

IRISH PRISONS INSPECTORATE

ST. PATRICK'S INSTITUTION

**ST. PATRICK'S INSTITUTION INSPECTION:
15TH - 19TH NOVEMBER 2004**

Role of the Irish Inspector of

Prisons and Places of Detention

The Office of the Inspector was established by an order signed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on the 21st February 2002. There may be a statutory provision in the forthcoming Prisons Authority Bill for the establishment of a Prisons Inspectorate. The following are the terms of reference for the Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

GUIDELINES

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

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

As the terms of reference provide, the Minister may also request the Inspector to investigate and report on specific issues or incidents connected with the running of any prison or place of detention. Furthermore, the Inspector may raise issues of concern, arising out of an investigation or an inspection, either with local management, the Director General of the

Prisons or the Minister. To facilitate the Inspector in carrying out his functions, he may consider complaints from prisoners but only to the extent that such complaints are relevant to the functions of the Inspector. The Inspector will, not later than four months following the end of each calendar year, submit a written report to the Minister on his activities during the year.

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

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

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

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

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REPORT ON VISIT TO ST. PATRICK'S INSTITUTION
COMMENCING THE 15th NOVEMBER 2004 TO 19th NOVEMBER 2004

1. Introduction

1.1 On the 15th to 19th November 2004 an inspection of St. Patrick's Institution was carried out by the Inspectorate Team which consisted of:

Mr. Justice Dermot Kinlen	Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention
James Woods	Special Adviser to Inspector
Prof. William Binchy	Consultant
Dr. Maurice Manning	Consultant
Dr. Owen Carey	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 St. Patrick's Institution is located on the North Circular Road at Phibsborough, Dublin 7, and it is within the Mountjoy Prison complex. It is operated and managed entirely separate, from Mountjoy Prison. It is a stand-alone institution within the bigger complex. It caters for boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty one years.

In the 1950's the borstal at Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, was closed and the boys (sixteen to twenty-one years age group) were transferred to St. Patrick's Institution. Prior to that St. Patrick's was the female prison section of Mountjoy Prison and changed its name to St. Patrick's only at the time of transfer. The cellular and some of the other buildings are approx 150 years old. The education unit was built in the past 15-20 years while another new stand-alone building was erected in the past two years to cater for boys aged fourteen to fifteen years old. This new building has never been used for this purpose and is empty except for the general office staff plus some other staff who have moved into it recently.

2.2 The institution's total cell capacity is 217. A lot of money has been spent on it over recent years in having all the roofs replaced and the cells fitted with in cell sanitation facilities plus power points. There is now a TV in all cells. The Minister has announced its closure along with the other prisons within

the Mountjoy Prison complex. It is supposed to be replaced by a new building on a greenfield site. If this closure happens and the site/buildings sold, I hope the magnificent Harry Clarke window in the church is preserved and exhibited for the Irish people rather than be sold. This window was presented to the prison church by Cúmann na mban prisoners when the building accommodated female prisoners.

3. Governor's Briefing

- 3.1 The Inspector and his special adviser met the Governor and his senior staff on the first day of the inspection and, following the introductory gathering, the Governor then gave an account of the institution. He said that he had 199 in custody on that day with capacity for 217. The institution caters for boys between the ages of 16 and 21 and on reaching 21 they then are transferred to a prison. They have taken boys younger than 16 years old on an order from the courts and they have had 8 boys under 16 years old over the past 3 years. They have nobody younger than 16 years at present.

Significant work and expense have taken place in St. Patrick's over the past number of years with the installation of in-cell sanitation, power points to all cells, TV's provided in the cells and a new cell call-button panel system installed. The roofs have also been replaced and smoke extraction systems built into same.

Just over two years ago the Minister decided that an area of St Patrick's would be used to hold 14 and 15 year-old boys. The decision arose from a

joyriding incident on the Stillorgan, South Dublin, motorway in which unfortunately two members of the Garda Síochána were killed. Resulting from this decision, the entire “B” wing of the institution was revamped including the basement. The wing was broken into small units providing accommodation, recreation, dining, showering facilities, etc. A stand-alone facility was built adjacent to the “B” wing which accommodates a separate reception, medical, visiting areas, classrooms, gym, sports hall and exercise yard as well as offices, consultation rooms, assessment facilities, etc. The person in charge was to be a Director and it was to have a separate teaching staff of six with a Head Teacher. Extra Probation and Welfare staff plus a Psychologist were also to be provided. However, extra capacity and facilities for this age group became available in Trinity House, Lusk, County Dublin and it was then decided that the St. Patrick’s facility was no longer required. The revamping of the “B” division and the new building plus facilities cost approx €10-11 million. The general office staff and probation and welfare staff have moved into this new stand-alone building and the Governor intends moving his office there in the next few weeks. The psychologist appointed for the 14-15 years old boys took up her appointment but as there were no boys there she went to Mountjoy Prison instead and has been working there since.

- 3.2 The Governor set up a multidisciplinary group to look at the B division plus the new stand-alone facilities. They have decided to accommodate the 16-year and 17-year old boys there. There is a total of 67 boys of that age group in custody at present (twenty-five - 16 years-olds, forty-two - 17

year-olds) of which 53 are sentenced and 14 on remand. It is intended to move 44 of this age group to the B Division and commence the communal dining, separate visiting, education, work, etc. It will require 23 extra staff to manage and support this new regime. However, the Governor is unable to proceed with this at present as there are objections from the local union (P.O.A.) who refused to be part of the multidisciplinary group. The local union has been kept informed of the plans and a copy of the draft regime document has been given to both local and national union members after each meeting. The Governor is hopeful that they will be able to proceed after the present final negotiation talks re organisational change in the Irish Prison Service are concluded. In the meantime B2 and B3 are in daily use as accommodation for 16 -21 year olds.

A new counselling psychologist has been appointed to the institution and he was due to commence work on 22nd November. He is badly needed as no psychologist (full-time) has been in the institution in recent times.

- 3.3 The Governor outlined the operation of the drug-free wing within the institution and the various programmes involved in same. He went on to explain the problems re illegal drugs being thrown over the boundary wall from the canal bank at the rear of the institution into the exercise yards. New more closely woven netting has been placed over the yards as the previous netting allowed articles to drop through the openings. The new netting is installed with a camber on it and a "gutter" at the sides to catch the articles which are thrown onto same. A CCTV camera has also been installed as well as the shrubbery on the canal bank being cut back. The number of

misconduct reports (P19's) has greatly reduced as a result of the new netting, as prior to its installation, when the drugs would arrive into the yard a scrummage would take place among the inmates and a lot of intimidation/bullying re the retrieval of drugs was taking place. Those involved were placed on misconduct reports (P.19's).

The management discovered that with the illegal drug supply greatly reduced by the new netting over the yards, inmates then started intimidating fellow inmates for their families to bring the illegal drugs into the visiting area. So in order to prevent this happening, the management have now introduced a new system of visits similar to what is the practice in Mountjoy Prison. Each inmate must nominate four persons from whom he wishes to receive visits and indicate their relationship to him. These nominees must also produce a photograph of themselves and as and from 1st of November only those nominated with proper identification (photo) are allowed to visit. The Governor stated that the new system is going well so far and that he has been congratulated by some parents for same. It has reduced the bullying and fear element.

- 3.4 The Governor outlined difficulties he was encountering regarding operating the institution within the allocated budget. He was running at 10% over his allocation at present. He had to close two of his workshops due to staffing controls, resulting in no carpentry or metal shop operating. In fact, he has no industry shops operating and the only work available to inmates was at

cleaning, reception, kitchen and library. There are 80 - 100 inmates daily walking around exercise yards doing nothing.

In the new year he hopes to have two new work/training - workshops set up, a computer shop and a painting/decorating/tiling shop which will employ 24 boys and will take 12 staff to operate/supervise them. He has invited the Prison Service's Employment Officer to get involved in same and aims to set the work/training shops up to FETAC standards with a view to possible work on release and recognition of time spent at training in St. Patrick's. He also hopes to open additional work/training areas that will engage a further 40 boys and will eliminate the use of the exercise yards for sentenced inmates. This will involve a further 12 staff.

3.5 The Inspector asked about reports he had received concerning inmates appearing in court with black eyes and marks on their bodies as a result of fights in the exercise areas. The Governor stated that he had not noticed any increase in such incidents and that it had not come to his attention. However, he would be happy to have same investigated if the Inspector could give him the names and particulars of those allegedly involved.

3.6 The Governor stated that the Minister has announced the closure of the Mountjoy complex which includes St. Patrick's. It is to be rebuilt on a green-field site and it is to accommodate 16 and 17 year-old boys separately from the others. He did not know where the site was located but felt it would

take 3 - 4 years for completion as it was a major building project to replace the entire Mountjoy complex.

3.7 **St. Patrick's Institution Business Plan 2003**

The Inspectorate team met the senior manager responsible for the implementation of the business plans for the institution for the year ending 2003. Here is a summary of the strategies within the plan and the work completed or uncompleted in each of them.

St Patrick's Institution Business Plan 2003 (Summary)

Strategy 2

2:1 Devise standard arrangements for recording assaults in the prisoner population in each institution by end of 2003.

2:1:1 Review National Working Party's report.

Result: No report received from Headquarters.

2:1:2 Designate person responsible at local level for recording incidents.

Result: Yes institution doing same.

2:1:4 Organise interim manual record keeping system.

Result: Done.

2:1:5 Train the trainers in standard procedures.

Result: Did not happen.

2:1:6 Deliver appropriate training to appropriate staff & implement standard procedure by the end of 2003.

Result: Not done in 2003 beginning to come on stream in 2004.

2:2 Conduct annual audits of prisoner assaults with effect from 2003 and implement whatever action is appropriate to address the situation.

2:2:1 Agree process of implementing audit.

Result: Not done.

2:2:3 Review statistics bimonthly.

Result: Not done.

2:2:4 Conduct annual audit in compliance with new standards & analysis data.

Result: Not done.

2:2:5 Present report & recommendations arising to Governor.

Result: Not done.

2:2:6 Implement actions as appropriate by end 2003.

Result: Not done.

Strategy 3

3:1. Introduce an annual review of security at all institutions commencing in 2003.

3:1:1 Convene quarterly meetings to review security in institution.

Result: Meetings as required.

3:1:2 Establish monthly security audit systems.

Result: Not done.

3:1:3 Present security audit system to Gov. for approval & implementation.

Result: Done.

3:1:4 Hold special security comm' meetings as required.

Result: Done and ongoing.

3:1:5 Conduct annual review of security

Result: Not official but done unofficially

3:1:6 Present report & recommendations to Governor

Result Not official report but discussions take place

3:1:7 Implement whatever actions are deemed necessary.

Result: yes being done.

3:4 Use the prisoner records information system to generate a prisoner profile in respect of each prisoner due to be escorted outside the prison, with effect from January 2003.

3:4:1 Await development & introduction of new prison facility (I.T. system).

Result: Yes, on I.T. Programme.

3:4:2 Train principal users in use of new "Pris", prisoner profile system.

Result: Yes, clerks do same.

3:4:3. Relevant information transferred from paper files to "Pris" system.

Result: Yes, done.

Strategy 4.

4:1 Make provisions in Business Plans for maximum take-up of places in prison education, training and employment facilities.

(Education.)

4:1:1 Interview each prisoner in institution to identify his educational needs and inform him of the educational courses available through the school.

Result: Yes, each informed of education facilities, not necessarily by teacher.

4:1:2 Evaluate on an ongoing basis the educational courses on offer.

Result: Yes, done.

4:1:3 Develop further within the institution links with other sections:custodial, probation & welfare, psychology, chaplaincy, etc, in order to improve and maintain the take-up of places in the prison education programme.

Result:Yes, done.

(Training & Employment)

4:1:1(2) Reconvene meeting of the training & employment committee.

Result: Did convene.

4:1:2(2) Establish current take-up of training places relevant to places available and make recommendations for improvements.

Result: Workshops when operating were full with prisoners but ceased in 2003.

4:1:3(2) Present report to Governor.

Result: Done.

4:1:4(2) Implement approved recommendations of the report that can be implemented within existing resources.

Result: Being done but not within existing resources.

4:1:5(2) Financial sanctions requested for additional facilities or staff.

Result: Sanctions/approvals being awaited, at present, from headquarters.

Strategy 5

5.1 Business plans to provide for maintaining an adequate standard of preparedness in relation to emergency at each institution.

- 5:1:1 Conduct review of existing fire/riot/hostage taking plans and equipment.
Result: Not done.
- 5:1:2 Present report & recommendations to Governor.
Result: Not done.
- 5:1:3 Implement recommended actions where feasible.
Result: Not done.
- 5:1:4. Contact adjoining prisons & review agreed mutual response in the event of a serious emergency.
Result: In place and ongoing.
- 5:1:5 Review training needs re (a) Fire, (b) Riot,(c) Hostagetaking.
Result:Not done.
- 5:1:6 Present report & recommendations to Gov. by April 2003.
Result:Not done.
- 5:1:7 Implement actions recommended where feasible.
Result: Not done.
- 5:1:8 Hold fire evacuation drills in accordance with legal requirement.
Result: Yes four done this year.
- 5:1:9 Provide a designated command room.
Result: Yes done.
- 5.1:10 Riot equipment to be inspected, cleaned, stock levels recorded quarterly and such inspections to be recorded.
Result: Done twice per year.
- 5:1;11. Conduct annual meeting between management, local garda authorities and army authorities re response to riot / hostage situation in institution.
Result: No, not done.

- 5:1;12. Ensure that all SCBA / fire fighting equipment & detection systems are checked, maintained, serviced in line with statutory requirements & recorded.
- Result: Yes done.
- 5:2. Finalise liaison arrangements with the Fire Authorities by end of 2003.**
- 5:2;1. Contact local fire station authorities re local meeting.
- Result: Yes done but no response
- 5:2:2 Arrange visits to institution by local watch commanders.
- Result: Did not respond.
- 5:2:3 Hold annual review of arrangements.
- Result: No not done.
- 5:3. Prepare a detailed video record of each institution by June 2003 for reference, as appropriate, in the management of an emergency situation.**
- 5:3:1 Agree shooting sequence & voice-over text for video.
- Result: No not done by Irish Prison Service Headquarters.
- 5:3:2 Selection & approval of video company & security clearance.
- Result: No not done.
- 5:3:3 Agree schedule with video company.
- Result: Not done.
- 5:3:4 Shoot video within institution & edit same.
- Result: Not done.
- 5:3:6 Store video securely on & off site plus inform relevant people re location.
- Result: No not applicable.

Strategy 6

6:1. Make arrangements for a designated drug-free area in all closed prisons by end of 2003.

6:1:1 Maintain the supportive and positive environment to help prisoners stay off drugs in the drug-free division.(D wing)

Result:Yes, on-going.

6:2 Multidisciplinary suicide prevention groups at institution level to meet quarterly to review implementation of suicide prevention measures and to consider new initiatives in the interest of best practice. Representatives of the group to participate in an annual forum to facilitate information sharing.

6:2:1 Convene group meetings quarterly to review current & new suicide prevention methods and make recommendations accordingly.

Result:Yes, taking place.

6:2:2 Convene special meeting in event of suicide or serious attempt.

Result: Yes, being done.

6:2:3 Implement recommendations & forward relevant ones to National group.

Result: No, not done.

6:2:4 Representative from local group to attend National annual forum.

Result: No national forum arranged or held by Headquarters.

Strategy 7.

7.2 Design and implement arrangements to enable prisoners to maintain family and community contacts, including contact with support agencies, using new telephone systems to be installed in each institution by the end of 2003.

- 7:2:1 Interview all new committals re family contact & explain entitlements.
Result: Done.
- 7:2:3 Establish from new committals linkages they had with local communities/support agencies and inform them of such being available within their local area.
Result: Done.
- 7:2:5 Provide information to prison officers re community support agencies that visit the institution and that exist in local communities, and officers then pass on such information to the inmates.
Result: Yes, being done.
- 7:4** **Make provisions in the business plans for each institution for measures to be put in place by the end of 2003 to help prisoners keep in touch with the wider community through an improved access to the written and spoken media.**
- 7:4:1 Install TV's in all cells in B,C,D, divisions & ensure access to newspapers.
Result: Yes done.
- 7:4:3 Review prisoners' telephone & TV.s plus videos in recreation hall quarterly.
Result:Ongoing.
- 7:4:4 Report & make recommendations to Gov and implement actions recommended.
Result:Yes done.

Strategy 8

- 8:1** Implement all accepted recommendations, subject to resource provision, contained in the report of the Prison Healthcare Review Group by the end of 2003.
- 8:1:1 Review report's recommendations as they apply to institution and identify those recommendations that can be made with current resources.

Result: Yes, being done.

8:1:3. Draw up plan for improvement and approve implementation plan.

Result: No, not being done.

8:1:5 Seek resources if required & implement plan within resources.

Result: Not done.

Strategy 9.

9:1 Support the process of prisoner induction by providing by mid 2003 an information booklet to each prisoner on committal which explains entitlements, prison regimes, services.

9:1:1 Library committee to review current information booklet and forward proposed revised content for approval to the Governor.

Result: Yes, done.

9:1:3 Arrange for printing of approved revised booklet & issue same.

Result: Yes ongoing but not yet printed.

Strategy 10.

10:3 Complete a first evaluation of practice against community defined care standards by 2003.

10:3:1 Identify community-care standards & compare with standards within institution.

Result: Yes, partly done.

10:3:4 Set & agree identified improvements/actions and implement approvals.

Result: Not completed.

Strategy 11

11:3 Maintain the prisoner participation rate in education at 50% against the background of increases in the prisoner population.

11:3:1 Devise strategy for maximising participation through liaison with relevant agencies for maintaining prisoner participation rate at 50%

Result: Yes, being done.

11:3:2 Produce statistics of numbers in education regularly.

Result: Being done.

11:3:3 Interview each committal to identify their educational needs and inform them of the educational resources available within the institution.

Result: Not being done with every committal.

11:3:4 Identify facilities & resources needed & implement where feasible.

Result: Yes, being done.

11:5 Extend parenting courses to all prisons where appropriate by end of October 2003.

11:5:1 Review parenting courses in other education centres & communities.

Result: Done on limited scale.

11:5:2 Survey inmates to establish interest in course & decide appropriate action arising from the survey and the review.

Result: Conducting surveys at present.

11:5:4 Report & make recommendations to Governor and implement approved recommendations.

Result: No report to Governor.

- 11.6** Implement the recommendations of the report of the Physical Education Development Group: “ Physical Education in the Irish Prison System”.
- 11:6:1 Local gym committee to assess report & identify recommendations not implemented at the institution.
Result: Yes, done.
- 11:6:4 Make recommendations to Gov & implement steps within resources.
Result: Recommendations made but not all implemented.
- 11:6:6 Seek additional resources if required & implement recommendations in full.
Result: Not completed.
- 11:7.** Introduce the CONNECT project in all prisons by end of 2003.
- 11:7:1 Set date when Connect being introduced & meet project manager.
Result: No, not done.
- 11:7:3 Agree programme for implementation within institution.
Result: No, not done.
- 11:8** **Implement accepted recommendations of the prison-based Drug Treatment Review Group by the end of 2003.**
- 11:8:1 Review the above mentioned report’s recommendations.
Result: No, not done.
- 11:8:2 Identified recommendations implemented with existing resources.
Result: No, not done.
- 11:8:3 Seek additional resources to implement areas of cost factors.
Result: No, not done.

11:8:4 Implement programme according to agreed plan within current resources.

Result: No, not done.

11:8:5 Implement all accepted recommendations.

Result: No, not done.

Strategy 12

12:1 Implement the structural plan to improve prison library services by the end of 2003.

12:1:1. Reconvene meeting of library committee & review library services relating to Institution and to make recommendations.

Result: Yes done.

12:1:3 Implement recommendations where feasible.

Result: Not all implemented.

12:2. Make provision in the initial business plan for each institution (December 2001) for a programme of interaction with the wider community.

12:2:1
visiting Review existing links with community, e.g. bond projects, football teams, coaching etc & identify any deficiencies / duplications.

Result: Done but not continued

12:2:2 Building on existing linkages, agree a programme of interaction with the wider community for 2003.

Result: Partly done until cutbacks were implemented.

12:2:3 Make, as necessary, contacts with agencies in the wider community in order to run the 2003 programme within the institution.

Result: Partly done.

12:2:4. Design evaluation mechanism.

Result: No, not done.

12:2:5. Establish forum for interfacing between institution & external agencies.

Result: Not done.

12:2;6. Evaluate effectiveness of programme for staff & inmates.

Result: Not done.

Strategy 13

13:1. Each institution to deliver at least one multidisciplinary programme per annum address offending behaviour relevant to its own offender population from 2002.

13:1:1 Review current approach to offending behaviour e.g. anger management, drug addiction, etc. & review current offending profile of inmates.

Result: Done and ongoing.

13:1:3 Research evidence based practice on what works & identify needs.

Result: Done.

13:1:4. Devise modules relevant to population needs as above.

Result: Done.

13:1:5. Training for pilot programme deliverers.

Result: Not completed.

13:1:6. Run pilot programme.

Result: No, did not happen with officers but probation officers doing same.

13:1:7. Evaluate effectiveness of programme and identify training & resources requirement for future multidisciplinary programme delivery.

Result: Not being done at present.

13:1:8. Submit report to Governor & Positive Sentence Management Multidisciplinary Working Group by December 2003.

Result: Did not happen.

Strategy 14.

14:1 Evaluate the effectiveness of all prisoner programmes by the end of 2003.(Work Training)

14:1:2. Identify all programmes & establish an evaluation process in conjunction with the Irish Prison Service headquarters.

Result: Not in 2003 but beginning in 2004.

14:1:4 Conduct evaluation & submit evaluation report to Gov for approval.

Result: No, not done.

14:2 Ensure that at least 50% of work training courses are pursued to recognised certification levels by the end of 2003.

14:2:2 Reconvene meeting of Work Training Committee and review work training courses in St Patrick's Institution.

Result: Not in 2003 but beginning in 2004.

14:2:3 Identify courses for development to certified level in co-operation with FETAC.

Result: Yes, kitchen and gym

14:2:5 Draw up implementation plan & present plan to Gov for approval.

Result: No, not done.

14:2:6 Implement approved plan to year end.

Result: Not done.

4. Statistical Information

4.1 Staffing

Governor	1	
Deputy Governor	1	
Assistant Governor		1
Chief Officer Class I	1	
Chief Officer Class II	1	
Clerk Grade I	2	
Chief Trades Officer Grade II	1	
Assistant Chief Officers	13	
Clerk Grade II	6	
Industrial Supervisor	1	
Trades Prison Officers	7	
Assistant Industrial Supervisor	4	
Nursing Officers	3	
Prison Officers	<u>140</u>	
Total	182	

Inmates

Sentence Profile

Serving sentences from 0 - 6 months	43
“ “ “ 7 - 12 months	61
“ “ “ 13 - 24 months	53
“ “ “ over 2 years up to 4 years	15
“ “ “ over 4 years up to 7 years	2
“ “ “ over 7 years up to 10 years	2

“	“	“	over 10 years	Nil
“	“	“	Serving Life	<u>1</u>
				177
			On Remand	18
			For Trial	<u>4</u>
			Total	199

4.2 Age Profile

			Those aged 16 years	25
“	“		17 years	42
“	“		18 years	48
“	“		19 years	49
“	“		20 years	35
“	“		21 years	<u>Nil</u>
			Total	199

5. **Tour of Inspection**

5.1 The tour of inspection commenced in the new building which was provided to cater for 14 and 15 year-old boys but never brought into use. It is a two storey building separate from the other sections of St. Patrick's with a small exercise yard. The general office staff have taken up residence in it as well as the probation and welfare staff. The Governor and Deputy Governor intend moving their offices into it in the new year as will the teachers assigned to this area.

5.2 The ground floor consists of reception area, offices, as well as a carpentry instruction room, remedial teaching room, home economics room, weight training room, two visiting rooms, a family conference room and a large sports/gymnasium hall with a wooden floor. The hall is very impressive and can cater for five a side football, basketball, volleyball etc. There are two showers off the hall and a viewing area for spectators overhead.

The first floor consists of offices, boardroom, two general purpose class-rooms, teachers' room, art room and a general staffroom staff to cater for prison, teaching, welfare, etc staff.

The entire building is painted in very bright vibrant colours and is very pleasant. The sooner it is commissioned into full use the better as apparently it has cost approximately €11 million to date to erect this building and to convert the "B" Division for accommodation facilities/use.

5.3 **B Division & B Basement**

This entire wing plus basement was remodelled and converted to accommodate 14 and 15 year-old boys. Several changes took place by dividing it in the centre, removing some of the existing walls, removing some pillars and refurbishing it with modern furniture and fittings. Extensive plastering, painting and redecorating with bright colours was carried out throughout the entire wing. Additional entrances and exits as well as

stairwells were fitted to facilitate the use of the exercise yard and the basement.

5.4 **B1**

This landing consists of a kitchen area with dining tables and chairs, a TV/recreation room with armchairs and couch, and three small “time out” rooms to hold inmates for a short period who are disruptive. The “time out” rooms are not large enough to place a bed within them and their walls are covered in vellstone material. The entrance to the exercise year is off this landing.

5.5 **B2**

The landing has 10 cells on each side of the centre-dividing wall and provides accommodation for twenty inmates. Each cell is fitted with stainless steel toilet, and a locker. A TV is provided in each cell. There are seven showers just off the end of the landing, each fitted with a nonslip mat and the entire shower area is tiled. One of the showers requires tile replacing. The entire landing, cells, shower area, were clean, tidy and freshly painted.

5.6 **B3**

The accommodation on this landing provides for 24 inmates and most of the cells were occupied. The cells were exactly like those described on B2 with internal sanitation and TV. The landing is fitted with three stainless steel showers. The class officer's office is fitted with a computer which stores the names of those occupying the cells as well as the inmates' photographs plus other records for the officers' use.

5.7 **B Basement**

The basement is fitted with two separate recreation areas with couch, arm-chairs and coffee tables provided within them. There are two separate kitchen areas with cookers, dishwasher, shelving, wall presses, and tables provided. There is a pool room with toilets off it. The area also has a cleaning facility with slop hopper and other cleaning requirements such as mops, polisher, etc just off the landing. The area is fitted with two small "time out" rooms the walls of which are covered in vellstone material. Staff toilets and wash-hand basins are also provided. It is a reasonably large area to facilitate those inmates held on the B Division but it is not operational as yet with cookers, etc, not connected or fitted in the spaces provided for them.

5.8 **Library**

The officers informed us that the library is open seven days per week from 10.00am to 4.00pm each day. They generally show classic movies of the 70's and 80's on Saturdays and Sundays. They provide three newspapers per day. Magazines and audiotapes are also available and they carry about

2000 books in stock. They also have law books but they generally copy the relevant section requested rather than issue the hardback copy as they found that the book was returned damaged or with particular pages torn out. There is a panel of nine officers who operate the library and all of them have received training in the operation of a library. They would have about thirty-four inmates per day using the facility. It is well laid out with shelving all around the walls, and tables and chairs to allow the inmates to sit and read the newspaper/magazines or books. They operate the computer to record stock as well as recording those who are borrowing books/tapes etc. The library used to operate a chess club in which the inmates competed against other clubs in Leinster. It was most successful, with great participation from the staff, some of whom were accomplished chess players. The “outside” clubs visited the institution and played in the chess matches against the inmates. It is unfortunate that it no longer exists due to “cutbacks”. Another “service” that the library provided was literacy classes. Outside retired teachers and nuns came into the institution and gave one-to-one tuition to inmates in the library. These lessons were run in conjunction with the education unit and were operating for a number of years. Sadly, again due to staff cutbacks, this facility is no longer available. Both these services should be immediately restored.

5.9 Laundry and Shower Area

The Institution has a main laundry with a small one operating nearby. They meet the laundry requirements of the entire institution, washing, drying and pressing. They have six inmates working in same. They also operate a light

repair/replace buttons/zips facility which occupies a few inmates. The area is well stocked with equipment although they have been waiting some time for a repair person to come in and repair one of their machines. It is a pity that this work does not come under work/training workshop category and receive recognised training certification whereby inmates may have a better chance of employment in the laundry industry on release.

The shower area which has 12 shower cubicles is operated in conjunction with the laundry staff. Inmates replace their clothing with fresh laundered clothing on completion of their shower and their old clothing is then taken to be relaunched. The showers are fitted with non slip mats and the floor is tiled with non-slip tiles.

The inmates were having their shower at the time of inspection and some of them were complaining of the water being cold. The area was reasonably clean and tidy.

5.10 **Reception**

The reception was being operated by two officers at the time of our visit. It is the area where all committals to the institution are processed and also all those leaving the institution must pass for their personal clothing and belongings prior to discharge. It has two "holding cells" each of which has a bench-type seat attached to the floor and wall as well as three showers which are fitted with non slip matting. An X-ray machine is in operation for the detection of articles hidden in clothing or bags. They don't take photographs of the inmates on arrival unless there are fresh marks or scars or cuts on their bodies which may be required in evidence in court cases

afterwards. They operate a computer with the record of the inmates' property, etc. but they also operate a book/ledger with the same information as is on computer. They state that the computer breaks down so often, it would be unwise not to operate the book records. There are sufficient locker facilities for all of the inmates clothing and property. It is quite a small area in a basement and the entrance from the outside into it is quite poor. The inmates and staff have to walk down steps into a tunnel corridor leading to the door of the reception.

5.11 C1/ Exercise Yard and Recreation Areas

This landing had 15 inmates on the day of inspection but can take a maximum of 18. It comprises 15 single cells and one treble cell. There was only one inmate in the treble cell and he was in the process of moving to a single cell. The treble cell had no modesty toilet screen or furniture. The cells all have sanitary facilities within them but the windows of the cells are smaller than those on B Division. Some of the cell walls were "decorated" with the usual posters of girls, cars, football teams, pop stars, etc. This landing also facilitates the recreational needs of the "C" Division. It has a recreation room with bench seats and TV, and a snooker room with two snooker tables, both of which are in need of repair. The entrance to the exercise yards is off this landing. The exercise yard is covered with netting which fairly recently had been replaced with a small-gauge-hole net. There is a shelter (roof covering) for inmates when the weather is inclement and the officers supervising have also got a hut to sit in. The netting and grey walls plus wire fencing surrounding the yard make it quite a depressing

setting. Some of the inmates were just walking around while others were huddled underneath the “shed” part of the yard with no games of any sort taking place.

The end of the landing has toilet and wash hand basin plus slop-hopper area but are used only by those cleaning or painting the landing. There is also a cleaning material store for holding mops, scrubs, polishers, etc adjacent to the toilet area. The cells and landings were clean and tidy.

5.12 **C2**

This landing has thirty-three cells, all with in-cell sanitation . There is a toilet, wash hand basin, slop-hopper, located in an area at the end of the landing as well as a storage area for cleaning materials. The cells were clean and tidy, some better than others, but with an overall acceptable level of hygiene. The computer in the class officer’s office was not working as indeed they were not working in the class office in C1 and C3.

5.13 **C3**

It is identical to the lay-out of C2 with thirty three cells on same. The hygiene level of the cells and landings was good. Some cells were cleaner than others, some with a lot of posters, while others had very few and the walls quite bare.

5.14 **Drug-Free Wing (“D” Division)**

The “D” division is declared the “drug-free wing” of the institution. The inmates on the wing “earn” a place there by either not having taken illegal drugs prior to committal or by giving up illegal drugs after committal. They

are admitted to this wing having satisfied local management by providing a number of clean urine samples and undertaking to remain drug-free and to be subjected to random sample tests. They sign this undertaking prior to acceptance onto the wing. They also undertake to participate in whatever course/education that is deemed suitable for them.

The inmates on the wing are introduced to a “positive sentence management” programme where each of their cases is looked at with a view to selecting the most suitable programme for each. The areas looked at are his background and offence, work record, educational needs, addiction problems, previous courses attended, family structure/support, accommodation and employment possibilities. He is monitored, supported, encouraged and progress reports are supplied during the course of his sentence as well as him being sample-tested to ensure he is remaining “drug-free”. This programme is operated by a multidisciplinary group consisting of prison staff and management, probation and welfare, education, medical and counselling staff. If any inmate is found to have a positive urine sample reading, he is removed from the wing. He may apply to get back again and he will be reconsidered at that stage whether to be accepted back or not.

There are some extra “perks” for those on D wing. They can receive two extra TV channels, get an extra visit and letter per week, get a fry for breakfast on Sunday mornings, get a sandwich or extra fruit at night-time lock-up and have a PlayStation for use in their cell.

5.15 D1

This ground-floor landing contains ten cells and had nine inmates on the day of inspection. The in-cell sanitation fittings are located in a different position in the cells in D Division from those in B or C and as a result a dignity screen door is fitted opposite the toilet which provides privacy when the toilet is being used. The landing is used for recreation for the entire D wing inmates with the entrance to the exercise yard just off the end of it. Just off the landing are two recreation rooms, one with two snooker tables and the other fitted with TV and bench seating. A small football game is on the landing. A gym, fitted with fixed weights machine, two rowing machines and an exercise bicycle, is situated off the compound as well as five showers which have non-slip mats in each cubicle. The top area of the landing is divided off with a steel barrier and the medical facilities are located there as well as the class officer's office and a consultation room. A toilet area with slop-hopper/wash-hand basin is provided at the end of the landing. The landing and cells were clean, tidy and brightly painted. An open-air exercise yard with shelters for both inmates and officers is adjacent. The fact that the yard is not covered by netting gives a more open feeling to it but again the inmates were not engaged in any activity, just walking around in groups, others sitting down in conversation with each other. There is a phone for the inmates' use at the end of the landing.

5.16 D2

There were 30 inmates on this landing which had a capacity for thirty-three. The bedframes in the cells in D wing were attached to the floor but not closed in underneath like the C wing. The layout is similar to D3 with toilet, wash-hand basin, slop-hopper at the end of landing with a storage area for cleaning materials. The cells and landings were clean and bright.

5.17 **D3**

A total of thirty two inmates were on this landing with one empty cell. The layout is identical to D2. All the cells inspected and the landings were clean and tidy. The computers were working in all of the class officers' offices on this wing.

5.18 **Special Unit**

This unit is in the basement of the "C" division and is operated separately from the rest of the institution. It mostly holds "protected" or disruptive inmates. It has all of the facilities necessary to operate independently of the rest of the institution in that it has a gym, recreation area, exercise yard, classroom and offices. It contains thirteen cells plus a "strip cell". There were ten inmates in this unit on the day of inspection. It has in-cell sanitary facilities with a toilet, wash-hand basin, slop-hopper, drinking fountain plus three shower cubicles just off the end of the landing. The exercise yard is quite small and is covered with close-gauge netting. A shelter is provided for the inmates in the yard as well as a hut for officers. The inmates were taking shelter from the rain at the time of inspection and no activity was taking place. The "strip cell" consist of a mattress on the floor with special

non-tearable blanket. The window was covered with protective covering and it had in-cell sanitary facilities. The gym was fitted with a weights machine, a rowing machine, an exercise bicycle, a boxing punchbag and skipping ropes. The recreation room had a TV with chairs while another room was multipurpose as it is used by psychiatrist, probation and welfare, doctor, etc. The cells, landing, recreation areas were clean and tidy, all freshly painted in different colour schemes.

5.19 Visitors' Waiting Room/Visitors Reception Area

The inmates' visitors report to a waiting room area outside the main gate where the officer there takes particulars of their name, checks whether if they are nominated to visit the particular inmate, and checks their photograph. The officer then telephones the particulars through to the ACO in charge of visits who sanctions same and then the visitor is invited into the institution to the visiting area. The waiting room is quite large and bright with small tables and seating provided. There is a coffee/tea-making facility provided by a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and an area of the waiting room had been fitted out for children's play/creche facility but this is discontinued due to cutbacks in budget allocation. This area is just closed off now. It should be reopened immediately. Many prisoners have children or siblings or both who could use this facility.

The officers' office within the waiting area is fitted with C.C.T.V where they monitor the waiting room plus other security areas and the access to the staff's car park.

The building is relatively new, kept well and is clean and tidy. The officers operating there at the time of our inspection appeared friendly and professional.

5.20 **Staff Canteen**

The staff canteen is operated by an outside catering company. It appeared a clean, bright and cheerful dining area with tables and chairs placed around the room. The officers to whom we spoke said that the facility was OK but the portions at times were small. The cooking area was clean and tidy and the staff employed there were pleasant.

Just off the dining area there is a staff restroom fitted with armchairs, TV and a fish tank. It was clean, tidy and comfortable.

5.21 **Tuck Shop**

The officer in charge showed us the variety of goods stocked which included crisps, chocolates, soft drinks, toiletries, batteries, cheese, tobacco, cigarettes, biscuits, breakfast cereals, etc. The officer stated that they ensure nobody under the age of 18 years is sold cigarettes or tobacco. She stated that their prices were competitive with a large supermarket.

Newspapers are ordered by a family member of the inmate from the local newsagent who delivers same to the institution daily. They don't stock fruit.

The officer stated that they had done previously but due to no demand for

same the fruit went off. They don't stock birthday cards except when specifically asked for same. The shop is open every day and every second week inmates are allowed to purchase from their gratuity account. It is a reasonably sized tuck shop and is well laid out with a counter across the entrance.

5.22 **Visiting Facilities**

The visiting room is quite large with a bench-type table running the full length of the room and a barrier of approx 6 - 9 inches down the centre. Facilities for the officers' observation are at both ends of the table as well as in the centre where they are seated on raised chairs . There are five benches which can accommodate twenty visitors at a time. The visitors are placed at one side of the bench while the inmate is seated on the opposite side. C.C.T.V is in operation for the duration of the visits.

Just off the main visiting area is another visiting room which can accommodate three individual visits at a time. It is the "screen" visiting area where a barrier closes off the visitor from the inmate from floor to ceiling. There is a clear perspex sheet separating the visitor from the inmate and communication is via a steel grid screen in the counter. C.C.T V is also in operation in this room. There is no contact between visitor and inmate as indeed there are signs in both the waiting room and large visiting room forbidding contact between parties.

5.23 **Console Room**

The officer in charge in this room observes the C.C.T.V's on the visiting room monitors as well as observing the institution's security monitors. The officer also operates the tape-recording machines on the visits and if something is observed being passed then such transactions can be shown in evidence if the issue is being contested when the inmate is on a misconduct report. (P.19). This office operates seven days per week.

5.24 **Kitchen**

The Kitchen is operated by one Industrial Supervisor, two Assistant Industrial Supervisors and eight inmates. When those staff are off they are replaced by an A.C.O. and two other Assistant Industrial Supervisors. In this way there is a consistency in the staffing levels. The kitchen area is quite small, the building is old and the ceilings are quite low but despite these drawbacks they achieved the hygiene mark last December with "Excellence Ireland". It is "FETAC" approved and they have completed the "Leonardo" course. The kitchen is well stocked with the necessary cooking equipment such as gas and electric cookers, stock pots, bratt pan, deep fryers, meat slicers, a salamander, microwave ovens, food mixers, large boilers, etc. They have three hot trolleys in which the hot meals are placed and wheeled to the ground-floor-wing landings where the inmates receive their meals. Just off the kitchen is located a large walk-in cold room and two single freezer rooms. They also have a "dry" store facility. The officer stated that the inmates all complete a basic hygiene course prior to commencing work in the kitchen and they also get the opportunity of moving around the different areas of the work to give them a broad range of

experience of the cooking needs. The vegetables are purchased prepared and ready for placing in the pots, pans, ovens, etc. He is operating the twenty-eight day standard cycle menu and the fourteen day cycle vegetarian menu. The entire area was clean and tidy, all of the workers were wearing white clothing and the entire operation appeared to be working very well despite their poor and cramped conditions.

5.25 Gym

The officer in charge was just finishing a session with twenty inmates on our arrival and he was in the process of escorting them for a shower. He informed us that he operates three sessions per day with 20-22 in each session and the gym functions seven days per week. The first area has a table tennis table, badminton facility and a punchbag, while the next section has all of the weights/arm/leg/machines, bicycle, step machine, treadmill, rowing machines etc. Exercise mats are placed around various parts of the floor. The officer also has football and volley ball training in the exercise yard when the weather is good and the yard available for such use.

Nicholas Cruise the renowned boxing coach, and aerobic expert, Keith Martin visit the institution and give instructions in boxing skills and aerobics, generally every Friday. The gym is located in a very old building and could do with being modernised. The officer stated that another gym to cater for another 20 -25 inmates per session is badly needed.

5.26 Recreation (Indoor) for B Division/Remands

This recreation area is located in the same building as the gym and consists of TV on a high stand with seating for about forty inmates. It is an extremely drab area, very old building and there is nothing about it to encourage one to go there for recreation.

5.27 Detail Office

This office is operated by three officers who are responsible for the duty rosters of staff, including escorts to courts, hospitals, etc. They also record the sick leave, annual, special leave, plus the overtime and all the allowances to staff re night duty, weekends, etc. Each of them was operating a computer and stated that they were very satisfied with the programme within it. It is quite a small office but they are in the process of moving to where the old general office was located which will give them much greater space.

5.28 Trades Officers' Area

The chief trades officer's office plus the trades officers' workshops are located in a basement underneath the administration wing. The area is very small and crowded with little space to work at the various machines. Broken equipment is also stored there for repairs, either by the trades staff or for sending out to the suppliers for repairs, which curtails space even further. A new workshop area is needed with proper space to carry out their work and proper storage facility for broken equipment.

6. Meeting with Various Groups and Individuals

Meeting with Medical Staff, Doctor and Psychiatrist

Dr Owen Carey G.P joined the inspection team on the 18th November and conducted an inspection of the medical services and facilities.

6.1(a) Medical Facilities

There are approximately 200 inmates in St. Patrick's Institution at any given time. The inmates have the daily service of one General Practitioner, a Visiting Psychiatrist, and at the time of the Inspection, shared the Dental facility of their larger neighbour, Mountjoy Prison. A Doctor specialising in drug treatment services visits on request. On the day of his visit there was no psychologist, and indeed there had been no such service available for some months. There were two medical orderlies on duty. There are three nurses and three medical orderlies, in total, to cover the Institution.

6.1(b) Surgery Premises

The General Practice area had been moved from one wing to another, but retained its size and layout. The consultation area was spacious, with adequate lighting, clean work surfaces, a vaccine fridge with a temperature gauge, adequate diagnostic equipment, and safe disposal boxes for clinical waste.

There is a separate staffroom/drug storage room in the entrance corridor. This area contains a desk, a computer, filing cabinets, drug presses, another cold fridge, and is a storage area for forms, resuscitation equipment, etc.

This area is inadequate and staff are attempting to gain access to the room next door to expand. They should be facilitated if this is possible.

6.1(c) *Record Keeping*

Medical records and nursing records are kept to a high standard.

There is a computer system, but it is at present under utilised, with the lack of a scanning feature being one major problem. Hopefully, with training these difficulties will be overcome. The staff has a major problem with record storage, for records on past inmates. This should be addressed.

The absence of any secretarial back up to the doctors and other staff was noted and should be addressed.

6.1(d) *Drug Dispensing*

Drugs are kept in a locked cupboard including methadone. There is excellent record keeping of drugs dispensed.

6.1(e) *Methadone Programme*

There was one patient on methadone and he was reducing his dosage of his own volition. This would be a considerable drop in numbers from the time when Dr. Carey was working in the Prison Service. The explanation for this drop is that the status of St. Patrick's has changed from remand to a sentenced committal prison.

6.1(f) *Patient Accommodation Short-term stay for those with mental problems*

An empty cell was visited. It was sparse, but adequate with running hot and cold water and a flush toilet, with a degree of privacy. The strip cells are out of commission and this does not appear to have impacted on the running of the Institution one bit.

6.1(g) *Drug-Free Wing*

For a number of years a drug-free wing has operated successfully in the institution.

6.1(h) *Referral patterns*

There are few referrals to outside hospitals. This reflects the age group of the patients.

6.1(i) *Suicide/Deliberate Self-Harm/Suicide Prevention*

The medical staff are aware of these risks and there is a comprehensive system of noting any injury to any patient, whether it is deliberate or not ("Pink Form"). These are reviewed each morning as the need arises and the patients concerned examined and action taken.

6.1(j) *Psychiatric Support Services*

Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous visit regularly and both services are available to inmates on request. Consideration of securing the part time services of a drugs counsellor was discussed as an option.

6.1(k) *Meeting with Dr. McDonnell and Dr. McCormack*

The Inspector and Dr. Carey met with Dr. McDonnell and Dr. Mc Cormack. We all agreed on the issue of space and accommodation and the necessity for extra room. There seems to be an excellent rapport between the doctors and their staff. They agreed that the change to sentenced committal status had removed the volatility and reduced their workload to manageable proportions.

We discussed the possibility, in the future, of an Adolescent Psychiatry service provision, which would liaise with the outside agencies. At the present state of development of these facilities in the community, such a service would not be feasible. The existing service meets the needs of the Institution adequately.

We discussed the difficulties of ensuring aftercare for prisoners with psychiatric problems. Such problems are generic within the Prison Service and are by no means unique to St. Patrick's.

6.1(l) *General Finding*

Generally, the prison was clean and tidy. The surgery areas were clean and well maintained. The food was excellent. There was a marked contrast between the space and modernity of the new annex and the old cramped accommodation for prisoners.

Whilst the plan is for transfer to a greenfield site, if this is going to take a period of time, consideration should be given to the construction of a

modern medical facility, separate from the Institution, to house all disciplines in comfort.

6.1(m) **Meeting with Chaplain**

The Inspector was joined by Mr. P Keane, S.C when we met the R.C.

Chaplain who is a Salesian.

Everyone without exception praised him. He was very very concerned and distressed about the position in St. Patrick's. He regards himself as having a totally independent role. He said the institution is run as a prison, which it is, whereas it should be a rehabilitative centre to help people find

themselves and be able to cope when they return to society. Locking

inmates in their cells for seventeen hours a day should be discouraged.

Activities should be encouraged so as to distract the inmates from crime.

The institution should be drug-free.

Another concern he had was that there is no separate remand section.

Remand inmates are allowed mix freely with sentenced inmates in the yard.

This leads to more bullying of the remand inmates by sentenced inmates.

Some inmates are bullied to the extent that they are afraid to leave their cells. He greatly regrets the ending of the workshops which apparently have been closed since approximately the end of 2003. This may be a substantial

cause for his conclusion that the present year is "the most disastrous year"

in his thirteen years' chaplaincy in the institution. He feels that the inmates

should be more active. He considers that the institution is clean, well run

and that most of the staff are very dedicated and wonderful people. There is

a problem however with insects mainly cockroaches in the basement.

Another problem outlined by the Chaplain is that mentally ill inmates are sentenced to the institution which he considers to be degrading for them. On a more positive note he has noticed kindness being shown by other inmates to such unfortunates. He feels they need to be treated in St. John of God's Hospital rather than the Central Mental Hospital. He points to a considerable problem in the Institution in relation to bullying, and notes that inmates from the country are bullied by their Dublin counterparts. Inmates complain of bullying by other inmates and he has had complaints of verbal abuse of inmates by staff. These are serious problems which need to be eradicated.

In summary he points out that St. Patrick's is a jail. Prison regime is not suitable for "kids". There is no separate remand place. It is particularly tough on country boys for their first time in detention. Sex offenders are placed in the basement which is a degrading place for them to be and they are targeted. There are at least 100 lads in the yard with no work or occupation. When asked what is wrong with the institution he says in one word, "Idleness". The fact that mentally ill people have to wait until a bed can be found in Dundrum C.M.H is scandalous. He points out that there are secure units in other Dublin Hospitals such as St. James's. He thinks that judges should have more of an input and interest.

This is something that I preached for years and which I included in some of the reports while I was on visiting committees. Dr Kennedy, Director of the Central Mental Hospital, argues that the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum,

is the only secure place for the clinically ill, which may be so and that it should not merely be replaced but also enlarged considerably. I agree.

6.1(n) **Meeting with POA**

Mr. Keane and I met the branch chairman and secretary and treasurer of the POA. They had been in the Institution for seventeen, twenty-two and fifteen years respectively. We learned that racism is rampant between inmates and inmates and some staff. Great concern was expressed over the new building in the institution which was apparently opened approximately one year ago at a cost of €11 million and which is as yet only minimally utilised. There are excellent potential facilities in the new building including a gym and exercise room, to mention only two of the many purposes for which this building has been designed. They stated that it was incredible to see such a waste of public money to date. A step-down facility such as Shanganagh Castle which has been closed is a great loss to the institution. Long-term inmates have less to look forward to.

They state that the closing down of the workshops has been a retrograde step, resulting in a deterioration in relationships between inmates and staff. Unruly inter-inmate fights and assaults on staff have been the result. They state that there have been approximately eight staff injured from assaults in the last two months.

The closure of other places of detention has resulted in many inmates being subjected to the added pressure of being incarcerated far from home. There

is no place now in the South of Ireland for this age group with the closure of Fort Mitchel.

The view was expressed that the Governor of the Institution is involved in too many other National issues, rather than concentrating on his duties in the Institution. It was felt that he did not delegate decision making sufficiently and prisoners who attack staff are not sufficiently punished. The loss of a few nights' recreation as a punishment for an assault on a prison officer was insufficient.

I pointed out that the Visiting Committee were to be given powers to hear appeals from the Governor's decision on misconduct reports (P.19's). It was only a pious aspiration. I would doubt that they would be implemented although it was promised to the CPT and to some extent it involved Section 19 of the 1997 Act. They said it would be very acceptable to them if they could appeal the Governor's decision to the Visiting Committee.

It was felt that the Irish Prison Service is very unsatisfactory and that the POA was involved in conflicts regarding sick leave, much of which was due to stress and assaults by inmates. They also stressed that there is no overtime abuse by POA members in St. Patrick's.

They felt that bullying does exist in the Institution in relation to illegal drugs. Inmates can be bullied by others to obtain illicit drugs from their relations in order to pass them on to the bullies.

They felt more staff were needed. There was recently a suicide but it was in a garda station. However, he was an inmate from St. Patrick's. While there were several attempted suicides, it was several years since they last had a death by suicide other than the one previously mentioned.

6.1(o) **Meeting with Solicitors**

Two solicitors who practise in the children's court had expressed a wish to meet the Inspector. They also wanted to meet the President of the Irish Human Rights Commission. Fortunately, Dr. Manning (The President) gave me one day during my week's visit to St. Patrick's and we met inter alia with the two solicitors in question. They stated that they were extremely alarmed at conditions in St. Patrick's Institution where many of their clients are on remand or serving a sentence. They state that they have seen an increased number of juveniles with black eyes and injuries or bruises which were sustained during altercations with fellow inmates. They believe it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed in the Institution. The reduction in the ratio of inmates to officers appears to be largely responsible for this. The Inspectors were impressed with the detail and specific nature of the incidents relayed by the solicitors, but must add that when they raised this matter with two groups of inmates all knowledge of such assaults was denied.

In addition to the bullying and violence the solicitors have a number of other concerns regarding children in St. Patrick's which are as follows:

1. Children are presently being detained with adults. Remand and sentenced prisoners mix freely. This is contrary to EU and UN international treaties on Children's Rights
2. All workshops remain closed due to lack of staffing.
3. There seems to be an increase in the availability of drugs in St. Patrick's. They presented a copy of an article from the English "Observer" dated 12th September last. They state that at present any child sent to St. Patrick's with a drug addiction must go "cold turkey". No provisions are made to detoxify those who are not attending rehabilitation clinics on the outside. [The management state that offenders are placed on detoxification programmes by the medical officer when he deems it necessary and irrespective of whether they are or are not attending an outside clinic].
4. Despite the fact that St. Patrick's is the largest children's institution in the country, no childcare workers are employed there. There is no rehabilitation available to these children. They are largely from severely disadvantaged backgrounds, have left school early without basic literacy skills and often lack the support of a stable family background. Many have histories of self-harm, addiction and psychiatric illness. [The medical officer states that there is no evidence that "many" present with histories of psychiatric illness.] The current

“warehousing” of these children will undoubtedly serve to exacerbate these problems.

One of the solicitors has written on behalf of both the solicitors to the children’s Ombudsman stating their concerns. The Ombudsman replied stating that her mandate does not cover children in detention. This seems to be an extraordinary and deliberate exclusion of our most vulnerable children from her mandate.

The Solicitors consider that the Minister has taken retrograde steps in the closure of Shanganagh and the closure of workshops. The new unit costing twelve million euro (referred to in the newspaper article cited) remains unopened and if plans to sell the premises go ahead it will undoubtedly be knocked down. They believe that St. Patrick’s Institution is close to crisis point and that in light of recent cutbacks it is essential that an assessment of current conditions and facilities is carried out. They believe that in the event that we do not address the problems herein we will be called to account for our failure to do so by future generations, and rightly so. In my opinion many of the injuries manifested in inmates going to court were caused by fellow inmates. However, the solicitors found it very hard to get a straight answer from the boys as to who assaulted them and when. The boys do not want to be known as “snitchers”.

I discussed it with the Governor. He knows both solicitors and suggested that they should immediately contact him, supplying the names, dates, times, etc that these alleged incidents took place and he would investigate

same. I am concerned about this matter, as indeed is Dr. Manning and the Governor.

6.1(p) **Meeting with Head Teachers/Educational Facilities**

Educational Facilities

We met the Head Teachers, one of whom was appointed to the new building for 14-15 year olds but is now in the process of providing education for 16 and 17 year olds, when the “B” Division and new building comes into operation. They described a position where many of those who come to St. Patrick’s Institution arrive with a long history of educational neglect. Literacy was at about 50%; 20% could only sign their name.

Both indicated that only modest educational targets were possible: relatively few inmates studied for the Junior Certificate and fewer still for the Leaving Certificate. They said that the inmates tended to lack an attention span: 20 minutes’ duration was about all that was feasible. If there were more teachers, more effective steps could be taken to deal with this problem.

The projected school for under-18 year-olds has yet to come to fruition. In this context one of them made an observation that is of particular interest: in the teacher’s view there was some benefit in mixing younger prisoners with those over 18 as the older prisoners had a calming influence over them.

The syllabus described by the Head Teachers was predictable and somewhat uninspiring. There was little evidence of new initiatives or of confidence that much could be done to extend greatly the educational

horizons of inmates who had been denied good educational opportunities in their earlier life.

Educational Facilities/Classrooms

During the tour of the educational facilities, we saw classes in progress on computers, art, literacy, history and sewing. I have no doubt that the teachers are dedicated, empathetic and kind. I have to say that I was depressed by what I saw. The computer class seemed to be relatively passive and uninspiring. The literacy class – at a remedial level – was somewhat old-fashioned in its ambience. There was no sense of strong pro-active leadership from the teachers. Rather there appeared to be a fatalistic acceptance of the status quo.

The physical environment of the rooms where educational activities took place was not attractive. There was limited space; the paintwork and decoration were of poor quality; the ambience was depressing. The room where education in domestic science was to take place had not been completed. An assembly room lacked proper lighting and was not in good condition.

6.1(q) Meeting with The Probation and Welfare Officer

We met the senior Probation and Welfare Officer who has spent one and a half years in the institution where he works with three full-time colleagues and a clerical officer. He felt that there was a good working relationship in the institution. One prison officer works with the Probation Service each day. The service recently had a drug-related offending programme (in D

wing). Next week is alcohol awareness week. Alcoholics Anonymous personnel come in each Monday. He hopes to have the Narcotics Awareness Group visit soon. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul representatives come in on Saturdays, though he feels that they are more needed in Mountjoy Prison than in this institution. Focus Point housing agency representatives regularly visit the Institution. Homeless people on release can go to the Eastern Health Board, at St. James's St., Dublin. They try to organise a bed. There is a hostel run by the "Lions Club" in Chapelizard but they are having some difficulties operating at present. He agrees that there is no adequate follow-up in place. They do try and deal with problems of drugs including alcohol, anger and family problems.

The Inspector stated that another group had blamed demarcation between psychologists, probation and welfare service and other services for the partial collapse of the CONNECT programme. The Inspector would query where the €60 million from Brussels for the Connect Project was going or where it has gone, or, if not drawn down, why not?

There is apparently a number of inmates with mental health problems which I have already discussed. I have already stated that the Probation and Welfare could be a separate independent expanded service as we should aim to reduce the number of people committed to prison as has been done in the main Scandinavian countries. Crime is increasing; incarceration is declining in the Nordic area.

The Probation and Welfare officer stated that prison experience is very negative for the inmates. Country inmates are inadequately catered for in relation to post-detention accommodation. Almost 50% of the inmates come from the country. He repeats the point of no step-down facility for the Institution with the closure of Shanganagh Castle and of Fort Mitchel. He feels that he requires an extra half-time prison officer to work with the probation service daily.

6.1(r) Meeting with a Group of Inmates

The Inspector, Mr Manning and Professor Binchy met with a small group of prisoners to hear their views on life in St. Patrick's. They made several complaints.

(a) Clothing

They complained that the clothing given to them was old and full of holes. They said that it was changed only infrequently and that it compared badly with the clothing supplied in other prisons. [Records show that clothing is changed weekly and it is the same standard of clothing as is used throughout the Prison Service. The Inspectorate observed only one inmate in the entire population with torn clothing.]

(b) Food

Members of the group said that there was insufficient food: they claimed that second helpings were not allowed. They complained also about the fact

that the last substantive meal of the day was just after midday. They said that the bread was too hard and that much food was regularly thrown out because of its poor quality. There were complaints that the tuck shop now sells only sweets and fizzy drinks, whereas formerly it used to provide food of a far better quality. [The Inspectorate team sampled the food on each of the days of the inspection and found it to be of good quality. Perhaps for youths, the portions may be small but sufficient for adults.]

(c) *Prison conditions*

Members of the group complained that there was no hot water and that cockroaches were endemic. There were complaints that the gym is too small. [Yes, the water was not sufficiently hot, there were cockroaches and the gym facilities are poor.]

(d) *Medical Services*

There were complaints that the doctor provided paracetamol for everything and was insufficiently proactive. (This latter complaint seems hard to sustain in principle as there appears to be in place a system to notify the doctor of prisoners who have medical conditions or who wish to see the doctor. These complaints are contrary to Dr. Carey's findings. He was part of the Inspectorate team.)

(e) *Bullying, racism and discrimination*

Members of the group denied that bullying occurred now among prisoners though they conceded that it used to happen. They said that prison officers

were too violent in quelling disturbances and that they generally “looked down on” them. They said that there was no racism and that travellers were not the target of any abuse or discrimination. They said that there was “now” no city/rural problem among inmates.

I would attach little weight one way or the other to these statements regarding bullying, racism and discrimination as those who spoke did not appear to be giving a considered assessment of the issues and seemed more anxious to assure us that they were not party to any wrongdoing relative to other inmates.

6.1(s) ***Meeting with Inmate***

One inmate wished to meet the Inspector on his own.

He had three complaints:-

Since June 2004 only cold showers are available. He showers three times a day due to skin problems. In the cell there is only warm water and that is only in the morning. He complained to management but he feels his complaint has been ignored. In fairness, the matter is being investigated but it appears there are leakages in the underground piping bringing the hot water from the boilerhouse in Mountjoy to St. Patrick's. To replace the entire piping will result in a huge expenditure in having to replumb the entire building. The problem is spending such an enormous amount on work on the building that is going to be sold off or knocked down in a year or two. That would be a waste of money but on the other hand if it continues as an institution then occupants do need hot water.

He said that the closure of the workshops badly affected him since he wishes to put his period of detention to good use in learning welding in the metal workshop. He feels so strongly about this that he has applied for a transfer to Wheatfield where such a facility is available.

In relation to visits he is limited to four named people. After naming his mother father and girlfriend he has only one choice remaining which he feels is inadequate and alleges that in Mountjoy Prison one can have six named visitors. Otherwise overall he was content with the facilities in the institution.

6.1(t) **Meeting with Members of the Visiting Committee**

We met three members of the visiting committee including the new chairperson. They were very committed. I explained to them the many powers that they used to have which are now gone. They have been effectively neutered. They have been very concerned about the total disappearance of workshops. They were very impressed with some work they saw in operation in another prison where the prisoners did great work and were fully occupied. They also state the use of footballs is restricted in the yards to certain nominated days to allow all the inmates whether they are playing football or not to have full access to the yard. They are very concerned about basic literacy or rather the absence of it. They found that some inmates have difficulty even in constructing ordinary oral sentences. They said they would very much welcome visits from the judiciary. They are very concerned about the closing of Fort Mitchel and Shanganagh. They

are also distressed that the CONNECT programme has seemed to have come to an end and has not yet reached into St. Patrick's. They would like to see it restored to full activity and to be available. They are also concerned about the new unit although they are uncertain as to its future. However, in their report last year they state:- "We would however point out that we do not believe it has adequate space to deal with its expected demand".

They feel that the visiting committee will continue according to what they read in the papers from the statements from the current Minister. However, they feel that they should be brought up to strength as they find it hard to have a quorum. There are only five members of the Visiting Committee instead of twelve.

The committee meets once a month in the Institution. The committee members also carried out a large number of unannounced visits by individuals to the institution. They were very impressive although most inmates did not know of their existence or the functions of this committee

6.1(u) **Meeting with Heads of Service (Senior Managers)**

The Inspector and his Special Adviser met the Heads of Service. Each gave a brief run down on their areas of responsibilities. The Inspector stated that he had been informed by two individual groups that St. Patrick's was a "disaster". The remark was vehemently rejected by the heads of service members who stated that St. Patrick's is very fortunate in having such

dedicated staff who work very hard to produce results and go well beyond their call of duty. They feel very restricted with the budgetary cuts imposed but despite the cuts, they are managing the drug-free wing, the positive sentence management, and are well advanced in the preparation of two new workshops coming on-stream in the next two months. They outlined how they challenge the inmates' behaviour/manner and steps they take to improve same. They gave examples of the involvement of staff in the various multidisciplinary working groups. They outlined how discharges are arranged to ensure the safety of the inmate when released, parental contacts, arranging for accommodation plus the arrangements to get inmates into community services on discharge. These are not taken into consideration when people make comments like the place being a "disaster". Those types of negative remarks are very hurtful to those who are doing and giving of their best.

The group outlined the terrible difficulties encountered in managing St. Patrick's as result of the Minister's decision to (A) impose overtime restrictions on staff working hours resulting in workshops being closed to "live within" budget and 80 - 100 inmates idle, (B) the closure of Shanganagh Castle - no outlet or promotional prospects for the inmates, (C) the closure of Fort Mitchel - no transfers to the South of Ireland where some of the inmates' families are located, and (D) Difficulties in getting a few inmates who are bad influences on others transferred out of the institution.

They feel that the long drawn-out negotiations between the union and

management are having a serious effect at ground-floor level and the past twelve months in the institution have been the most difficult in years. There is an air of uncertainty about the whole place re its future location, outcome and effect of the present negotiations, idleness among inmates, nowhere for inmates to which to aspire with the closure of Shanganagh and Fort Mitchel plus the lack of progress on new incentives until the “closure of negotiations”.

There was frustration expressed regarding Headquarters staff. The terrible lack of co-ordination among them when 1,2, or even 3 people at times from the same office in headquarters would contact the institution and seek the exact same information, the information having been supplied to the 1st person, perhaps an hour earlier. The lack of understanding of not having transfers granted and the consequences on the floor of the refusal of such transfers. The new computer programme (H.R.M.S.) was a disaster and they have stopped operating it after months of frustration trying to get it to work.

The meeting discussed the operation of the drug-free wing. The cost of urine sample testing was raised and it has cost approx 80 - 90 thousand euros for the first nine months of this year. Another cheaper method was tried (the pupleometer) but was found not to be as reliable and independent checks/readings from a laboratory are required, especially for court reports.

There are really great people working in St. Patrick's from the Governor down but to be effective they have to be provided with the tools. The present set-up leads to terrible frustration for both staff and inmates. There were many workshops in the past in St. Patrick's; now there are none. Too many of the inmates have nothing to do and are locked up for far too long - up to 14 hours per day. Young men full of energy and at a critical and important time in their development should have an entirely different regime provided for them which should be supported from the Minister down. The regimes should include work/training, education, help with illiteracy problems, physical education programmes, counselling services etc, as well as many other aspects such as visiting facilities, family involvement, community agencies, communications and sport.

6.1(v) Meeting with inmates in segregation unit

The Inspector and his Special Adviser met six inmates individually in the special unit. Most of their complaints were common to each other.

Herewith is an outline of their views

- cold water in the showers. No hot showers since start of summer.
- Cockroaches in the cells.
- Problem with change of clothing and not getting proper fitting clothing - trousers too short or too long, etc. Buttons missing from the shirts.
- Not being allowed to wear own clothes or own runners.
- Lack of things to do in the unit. Need for full-time education.

- Waiting too long to see the dentist. (name down for five months and still not called)

These were the main points raised. Discussion took place re lunchtime meal being served at 4.30pm instead of at 12.30pm but there were mixed views. Some in favour, others prefer the way it is at present. They all would like bigger portions. Most of them said that they had heard of the Visiting Committee members but never saw them. They all said that they were never assaulted by staff but one outlined that he heard noises once which would indicate an inmate was being assaulted by staff. Some of them said that they had been subjected to intimidation which was mostly drug-related from other inmates to bring drugs into the institution. They claimed a lot of harassment and intimidation was taking place “upstairs” but not in the unit.

The cold water in the showers is being looked at by the trades staff to see if it can be improved without incurring major costs. The cockroaches are present but the areas are being treated and it is very difficult in an old building to eradicate them with so many places for them to hide. The management claim that if inmates complain about the change of clothing they are issued another set. Regarding wearing own clothes and runners, this is not allowed as management feel it could lead to further intimidation. It could also lead to another way of getting illegal drugs in. There is a lack of activity within the unit and the possibility of providing more education

classes may be looked at. There is a waiting list for the dentist but if in pain they will be seen very quickly.

6.1(w) *Meeting with mother of inmate*

The Inspectorate met the mother of an inmate who had requested the meeting. She outlined the medical concerns she had regarding her son who is serving a six months' sentence. Her son had been transferred from another prison to St. Patrick's and she was also worried that the medical appointments which had been made at the previous prison may not have been honoured at St. Patrick's.

The matters raised were brought to the attention of the prison doctor and to the Governor. The appointments are being taken care of and the doctor is fully aware of this particular inmate's medical problems. The mother has been informed accordingly. This was probably outside my remit, as I am not to take up the cudgels on behalf of any individual. There should be a prisoners ombudsman.

7. Health & Safety (especially fire aspect)

- 7.1 The Inspectorate met the two senior staff members responsible for health and safety matters within the institution as well as the staff's health and safety representative. There is both a domestic and fire line water mains supply around the institution with ten fire hydrant locations off the mains. The covers of the hydrants are painted yellow with the "H" sign displayed nearby. They are easily recognisable. There are water storage tanks within the complex fitted with jockey pumps which increase the pressure from 69 -

70lbs to 120lbs when turned on. There is a wet riser fitted in the circle which reaches to the top levels of the building. Hose reels are also fitted on each of the landings which can reach the furthest distance required. There are no bungs in the cell doors to allow a hose-reel head fit through. A total of 168 hand-held fire extinguishers are located throughout the institution as displayed on the fire plan map.

7.2 The records relating to services being carried out on essential equipment showed that the fire extinguishers are serviced annually by Apex and are due a reservice since September 2004. The alarms are serviced by Siemens on a three-monthly basis which include the smoke detection systems and the break-glass units. The display panels are also checked on these services. The emergency lighting is serviced by Electrogen and is carried out biannually. The records show that it was last carried out on 1/7/04. The B.A equipment is serviced by Seridan and was last done on 14/11/03. The local trades staff also service/check some of the emergency equipment (break-glass units, emergency exits, extinguishers, faults, etc) on a daily or weekly basis and have records of same.

7.3 Fire evacuation drills were carried out on 25/3/04 in "C" base (unit) with thirteen inmates and nine staff involved and the area was cleared in one minute. On the 12/5/04 the "C" Division with eighty-one inmates and nine staff took three minutes and thirty seconds to evacuate. On the 27/8/04 the "D" Division drill exercise took place with sixty inmates and nine staff and was evacuated in three minutes forty-five seconds. The "B" Division on the

4/11/04 was evacuated with thirty-eight inmates and nine staff in two minutes and twenty seconds. [nine staff is the least number on any roster/shift]. The education unit has also been evacuated but there were no records on hand to show the number of inmates/staff or time involved in same.

The fire brigade personnel were in the institution on familiarisation tours but have not been in of recent times. The authorities state that they have been trying to get them to return more frequently but without success.

7.4 There are at least two exits/entrances to each of the landings as well as the basements and special unit. Emergency lighting is fitted throughout the institution. Each of the wing roofs is fitted with the Colt system smoke detectors and extractors which open automatically on the detection of smoke in the air. The special unit plus B1 and B2 are fitted with smoke detectors and smoke extraction systems. There are no water sprinklers installed in any of the cells except those in the "C" base.

7.5 The inmates receive no written instruction on committal or in their cells re rules/procedures to follow in the event of a fire evacuation or fire drill exercises. There are no signs displayed on the landings re fire exits and no assembly points displayed in the various exercise yards. A total of forty-seven staff received refresher training in breathing apparatus "donning and doffing" equipment but there needs to be much more refresher staff training in this area as indeed in full refresher training not just "donning and doffing". In the previous twelve months fifty-one staff received refresher

training (phase I) of C & R which again highlights the urgent need for additional staff training.

7.6 The health and safety staff's representative highlighted the lack of local health and safety committee meetings within the institution and stated that previously they were held monthly but that this year only two meetings had taken place. He also spoke of the lack of training in both breathing apparatus and C & R areas. He outlined points from the prison service fire response evaluation project carried out by Mr. John Ring in 2000. Some of the recommendations within that report were never acted on. The recertification of the instructors in B.A and C & R was another concern which he felt needed urgent attention. [On checking on same with management, there are three B.A instructors, one of whom is "in date" while the other two are "out of date" and a recertification course is organised for them for 14th and 15th December 2004. There are five C & R instructors all of whom are out of date and need to be recertified prior to giving instructions in this area. [Certification of instructors in the skills of the BA and C & R normally lasts for only two or three years so recertification is necessary.]

7.7 Other matters raised by the representative concerned policy issues re smoking ban extended to certain locations such as staff areas, education, locker room, etc. There was concern about safety audits within the institution and staff's safety representatives seminar. He said it was three years since the last one was held.

8. Recommendations

1. That the proposed new workshops be expedited as soon as possible.
(3.4 Page 11)
2. That the idleness that a lot of the inmates are experiencing at present should be eliminated and a more purposeful/activity-filled day be organised for them as soon as possible. (6.1(m) Page 48, 6.1(u) Page 64)
3. That the new building and B Division facilities be brought into use as soon as practical for the 16 - 17 year olds or an alternative be provided. (3.2 pg 8)
4. That the remand inmates be kept separate from the convicted inmates. The aim should be total and immediate separation. (6.1(m) pg 47, 6.1(i) pg 52)
5. That all new committals be interviewed by the Head Teacher or someone acting for him to make them aware of the educational facilities available and to establish the educational requirement of the new arrivals. (Strategy 11.3.3 pg 21, 4:1:1 page 14)
6. That the walls and surroundings of the exercise yards be painted with bright colours or murals to remove the drabness of the yards.
(5.11 pg 33)

7. That a bigger effort be made to get more inmates involved in education, especially re illiteracy problems. (6.1(p) pg 55)
8. That staff refresher training in B.A and C & R be undertaken as a matter of urgency. (7.5 pg 68)
9. That the instructors in B.A and C & R be recertified as being fit to give instructions in these particular areas. (7.6 pg 69)
10. That emergency exit signs and assembly point signs be erected in the appropriate locations. (7.5 pg 68)
11. The Inspector concurs with the Minister that St. Patrick's Institution should be replaced with a new building. But ensure that the new facility has proper open space, playing fields, activities and regimes suitable for this age group. The lock-up time should be drastically reduced. (3.6 pg 11, 6.1.(v) page 64)
12. That further efforts be made to have the local fire brigade watch (personnel) visit the institution for familiarisation purposes and to agree a plan with them for emergency situations. (Strategy 5, 5:2:2 pg 17, 7.3 pg 68)
13. That discussions take place with the Dental Hospital Authorities, the Governor and Headquarters staff, re the services of additional staff to

cater for the extra hours necessary for the St. Patrick's inmates in the Mountjoy Prison Dental surgery. (6.1(a) pg 43 and 6.1(v) pg 65)

14. That the management and all staff be actively involved in the elimination of bullying and harassment among the inmates. (6.1(m) pg 48; 6.1(n) pg 51; 9.7 pg 75)

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 The report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Penal System under the chairmanship of Dr.T K. Whittaker (paragraph 9:18) in 1985 recommended the closing of St. Patrick's Institution as soon as possible. The report states "that rehabilitation is not possible as the physical and environmental conditions are such as to nullify any personal developmental programmes. The facilities and services required could not be provided even in a renovated St. Patrick's".

- 9.2 So some 20 years later, St. Patrick's is still in full use with a considerable amount of money having been spent on in-cell sanitation and new roofs. Furthermore, complete renovation of the "B" wing plus the erection of an additional building to cater for 14 and 15 year old boys at an alleged cost of between 10 and 11 million Euros which has never been used for this purpose. The Minister has recently announced its closure and that it is to be replaced on a greenfield site, almost 20 years after its recommended closure and after spending enormous amounts of taxpayers' money on it in the meantime. The building programme for the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and for the Prison Service Headquarters appears

to lack any long-term forward planning and is done in an ad hoc fashion. A business in the “outside” world would not survive. The taxpayers’ money is squandered.

9.3 I fully support its closure as it is completely inadequate to provide rehabilitation for the juveniles. It is far too cramped to have worthwhile space for workshops, education, etc, but especially for recreation or open areas for outdoor games. The exercise yards are extremely dull and oppressive areas and the netting over them adds to their gloom. [I know the reason for the netting is to prevent illicit drugs being thrown over the boundary wall into the yards and is necessary for such prevention, but on the other hand, such netting adds to the discomfort of those using the yard especially those who are not engaged in drug misuse.]

9.4 The closure of the workshops is a retrograde step for the institution, resulting in a large number of inmates having to spend their day in exercise yards doing nothing. The reason for the closure of the shops is that the Governor had to comply with the budgetary cuts imposed upon him. To have to choose to close workshops as a means of saving funds appears to be inexplicable and inexcusable. The enforced idleness and enforced lack of activity in the institution appears to be the root cause of some of the problems, such as boredom, bullying of inmates by other inmates and fights in the yards. To add to the problems, the closure of Shanganagh Castle [the only open institution for this age group] means that the inmates have nothing to aspire to and no goal to achieve. Furthermore, the closure of Fort

Mitchel, Spike Island, also prevents inmates from the south of Ireland getting closer to their family home for visits etc. So the combination of all of these retrograde steps has seriously affected the regimes and the rehabilitation prospects for a lot of the inmates and has merely turned St. Patrick's into a "warehouse". The inmates will naturally deteriorate in such a system.

- 9.5 The Governor and staff are doing a good job with the tools they have but are greatly constrained by the restraints (budgetary/services) placed on them. They manage the "drug-free" wing well and a lot of good work is going on with the inmates on this wing. A new psychologist was due to commence work at the institution the week after our inspection which should be an improvement. The plans to open the new building/"B" Division in early 2005 for the 16 and 17 year olds will also help. The removal of the idleness for some of the inmates with the opening of two new workshops early next year is another positive step. Additional educational facilities coming on-stream next year will add further benefits to the institution. The extra facilities being planned for next year are dependent on approval of additional funding plus agreement from the union, so hopefully both will be forthcoming.
- Prior to our inspection I was informed that a number of inmates were appearing in court from St. Patrick's having bruises or black eyes which apparently arose from fights with other inmates in the exercise yards. No names of those involved or of dates the alleged fights took place were forthcoming. The matter was raised with inmates during our various discussions with them but they denied all knowledge of it.

- 9.6 The records in St Patrick's show that in the previous six months 861 disciplinary reports (p19's) were dealt with by the Governor and of those 247 forfeited remission of sentence. In the previous 12 months, 17 inmates were on report (P.19's) for assault on staff while 198 were reported for assault on fellow inmates. There were 368 inmates on P.19's in the previous six months for smuggling or attempting to smuggle illegal substances (drugs) into the institution and of these 233 were placed on "screen" visits arising from the disciplinary reports. The number of inmates on disciplinary reports, 4 - 5 per day on average, appears quite high for a population of approximately 200, which gives me some cause for concern.
- 9.7 I am concerned about the alleged levels of bullying and harassment among the inmates which has come to the inspectorate's notice. Management and staff should be fully aware of its existence and a combined effort made to stamp this malpractice out. There are procedures and guidelines relating to dealing with bullying which should be applied as soon as possible. All of the services and agencies involved with the inmates within the institution should be involved in helping to eliminate this problem.
- 9.8 The education is provided by 7 full-time and 11 part-time teachers who cover the full range of subjects in the Leaving and Junior certs plus other courses as the inmates request or need. The teachers state that up to 50% cannot read or write while up to 20% can only sign their name. There is an average of 4 teachers per day involved in remedial work and 19 hours per day spent on literacy learning.

The average weekly overtime worked by staff was 2030 hours while 1% of staff didn't work any overtime. Between 11 and 12 staff per day are on sick leave and there are 23 staff seeking a transfer out of the institution at present. The turnover of staff in the past 12 months was 9, i.e. 2 retired and 7 transferred. No staff disciplinary hearings before the Governor took place for serious breaches of discipline in the past 12 months. Very little staff training or development took place in the past 12 months as a result of budgetary cutbacks. 47 staff received part training in B.A while 51 received refresher training in Phase I of the C & R. There is a need for much more staff training and developmental work and hopefully this will be introduced in the coming year. There were no escapes from the institution, from escorts, from hospitals or while accompanying inmates on temporary release during the past year.

9.10 The level of hygiene within the institution was very good as was the painting and decorating inside most of the institution with bright colours. However, the exercise yards were very dull and dreary and could be improved by painting the walls a bright colour. There appeared to be good rapport among the staff and among the different services. The relationship between inmates and officers also appeared good with healthy levels of banter between both.

9.11 Despite the best efforts of a lot of people, the institution is long past its sell by date and the sooner it is closed and replaced with a modern building the better. Hopefully, the new facility will be provided with the essential needs

of a juvenile centre with plenty of space for them to burn off their energies and a regime that will be fulfilling, and helpful towards their rehabilitation and educational requirements.

9.12 I wish to thank the Governor and all the staff for being so helpful and courteous throughout our inspection and for providing the office and facilities for our use. I also wish to thank the “outside” special consultants, Dr. Binchy, Dr. Manning, Dr. Carey and Mr. Keane S.C for coming into the institution and giving of their expertise. Words are inadequate to express my gratitude to them all. I am as always indebted to my special adviser, former Governor Jim Woods.