

**Report of second follow up Inspection  
of Limerick Prison by the  
Inspector of Prisons  
Judge Michael Reilly**

**1<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

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**Report of second follow up Inspection of Limerick Prison by the  
Inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly**

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

Judge Michael Reilly  
Inspector of Prisons

1<sup>st</sup> March 2012

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- 1.1 In paragraph 1.14 of my Report on an Inspection of Limerick Prison dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘November Report’) I stated that it was my intention to submit four follow up Reports to the Minister for Justice and Equality. I undertook that I would submit these Reports on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 (hereinafter referred to as my ‘January Report’), 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The purpose of such Reports is to give an update on the action taken to deal with serious concerns identified by me in my November Report.
- 1.2 In **Appendix A** of my November Report (copy attached for ease of reference) I set out timelines within which actions were to be taken.
- 1.3 I stated in my paragraph 1.17 of my January Report that I intended in this Report not only referring to items 10 and 11 in Appendix A of my November Report but that I would revisit those issues referred to in my January Report as I deemed necessary.
- 1.4 Since my January Report I have visited the prison on a number of occasions both announced and unannounced.
- 1.5 For ease of reading I deal first of all with items 10 and 11 in Appendix A of my November Report in paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 and then revisit items 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 in Appendix A of my November Report in paragraphs 1.8 to 1.15.

**Proper Records and Signage Relating to Safety Observation and Close Supervision Cells to be in Place (Appendix A 10)**

- 1.6 I have been in discussions with the Director General of the Irish Prison Service and his senior Directors concerning the type of records that must be maintained in order to comply with best practice and address the concerns raised by me in my November and other earlier Reports. It is important that proper procedures are

introduced not alone in Limerick Prison but across the whole prison estate. It is necessary that new Standard Operating Procedures covering all aspects of the use of such cells be introduced in all prisons simultaneously. I advised that this should not be rushed as to do so would inevitably mean that these procedures would have to be revisited again in the near future. The Director General has agreed that proper records, signage and the new Standard Operating Procedures relating to such cells will be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012. I agree that this timeline is reasonable. I will refer to this again in my report due on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

### **Temporary Replacement of Broken Windows in A and B Divisions (Appendix A 11)**

1.7 The Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Governor requisitioned a prototype window which they asked me to approve as a temporary measure for the 62 windows in the A and B Divisions. I approved of this window on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The window is of durable Perspex. I am satisfied that such windows are fit for purpose. The completion date for the installation of such windows is 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

### **Toilet Patrol for A and B Divisions during Periods of Lock Up (Appendix A 1)**

1.8 In my January Report I stated that I was satisfied that the toilet patrol was working effectively on B Division but that there was a difference of opinion between certain prisoners on A Division and prison management as to whether the toilet patrol was working effectively on A Division. I am pleased to report that the toilet patrol is working effectively on both Divisions.

### **Yards, Urinals etc to be Cleaned (Appendix A 3)**

1.9 In my January Report I expressed concern about dirty areas in certain yards, dirty and overflowing urinals and filthy and blocked toilets. I carried out an unannounced inspection on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The A Yard was clean, the toilets were working and those areas that needed painting were painted. The

telephone was in working order. The B Yard was clean, the toilets were clean and those areas that needed to be painted were painted. The telephone was working. The C Yard was clean, the toilet was dirty and the area needed painting. The D Yard was clean, the toilet was dirty and needs replacing, the area needs painting. There is a new prototype phone system in this yard which was working.

Prison management must be ever vigilant to ensure that all yards, urinals and toilets remain in commission and clean. I will inspect these areas on all future visits to the prison and will report as appropriate. I would like to point out that it would be difficult in the future to accept any excuse for dirty or out of commission yards, urinals or toilets in this or any other prison.

#### **Toilets in D recreational hall to be cleaned (Appendix A 4)**

1.10 In paragraph 1.9 of my January Report I stated that the toilets in the D Division Recreation area had been boarded up and taken out of commission. I stated that I considered this unsatisfactory. I am pleased to report that new toilets have been installed, that the area has been painted and was clean on my last visit to the prison.

#### **All A and B Divisions be Clean and Equipment in Wash/Slop Areas Repaired (Appendix A 6)**

1.11 The Director General, following a comprehensive review, has directed that the following work be undertaken:-

- (a) All six areas to be painted to industry best practice (epi-gel water based epoxy gloss finish)
- (b) A certified deep clean to take place of all areas
- (c) All stainless steel to be cleaned in accordance with industry best practice
- (d) All shower poles and curtains to be replaced

- (e) All duct doors to be repaired and repainted
- (f) 6 Sq. metres of tiles to be replaced
- (g) All light fittings to be replaced with new standard fittings of similar type to those in the cell accommodation area
- (h) All taps to be replaced
- (i) All ventilation covers to be replaced with stainless steel covers

All wash/slop out areas in the A and B Divisions were clean. The work detailed above commenced on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. I have been informed that the estimated completion date is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012. I consider this a realistic and realisable time frame. I will report further on this in my next report due to be submitted on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

### **Identification of a Dedicated Committal Area, High Support Unit and Drug Free Support Unit (Appendix A 7)**

#### **Dedicated Committal Area**

1.12 The Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Governor of the prison acknowledge that a dedicated committal area must be provided in Limerick Prison. In his statement, following the publication of my November Report, the Director General stated that improvements to Limerick Prison would form part of the Irish Prison Service Strategic Plan 2012 – 2014. The issue of a permanent dedicated committal area will, I understand, form part of such review. In the short term an area on A1 Landing has been identified as suitable for use as a temporary committal area. It is the intention of the Governor and Senior Management in the prison that this area will become operational as soon as possible. In this context the cells on A1 are being refurbished to provide single cell accommodation. There are 8 cells on this landing. These cells do not have

in-cell sanitation but I have been assured that prisoners will be allowed out on demand for toilet purposes. This is a compromise pending a permanent solution as referred to above. I wish to point out that the Standard Operating Procedures for this Committal Area should be the same as operate across the entire prison system. The template that has been devised for Mountjoy Prison, which meets best practice, should be introduced and followed in Limerick Prison. I will report on progress in my next report due to be submitted on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

### **Dedicated High Support Unit**

1.13 I stated in paragraph 1.13 of my January Report that, at present, it is not possible to provide a Dedicated High Support Unit in Limerick Prison for the reasons set out in that Report. I have been informed that a High Support Unit will be developed as part of the Limerick Prison Redevelopment Programme and that, as an interim measure, the High Support Units in Cork and the Midland Prisons will provide capacity for Limerick Prison. While this is not satisfactory it is a compromise. The redevelopment plan for Limerick Prison should spell out the number of cells to be provided and all other relevant information together with timelines for the opening of such a unit. It will be important that prisoners who require treatment in a high support unit are not disadvantaged by reason of the fact that they are accommodated in Limerick Prison. I will consider it inappropriate if prisoners are placed in Safety Observation Cells for any period, except for the shortest possible period of time, pending their transfer to a High Support Unit in another prison if the clinical opinion is that they require treatment in such a unit. The question of transport to another prison unit must be undertaken in a manner that respects the human dignity of prisoners being so transferred. In **no circumstances** should such vulnerable prisoners be transferred in prison van transport of the type where prisoners are allocated separate cubicles. I will keep all matters relating to vulnerable prisoners in Limerick Prison under review and will report as appropriate.

### **Drug Free Support Unit**

1.14 Because of the present overcrowding in Limerick Prison it has not been possible to identify a section of the prison that could be dedicated as a drug free support unit. I will refer to this matter in my next follow up report.

### **Review of prisoner in D1 (Appendix A 8)**

1.15 I again reviewed the circumstances and conditions under which this prisoner is being accommodated in a cell on D1 Landing. I am satisfied that at present this prisoner is being treated in a humane manner. His treatment must be kept under constant review as long term accommodation in this cell without targeted therapeutic intervention could not be said to either respect his human dignity or vindicate his human rights. If this requires movement of this prisoner within the prison system so be it.

### **General Comment**

1.16 The progress reported in my January Report has been maintained. Prison management and staff are to be congratulated on progress to date and encouraged to maintain this much needed momentum which had been sadly lacking.

1.17 My next follow up report on Limerick Prison is due to be presented to the Minister on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012. In that Report I intend not only addressing items 13 to 20 in Appendix A of my November Report but revisiting those issue referred to in this Report as I deem necessary.

### Appendix A of 'November Report'

	<b>Action to be taken</b>	<b>Reference in Report</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Date action required by</b>
1	Toilet patrol for A & B Divisions during periods of lock up	Paragraph 2.18	Governor	28/11/2011
2	Repair flushing mechanism in toilet in Safety Observation Cell in D1	Paragraph 2.25	Governor	28/11/2011
3	Yards, urinals etc. to be cleaned	Paragraph 2.35	Governor	28/11/2011
4	Toilets in D Recreation hall to be cleaned	Paragraph 2.37	Governor	28/11/2011
5	Identification of prison personnel	Paragraph 2.79	Governor	01/12/2011
6	All A & B Divisions be clean & equipment in wash/slop out areas repaired	Paragraph 2.11	Governor	31/12/2011
7	Identification of a Dedicated Committal Area, High Support Unit and Drug Free Support Unit	Paragraph 4.4	Director of Corporate Services	31/12/2011
8	Review of prisoner in D1	Paragraph 2.24	Irish Prison Service	01/01/2012
9	Report to Minister on 1 to 8 above	Paragraph 1.14	Inspector of Prisons	16/01/2012
10	Proper records and signage relating to Safety Observation & Close Supervision Cells to be in place	Paragraphs 2.9 & 2.32	Governor	16/01/2012
11	Temporary replacement of broken windows in A & B Divisions	Paragraph 2.12	Governor & Irish Prison Service	To be advised
12	Report to Minister on 10 and 11 above	Paragraph 1.14	Inspector of Prisons	01/03/2012
13	Options for A & B Divisions (refurbishment or replacement)	Paragraph 2.20	Transformation Team	01/04/2012

14	Address issue of no recreation areas for A & B Divisions	Paragraph 2.36	Transformation Team	01/04/2012
15	To review the lack of time prisoners spend in yards and at recreation	Paragraphs 2.39 & 2.40	Transformation team	01/04/2012
16	Review opening of workshops	Paragraph 2.48	Transformation Team	01/04/2012
17	Review the CCTV system	Paragraph 6.7(J)	Transformation Team	01/04/2012
18	Integrated Sentence Management to be introduced	Paragraph 6.7(K)	Transformation Team	01/04/2012
19	Improve Regimes & Services	Paragraph 3.13 to 3.17	Transformation Team	01/04/2012
20	Response to concerns other than those referred to in this Table	Paragraph 6.7	Governor	01/04/2012
21	Report to Minister on 13 to 20 above	Paragraph 1.14	Inspector of Prisons	01/05/2012
22	Overcrowding to be alleviated	Paragraph 3.10	Irish Prison Service	01/06/2012
23	Report to Minister on 22 above	Paragraph 1.14	Inspector of Prisons	15/06/2012