order to get more onto the programmes. More productive type workshops or work training programmes with approval and support of recognised organisations such as Fas, Cert, City and Guilds, etc might help to get prisoners into employment on release.
- 8.8 I wish to thank the Governor and his staff for the co-operation and hospitality extended to my Inspectorate team throughout our tour of inspection. I also wish to thank the other agencies attached to the prison in making themselves available for discussions in relation to the inspection

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the number of psychologists attached to the prison be increased to enable one to one therapy to be carried out and to increase programmes for prisoners. (6.3(d) pg 45 & 6.11(c) pg 62)
2. That the Judiciary Presidents be sent a copy of this report and they be respectfully invited to consider keeping control of sentences by review or devising some method of encouraging prisoner to do the main sex offenders programme. (6.9(b) pg 58 & 6.5(m) pg 49)
3. That Headquarters of the Prison Service ensure that the Business plan for the prison is not delayed or not implemented due to Headquarters failure to reach its own targets. (3.7 pg 7,8,10,11)
4. To look at the possibility of providing work training facility along with the present workshops. (8.7 pg 73 and 14.2 pg 9)
5. Vacancy in Probation and Welfare to be filled urgently (6.5 pg 46)
6. Modesty doors surrounding toilet unit in treble cells be increased in size to at least half standard size doors and replace broken tile in shower cubicle. (5.2 pg 16)

7. Library should be opened more frequently than at weekends and the gym at least some evenings per week. (5.12 pg 23 6.12(e) pg 64) (5.9 pg 19)
8. Expand the programme facilities in the computers in the detail office. (5.18 pg 28)
9. That the health promotion policy should be clarified by headquarters and implemented. That the Health review group's recommendations should be implemented and there should be active health screening for hepatitis. (6.1 (b) pg 39, 6.1 (g) pg 40)
10. The doctor request a dictaphone and a fax machine for use in the surgery which I recommend. (6.1 (j) pg 41)
11. That some support course should be provided for suitable applicants who fail to get placed on the main sex offenders programme. The psychologist's time should be directed at prison work rather than being involved in Headquarters meetings or committees. (6.5 (m) pg 49, 6.3 pg 43)
12. Sex offenders cannot avail of transfers to open centres and are not granted temporary or supervised release. This is a matter which should be looked at in Headquarters/Ministers Department as such considerations may encourage involvement in the programmes and lead to a structured and supportive release. (6.5(i) pg 48, 6.6(a) pg 49)

13. The sex offenders programmes is excellent but should be extended by providing additional programmes. The prisoner should be encourage to engage in these course. The Judiciary should offer incentives such as sentence review to encourage people to do in the full course. (6.9 pg 57,58, 6.5 (m) pg 49, 6.3(b) pg 45)
14. There should be facilities for children of prisoners when they visit at the waiting room. (5.21 pg 31, 6.7(i) (7) pg 55)
15. There should be annual refresher staff training in C & R, B.A, use of fire hoses, fire extinguisher, etc and an evacuation fire drill exercise carried out regularly where there are staff and prisoners accommodated. (7.13 pg 69)
16. The facility of providing hepatitis vaccine for staff be re-introduced and updated. (7.14 pg 69,70)