

**A report by the Inspector of Prisons
Judge Michael Reilly into the circumstances
surrounding the death of Prisoner H
on 12th May 2012
while on temporary release**

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

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**A report by the Inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly
into the circumstances surrounding the death of Prisoner H
on 12th May 2012 while on temporary release**

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

Judge Michael Reilly
Inspector of Prisons

29th October 2013

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Preface

Prisoner H was a 29 year old man who died in tragic circumstances on the 12th May 2012 while on temporary release.

I offer my sincere condolences to the deceased's family on their sad loss.

There are no matters of concern disclosed in this Report.

I would like to point out that names have been removed to anonymise this Report.

Judge Michael Reilly

Inspector of Prisons

29th October 2013

Inspector of Prisons Investigation Report

General information

1. The deceased was aged 29 years at the time of his untimely and tragic death. He came from the Munster area. He was committed to prison on the 21st March 2009. His release date was to be the 22nd December 2012.
2. On the 27th March 2012 the deceased was granted fortnightly reviewable temporary release.
3. On the 12th May 2012 the deceased died in tragic circumstances.
4. Following the death of the deceased an investigation was initiated by An Garda Síochána.
5. I did not interview any members of the deceased's family as I did not consider this necessary in view of the facts disclosed in this report.

Circumstances of temporary release

6. Subsequent to his committal to prison the deceased was transferred to the Training Unit. While in the Training Unit the deceased was assessed as suitable for participation in the Community Return Scheme by the Probation Service. This recommendation for participation arose as a result of a review meeting in the Training Unit where his case was discussed by the therapeutic services, prison management and an official from Prison Service Headquarters.
7. The deceased was granted fortnightly Reviewable Temporary Release to the Community Return Scheme on the 27th March 2012.
8. He was transferred from the Training Unit to Cork Prison for the purpose of signing on as Cork Prison was nearer to his home address.

9. The deceased had a permanent home prior to his imprisonment and he returned to this home in a rural town on his release.
10. In addition to his obligations under the Community Return Scheme the deceased was, *inter alia*, to sign on at his local Garda Station and at Cork Prison.
11. I have been informed that the deceased complied with all the terms of his temporary release including that he did not come to the notice of An Garda Síochána during the term of such release.
12. On the morning of the 12th May 2012 the deceased was in his home. He suffered injuries as a result of a fire in his house. He was subsequently pronounced dead at his local hospital.
13. An Garda Síochána thoroughly investigated the fire in the deceased's house. Items were removed from the house for examination by the forensic science laboratory. No hydrocarbon fire accelerants were detected in any of the items.
14. It is the view of An Garda Síochána that this was a tragic accident.

Findings

15. The Irish Prison Service adopted the correct procedures when the deceased was released on temporary release in that they:-
 - Ensured the deceased had a permanent home to reside in on his release.
 - Ensured that the deceased was to sign on at his local Garda Station and at Cork Prison.
 - Ensured that he participated in the Community Return Scheme.
16. I am satisfied that the deceased complied with all the conditions of his temporary release.

17. I am satisfied that the Garda investigation and the Coroner's investigation are the appropriate investigations in this particular tragic case.

18. I am satisfied that there are no further issues that I should investigate.