

**A report by the Office of the Inspector of  
Prisons into the circumstances surrounding  
the death of Prisoner U on  
8 November 2015  
while on temporary release**

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

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**Office Ref: 2015/U**

**A report by the Office of the Inspector of Prisons into the  
circumstances surrounding the death of Prisoner U on 8  
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Presented to the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality  
pursuant to Part 5 of the Prisons Act 2007.

Helen Casey  
Office of the Inspector of Prisons

21 February 2017

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## **Preface**

The deceased was a 23 year old man from the Leinster area.

He is survived by his parents, brother, sister and extended family.

The Inspectorate did not meet members of the deceased's family but an official of the office made contact with his mother by telephone.

The Inspectorate wish to offer their condolences to the deceased's family on their sad loss.

The name of the deceased has been removed to anonymise this report.

Helen Casey  
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21 February 2017

# **Office of the Inspector of Prisons Investigation Report**

## **General Information**

1. The deceased was a 23 year old man from the Leinster area.
2. The deceased was committed to Mountjoy Prison on 4 September 2015, with a remission date of the 26 December 2015.
3. The deceased was on reviewable temporary release when he died on 8 November 2015.
4. The Inspectorate wrote to the family of the deceased but they did not wish to meet with officials. The office fully understands their position. The Inspectorate would like to offer their sincere condolences to them on their sad loss.

## **Status of deceased while in Prison**

5. The deceased was on the standard level of the Incentivised Regime in Mountjoy Prison. He had a number of previous sentences.
6. The deceased was committed to Mountjoy Prison on 4 September 2015 to serve a short sentence. He was identified as requiring protection. He was moved to the Mountjoy West area of Mountjoy Campus on 7 September 2015 and remained there until his temporary release on 3 November 2015 to participate in the Community Support Scheme. The deceased had a drug problem and tested positive for opiates on committal. He completed a drug detox programme while in prison. The deceased did not have any dealings with the Psychology Service but attended the Addiction services while in Prison.

## **Circumstances of deceased's Temporary Release on 3 November 2015**

7. On examination of the records it has been established that on 7 September 2015 the deceased was referred to *Care After Prison*, (a community based project supported by the Irish Prison Service). An assessment was carried out to assess his suitability for a Community Support Scheme. At a meeting on 8 September 2015 involving representatives of the Irish Prison Service and *Care After Prison* it was agreed to defer discussions on the suitability of the deceased for the Community Support Scheme until he completed his detox programme. The deceased completed a methadone 21 day detox programme on the 25 September 2015.
8. The Inspectorate was informed by the Irish Prison Service that the normal practice when referring a prisoner to *Care After Prison* on a Community Support Scheme is that “*a care plan would have been discussed where suitable services in his locality would be contacted; this is usually done when the service user has their initial meeting in the community*”.
9. At a meeting on 30 September 2015 attended by a representative of *Care after Prison*, IPS Integrated Sentence Management (IPS ISM) officer and a member of the IPS Co-located Unit, it was noted that the deceased had a further Court hearing pending. Consideration on his suitability for temporary release to the Community Support Scheme was again deferred to be discussed after the Court hearing.
10. On 1 October 2015 the IPS ISM officer confirmed to the Community Support Scheme Manager attached to *Care After Prison* that the deceased had completed his detox programme. Concern was raised about the address which the deceased had provided for the purpose of his temporary release. The Community Support Scheme Manager contacted the mother of the deceased to discuss the conditions attaching to the Community Support Scheme. The deceased's mother agreed to allow her son reside with her for the duration of his temporary release.

11. At another Community Support Scheme meeting, on 29 October 2015, attended by an IPS ISM officer and *Care After Prison* it was decided that the deceased would be a suitable candidate for the Community Support Scheme. The matters taken into consideration in making such an assessment included, *inter alia*, the completion of a detox programme, the suitability of his mother's address while on temporary release, the agreement of the deceased to abide with a curfew from 10 pm to 7 am, to link with his Community Support Worker and attend appointments arranged by the Community Support Worker.
12. On 3 November 2015 the deceased was released from Mountjoy Prison and presented for his initial meeting with *Care After Prison*. Records show that he was referred to the following services in the community. An appointment was arranged for the deceased at the *Red Door* drop in drugs service in Drogheda and a referral was made for him to attend *TURAS*, a counselling and day programme service, in Dundalk. The deceased did not attend the *Red Door* drop in service.
13. From our investigation we learned that a Risk Assessment was carried out on the deceased by *Care After Prison* which disclosed that he had previously overdosed following release from prison. This risk of overdose, in using drugs after detoxing, was discussed with the deceased by *Care After Prison*. He was again to meet his key worker on the 10 November 2015.
14. Our investigation has found that on 10 November 2015 the Community Case Worker rang the deceased to remind him of his appointment in *Care After Prison*. The phone was answered by a male who immediately terminated the call. The key worker was unaware at this time that the deceased had been found dead on 8 November 2015.
15. The deceased was found dead in a public park in Dublin at 6.13 pm on 8 November 2015. The deceased had accessed the needle exchange programme in Merchant's Quay Ireland earlier that day. We were informed that as standard practice the risk of overdose and other prevention techniques

were discussed with the deceased on accessing the service of Merchant's Quay Ireland.

16. The cause of death is a matter for the Coroner.

### **Findings**

17. The deceased was serving a short sentence prior to his release on Reviewable Temporary Release to the Community Support Scheme. He had a serious drug problem and had completed a drug detox programme while in prison.
18. Assessments were carried out on the deceased prior to his release and he was linked in with Support Services in the community.