

**A report by the Inspector of Prisons  
Judge Michael Reilly into the circumstances  
surrounding the death of Prisoner I  
on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
while on temporary release**

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**A report by the Inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly  
into the circumstances surrounding the death of Prisoner I  
on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March 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

31<sup>st</sup> October 2013

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## **Preface**

Prisoner I was a 38 year old man who died in tragic circumstances on the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March 2012 while on temporary release.

I met with the family of the deceased. They did not have any issues that they wanted me to investigate. I offer my sincere condolences to the family.

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

31<sup>st</sup> October 2013

## **Inspector of Prisons Investigation Report**

### **General information**

1. The deceased was aged 38 years at the time of his untimely death. He came from the Munster area. He was committed to Cork Prison on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012. His release date was to be the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.
2. On the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 the deceased was granted fortnightly reviewable temporary release.
3. On the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March 2012 the deceased took his own life at his home.
4. I met with the family of the deceased. They did not express any concerns that they wished me to investigate.

### **Circumstances of temporary release and sequence of events**

5. On the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 the deceased was put forward for fortnightly reviewable temporary release by the Governor of Cork Prison. He was granted this temporary release based on a number of factors such as the nature and seriousness of his offence, his behaviour while in Prison, whether granting of temporary release would constitute a threat to the community and for operational reasons (prison numbers were high at the time).
6. The deceased was granted reviewable temporary release on grounds, *inter alia*, that he reside at his home address, sign on each day at his local Garda Station and fortnightly at Cork Prison.
7. The deceased was not linked with any post release supervision agencies.
8. Between the date of his temporary release – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and the date of his death – 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March 2012 the deceased resided at his home. He had the usual family supports. His family told me that he was always welcome in his home. They stated that they had no concerns for his well-being after his

release from prison and did not feel that he required any input from any external agencies.

9. I am informed that the deceased complied with all the conditions of his temporary release including his signing on requirements.
10. In the early hours of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012 the deceased was found hanging at his home. He was pronounced dead at approximately 1:45am. An Inquest was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2012 and the Post Mortem findings were that the deceased died as a result of asphyxia by ligature.
11. The next signing on date for the deceased at the prison would have been the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
12. On the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012 Cork Prison was notified by the Department of Social Protection that the deceased had died.

### **Findings**

13. I am satisfied that Cork Prison and the Irish Prison Service had good grounds for releasing the deceased on temporary release.
14. I am satisfied that the deceased had a permanent place to reside in when he was granted temporary release.
15. I am satisfied that the deceased did not exhibit any signs that he was depressed or suicidal prior to his death.
16. I am satisfied that the deceased complied with all the terms of his temporary release.
17. I am satisfied that there are no further issues which I should investigate.