

IRISH PRISONS INSPECTORATE

CLOVERHILL PRISON

CLOVERHILL INSPECTION: 4th, 5th, 6th
NOVEMBER 2002 AND 17th DECEMBER 2002

Role of the Inspector of

Prisons and Places of Detention for Ireland

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 is 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

To -

- (a) 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) Report in particular on conditions in those institutions and on the regimes in place for prisoners and detainees.
- (c) Investigate and report on any specific issue referred to the Inspectorate by the Minister.
- (d) 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) 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 enquires or comments about the inspectorate should be directed in the first instance to:

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REPORT ON INSPECTION OF CLOVERHILL PRISON
FROM THE 4th NOVEMBER 2002 TO 6th NOVEMBER 2002 AND
ON THE 17th DECEMBER 2002

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 4th, 5th and 6th of November 2002 and on the 17th December 2002 an inspection of Cloverhill Remand Prison was carried out by the Inspectorate Team which consisted of:

Mr. Justice Dermot Kinlen	Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention
James Woods	Special Advisor Prisons Inspectorate
Martin McCarthy	Prisons Inspectorate
Dr. Chen Mullen	Consultant (5th of November)

- 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 The prison was opened in 1999 and it is the first purpose built prison for remand/trial prisoners in the State. It has an underground passageway leading from the prison to the adjoining courthouse. Originally it was also planned to have a section of the prison used as an assessment centre but this did not materialise and this area is now accommodating prisoners who are on protection from other prisoners or who are there for medical reasons.
- 2.2 The total prisoner population was 434 on the days of inspection, of which 107 were non Nationals. The biggest numbers of non Nationals coming from China, (17) Nigeria (17) South Africa (13) Romania (11) Britain (11) Latvia (5) Lithuania (4) Ukraine (4) plus various other countries with one, two or three from each. There are 18 sentenced prisoners detained within this Prison. These are trustees who had volunteered to return to the prison and who were mainly engaged in the kitchen and grounds work.
- 2.3 There is two bunks and a single bed in each cell and all cells have internal sanitation. There is a TV installed in each cell. The cells are quite small and it is very crowded when three prisoners are there at the one time. In fact, some of the prisoners were complaining regarding placing a large prisoner to share with the other two as the big prisoner took up practically all of the area. Basically the cells are too small for three men.
- 2.4 The design of the prison is in the format of a circle with five double storey landings or divisions spreading out from the circle. There is another stand alone prisoner block which holds 26 and these cells are mostly occupied by the sentenced trustee prisoners. The stores (trades) and administration block are also stand alone buildings.
- 2.5 The prisoners recreate at the end of each landing and there are two quite large exercise yards plus one small yard. There is a total of seven gyms with a new one being incorporated into the new educational building which is in the process of being erected. The gyms are in use three times during the day with 10 officers involved. There is no permanent PE teacher attached to the prison. There are 3 showers on each side of the landings and there are 2“no smoking” cells on each landing as well as a “no smoking” small recreation room in each recreation area.
- 2.6 There are a number of special cells which hold disturbed or disruptive prisoners and these cells have no in-cell sanitation.

- 2.7 Telephones are available to the prisoners. On entry to the prison, the prisoner can nominate two telephone numbers plus the number of his legal advisor. After having these numbers verified and acceptable to the caller they are then issued with a phone card. These calls are free of charge and the prisoner is allowed to make one telephone call per day of six minutes duration.
- 2.8 The kitchen supplied prisoners dinners to the visiting group and the meals were tasty and well cooked.

3. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Prison consists of the following accommodation:-

Single cells - 74 which are all occupied

Double cells - 13 which are all occupied (i.e. 26 Prisoners)

Triple cells - 120 (i.e which take 360 Prisoners).

- 3.2 This is a total of 207 cells with accommodation for 460 Prisoners. In addition there are two cladded cells and two unfurnished cells. We arranged to take photographs of the cladded cells.

4. GOVERNOR'S BRIEFING

- 4.1 Cloverhill Remand Prison has a Governor Class I Mr. William Kane and a Governor Class II Mr. Joseph McDermott. At the time of inspection Governor Kane had only been in office for approximately four weeks and indeed Governor McDermott had been in office for only two weeks. This in fairness to both Governors wasn't the ideal time for an inspection from their point of view but it must be said that the co-operation and help that was offered by both Governors was gratefully appreciated by the Inspectorate. Any information requested by the Inspectorate, if not known immediately by either Governors (and of course this would be perfectly understandable in the circumstances of the short period both men are in office) was supplied within an hour of request.
- 4.2 During Governor Kane's briefing for the inspection team he brought to our attention the high level of movement and activity within the prison on a daily basis with on average 100 prisoners going out and coming back from court appearance. Also an average of 100 prisoners per day were on drug treatment which is administered through the medical unit within the Prison.
- 4.3 He also indicated to us that there was a problem with illegal drugs coming into the Prison, as indeed there is with other Prisons, but he was particularly concerned with a perimeter wall which he had identified as one of the main sources of supply of illegal drugs being thrown over the wall to the prison.

Governor Kane is determined to stop this source and is involved in meetings with the Local Hospital Authorities, the Prison Authority and the Health Board with a view to implementing measures which will prevent this practice. Every help and assistance should be offered to Governor Kane by the Irish Prison Service as he attempts to resolve this major problem and the Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention is fully supportive of Governor Kane on this issue.

- 4.4 Also of concern to the Governor is the lack of information between An Garda Siochana - Courts Service and the Prison with regard to background information on the person being committed. On examination it would appear that this type of information is a basic requirement for the Governor to assist him in the evaluation of the prisoner being sent to him and the identification of any risk factor. This is a matter that the Irish Prison Service should look at with the Courts Service and An Garda Siochana.
- 4.5 The Inspector raised the issue of prisoners being brought from other prisons some of which were long distances to attend the High Court at Cloverhill Courthouse for bail applications. They had to return back to that prison the same evening and sometimes return the following day if the Court case was not reached. This entailed considerable amounts of overtime for the officers escorting them. The Governor outlined that the prisoners had to return to the prison because the warrants were addressed to the Governor of that particular prison. The Inspector considers this a waste of money and recommends that the legislation be changed to allow the judiciary to make out warrants to the Prison Service and then they can decide as to where a prisoner can be located. Alternatively a Ministerial Order can transfer a prisoner from another prison to Cloverhill. This power already exists.

5. CHAPLAINS ISSUES

- 5.1 The Chaplains' concern related to temporary release for remand prisoners. The 1960 Act provides for temporary release of sentenced prisoners but does not deal with remand prisoners. This in itself creates a major problem in the circumstances of a family bereavement, the remand prisoner is under the jurisdiction of the Courts and therefore can not be granted temporary release by the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform in these special circumstances. The remand prisoner must make application to the Courts for bail to be fixed in the circumstances of a family bereavement and the granting or denial of same is at the discretion of the Judge. Although there is always a duty Judge outside normal court hours it can sometimes prove difficult to locate the Judge and the Registrar required for this special application. It is certainly a serious problem for both sides as management have to view it with regard to security/danger of escapes or of gaining offensive materials or weapons plus placing escorting officers in dangerous situations. It should be approached sensitively as a matter of urgency for the benefit of the prisoner and his/her family who are in mourning. In the opinion of the Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention this is an issue that requires immediate attention by the Minister for Justice Equality and

Law Reform and that the necessary amendments should be made to the Act which would provide the Department of Justice, Equality Law Reform with the authority to grant temporary release to remand prisoners, in special circumstances as is the case with sentenced prisoners.

There is a High Court Judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Kinlen on the 17th May 1999 relating to this issue, however this was subsequently overturned by a Supreme Court decision of 2nd July 1999. The Supreme Court held the solution to the problem lay with the Oireachtas not the Courts. Please see Appendix I.

- 5.2 There was also a case highlighted in which bail was fixed at £5,000 and the prisoner could not raise the bail money and therefore did not attend the funeral at all. So realistic bail bonds should also be considered.

6. MEETING WITH PRISONERS

They outlined a number of positive and negative aspects of the prison.

- 6.1 Telephones: They complained about the length of time allowed for the use the phone which is restricted to 6 minutes and it was too short. It gave no warning that your time was up and were just cut off and that there should be more clear instructions given at first concerning the rules and regulations pertaining to the phone usage.
- 6.2 Cells: They complained about the size of the cell and having to share such a small space with three occupants resulting in them getting on each others nerves. They outlined that some big men took up more than their fair share of the space and it is alleged that “big men give big farts”. There is an open toilet in the cell but there is no air freshener or indeed proper ventilation, so the toilet smell remains within the cell.
- They complained about having to share a cell with men who smoke. There are “no smoking” cells within the prison but there appears to be a difficulty in providing sufficient numbers of “no smoking” cells to meet the demands of all the non smokers.
- 6.3 Juveniles mixing with adult prisoners: Juveniles from 16 years old and upwards are taken in this Prison. One Prisoner is sharing a cell with a seventeen year old. He thinks it is very bad for the young person. He says “I am a drugs dealer I am a villain actually and he regards me as a certain type of hero. I must by my nature be a bad influence on him.
- 6.4 T.V.s: They outlined that a lot of the T.V.s remote control in the cells were missing and that they could not get Sky Sport or BBC1. They stated that the prisoners were willing to pay for the two additional stations but the authorities refused. (However on checking with the Prison Authorities they outlined that most of the prisoners don’t have sufficient funds to meet these requirements)

- 6.5 Court Appearance: They said that they were called too early on the mornings of their court appearance as the courthouse was just across the way and they were put into holding cells for too long and could see no reason for it. However on checking with the Prison Authorities on this matter, for the efficient running of the court list the prisoners have to be available to the Court when called. The matter is controlled by the court list and is very much out of the hands of the Prison Authorities.
- 6.6 Visits: They outlined that at times when brought to the visiting area for their visits, the visiting box to which they were assigned was full. They had to wait for a vacancy. Their visitors were left waiting for a long time as a result. While they were waiting another visiting box was half empty, so why not put them into the other visiting box.? They also stated that the visits were very inhumane having to shout to your visitors through the grids. The heating/cooling system did not appear to be working as it was always very warm within the visiting area. The inspectorate enquired about the use of the visiting box and it was explained that some prisoners are under protection and therefore couldn't mix with others for their own safety.
- 6.7 Health issues: They outlined that there was a good general health awareness within the prison and that the authorities ran various health awareness weeks throughout the year. They complained that on committal they did not receive an actual physical examination by the doctor. They outlined that a very comprehensive health questionnaire was completed by the medical staff but their heart, lungs, blood pressure etc. were not checked. Some were unsure as to how they would see the dentist as they never required him. Others stated that the dentist only extracts teeth but gives no other treatment as they are all on remand. They found the food very good except for the scrambled eggs which were cooked too long before serving and the chips are too soggy and greasy. They suggested that a boiled egg and toast could replace the scrambled egg. They did not know if there was an optician or dietician attached to the prison.
- 6.8 Staff: Overall they stated that the staff were very good but that there were one or two whom you would need to be careful of as they would put you on report for very little. They felt that the staff were very strict on little things such as insisting on you wearing your shirt around the landings. They would send you back to your cell for your tray if you appear at the food serving area without one. They stated that generally the staff were very young and therefore more willing to help.
- 6.9 Chaplains: They found the chaplains to be excellent and they would visit them and talk to them in their cell or see their family if they wanted them to do so. They were most helpful and supportive.
- 6.10 Probation & Welfare: They complained that they did not see them very often and it was hard to get them to contact people outside even their family. They stated that they were waiting for two weeks to see the Probation & Welfare officer from the courts but that so far they have not called and as a

result they will get a further remand from the Judge until the probation report is ready. They felt this was very unfair.

- 6.11 Information: They stated that they got an information booklet on committal which was placed in their laundry kit when being assigned a cell. They also stated that the rules were explained to them by the Governor or Chief on their first interview after committal.
- 6.12 Prison General: They stated that it was an OK prison, very clean, and no complaints generally. They outlined that more could be done to occupy their time during the day but were aware that a new educational area was going to be provided.

7. EDUCATION

- 7.1 The school is promised for 2003 but as yet the subjects are to be decided. It was thought that the prisoners here would not be detained long and therefore should have no need for a school within the prison. But it is now the practice that prisoners are detained for several months prior to final conclusions by the Courts. It would be hard to envisage what exact subjects should be taught. However it is obvious, subjects such as life skills, cooking, health education and perhaps literacy could be addressed. The Inspector would certainly welcome the opening of such a facility.

8. ACTIVITIES

- 8.1 The main problem with Cloverhill Prison is sheer boredom. There is really very little to do. There is a yard in each wing where one can kick footballs around and there are pool tables and gyms but there is no other activity as there would be in any other prison to occupy the attentions of the prisoners.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.1 The inspectorate met the Assistant Governor and the Chief Trades Officer both of whom have responsibility for health and safety/fire plans of the prison. They outlined that despite the fact that the prison was very new they encountered several problems concerning health & safety matters on the handing over of the building from the builders.
- 9.2 Most of the gates throughout the prison are operated by a hand palm print plus number code which is computer operated. This system avoids the necessity for an officer to be located at each gate with a key to manually operate it.
- 9.3 The two staff members informed us that the prison has been the subject of two independent health & safety/fire surveys since it opened. The first study was carried out by Mr John Ring & Associates which dealt with fire

procedures and breathing apparatus rescues, staff training, upkeep of fire register, fire emergency planning and liaison with local fire brigade. The second study was carried out by McAllister, Deveraux, and Keating Engineers (M.D.K. Report.) which dealt with fire vulnerability. (mainly the construction aspects of the buildings from a fire point of view). They recommended that “fire stopping doors and gates” be erected at each end of all the prison’s landings. The findings have been forwarded to the Building Services Division at Santry and also to the Buildings & Estates Division of Prison Service Headquarters at Clondalkin. They state that the report recommends that the erection of these doors should be implemented within a year.

- 9.4 There are 255 staff fully trained in BA evacuation procedures, plus fire hose and fire extinguisher operation procedures. They also carry out refresher training of 6 staff per day in donning and doffing procedures and if in the event of an emergency in the nature of a fire in any part of the prison during the day, those six officers are used to deal with same.
- 9.5 They carry out monthly fire evacuation of the building on a divisional basis and all of the divisions except “D2” landing have had the evacuation procedures carried out. They produced records of dates, times, number of prisoners and number of staff involved in each of the division’s evacuation.
- 9.6 There are also records as to when checks and services are carried out on sprinklers, fire alarms, extinguishers, hoses, fire escape routs, gas detection, emergency lighting, smoke pressurisation system, hose reels, ventilation system, alarms, etc.
- 9.7 There is a seven bar hydrant PVC mains running throughout the prison which complies with the fire brigade’s requirements. Wet risers (fully charged) are installed in the circle of the prison with hoses, valves, keys, etc. to same clearly identified. The hose reels reach the further cells on the landings and there is a further hose reel at the end of the landing which covers the recreation area.
- 9.8 All landings and recreation areas have fire detectors as well as all offices and in the adjoining courthouse, giving a total of 1700 throughout the prison. There are water sprinklers in the clad cells and a smoke sampling system in all of the other cells which activates the alarms when a level of smoke is detected on the lazer. There is also a smoke pressurisation system in the cells which prevents smoke spreading to next cells through the duct work channel.
- 9.9 In the kitchen area there are five electrical supply cut off points, which if activated, cuts off the power immediately. There is a colt ventilation system installed within the roofs of the wings with a major fan on “ D” block which open automatically in the event of an area becoming smoke filled. The opening of these vents can also be carried out manually by operating a switch in the circle.

- 9.10 The fire brigade personnel from Tallaght and Dolphin Barns fire stations have been to the prison on several occasions and are quite familiar with the layout. Both the fire service and the prison service are jointly drawing up a plan of the prison outlining hazards such as E.S.B. supply, oil tanks, gas supply, storage of flammable materials, etc. plus the location of the hydrants, hoses, extinguishers, water tanks, prison block layout with emergency entry and exits. When the plan is completed a copy will be kept at the main gate and if in the event of a fire the plan will be handed to the personnel i/c of the brigade on arrival. The Inspector wants to be kept informed about this plan.
- 9.11 Regarding electric lighting in the event of a disturbance, there is a separate system (circuit) which is activated in the event of the other normal supply being cut off. On checking the emergency lighting and evacuation light from the wings of the prison recently the Chief Trades Officer discovered that the light failed after a short period of time. They are intended to last up to three hours duration. A survey was carried out by N.E.L. (National emergency lighting) in September and they confirmed a failure in the system which was caused by substandard electrical equipment installed and failure in the battery back-up. The request to have this equipment replaced has been forwarded to Building Division Section, at Santry for financial approval. The Inspector wishes to be kept informed about the progression of this matter.

10. MEDICAL SERVICES

- 10.1 The prison has one full time doctor and two part time daily. There is a dentist who attends the clinic within the prison three mornings per week. There are three psychiatrists one of whom attends three afternoons per week plus a community psychiatric nurse who attends the prison after the psychiatrist's clinic for a follow up on the psychiatrist's recommendation. The dietician and optician attend the prison on request. There are sixteen nurses attached to the prison.
- 10.2 The Prison Medical Staff operate a sixteen day detoxification programme for those prisoners committed who have a drug dependency problem. If a prisoner is committed who is on a methadone programme on the outside, then that programme is continued in the prison.
- 10.3 The normal medical practice (GP) is conducted within the prison clinic and for any further investigation or treatment that may be required by a prisoner which cannot be provided within the prison, he is then transferred to an outside hospital.

11. THE VISITORS CENTRE

- 11.1 All prison visitors must present at the visitors centre and be processed to visit a prisoner. The station is manned by two prison officers who take particulars with regard to the prison visitor and the prisoner to be visited. This area works in co-operation with a station within the main prison in the processing

of all visits and on inspection from a security point of view would seem to be adequate.

- 11.2 The visitors centre itself is a bright modern building and apart from the officers who work in the processing of prison visits the rest of the complex is operated by staff from the Society of St. Vincent De Paul and the Quakers, who provide tea and coffee free of charge to all prison visitors which is served in a very clean and relaxed environment. It is also family friendly with a childrens play area which is to be further developed in the near future and this is to be encouraged.
- 11.3 Unfortunately the staff identified a problem with drug abuse within the centre and the main problem areas being the ladies and gents toilets which are being used by abusers to inject heroin. The Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention would strongly recommend a change in the lighting system in all toilet areas within the visitors centre by way of removing the normal fluorescent lighting which is there at present and it being replaced by special blue coloured bulbs which makes it more difficult for a drug abuser to see their veins.
- 11.4 The Inspectorate interviewed a number of the prisoner's visitors who were waiting within the visitors centre for their visits and the general consensus was positive. They said they found staff most helpful and co-operative and the service being provided by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul and the Quakers was very good and helpful to them in the circumstances of having to visit a prison. The manager of the Prisons Visitors Centre outlined her fears of reduction in the funding of their three prison centres and felt that their services were not on top of the list of priorities when finances are being allocated by the Prisons Financial Control Section.

12. PROBATION AND WELFARE

- 12.1 The Inspectorate had a meeting with the senior Probation and Welfare Officer with the responsibility for the prison and according to him the workload requires additional staff. The Inspectorate felt that additional staff may help as there were complaints from prisoners that they could not get to see a Welfare Officer. He also felt that the Probation and Welfare should be put on a statutory basis.
- 12.2 The Probation and Welfare Officer who provides reports on persons for the local Cloverhill Courthouse is based in Ballyfermot and is not part of the Prison Welfare Officer team. The Inspector considers it may be more appropriate if such Welfare Officer were part of the Welfare Team within the prison due to the uniqueness of the prison being one for remand prisoners.

13. ETHNIC MINORITIES

- 13.1 Attention was drawn to the increase in the number of ethnic minority prisoners detained in the prison. Some of whom come from an entirely different culture to the Irish, an example being, the Chinese who had difficulty with potatoes being on the menu. As a result of the Inspector's recommendations a minor issue was resolved by way of replacing the potatoes with rice. This situation was rectified immediately on identification to Governor Kane. On a return visit Eastern Europeans complained that they like rice too but only the Chinese got it. The Governor cannot win! The Inspector understands that rice is now available to all who want it.
- 13.2 We were informed by the Governor, Staff, and the Probation and Welfare Service that there was no evidence of racial difficulties within the prison. However, other sources were not of the same opinion. Indeed the Inspector is satisfied that there is racism in the prison mainly from Irish prisoners who refer to others as "Chinks" and "Niggers". There was also evidence of racism among non nationals towards dark skinned people. There is a policy within the prison in keeping non nationals in a designated wing which is shared with young Irish offenders. This policy allows prisoners of the same nationality to integrate together. In this way they can communicate with one another and feel more comfortable within their own particular unit.
- 13.3 *Asylum Seekers*

Detainees should not be kept in prison when they have committed no offence, save trying to get into Ireland and take up Irish Citizenship eventually. Is that such a serious crime that they have to be locked away in prison for long periods of time before they know whether the authorities will allow them to stay or not?

14. PROTECTION UNIT

- 14.1 The inspection team were informed that a prisoner protection policy is in place and that on average seventeen to twenty prisoners would be housed in this division for various reasons. On the 2nd floor of this unit and on either side of the landing there is a security side and a vulnerable side. The vulnerable side deal with prisoners who would have inflicted self harm and could be a suicide risk. The other side would hold high security risk and protection prisoners
- 14.2 In this area there is also two cladded cells and two unfurnished cells. On questioning, officers informed us that a prisoner could not be placed in a cladded or unfurnished cell without the authorisation of a supervising officer and the prisoner must be examined by a nurse officer on arrival at a special cell (it is the procedure that a nursing officer must be present at the time of the prisoners placement in the cell). The form to be completed for this procedure is "the removal relocation form AH390". On examination, it would appear to be adequate to prevent any misuse of the procedure as laid down,

but the Inspector would recommend one amendment at Section 2 of the form. The time the prisoner was examined by the nurse/medical orderly should also be recorded by the examining officer.

15. RECOMMENDATIONS.

- 4.3. **Illegal drugs being thrown over the boundary wall....Support by Irish Prison Service to Governor in their prevention. (Finance, Building & Equipment etc.)**
- 4.4. **Lack of background information on prisoners on committal.... Irish Prison Service to pursue meetings with the Gardai & Courts Service to resolve this problem.**
- 4.5. **Prisoners being brought from other prisons That the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform amend the legislation to allow for warrants to be made out to the Irish Prison Service and not individual prisons or Minister signs transfer orders, which power he already has.**
- 5.1. **Amend the Criminal Justice Act 1960 to allow remand prisoners to be granted temporary release in special circumstances....The Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform amend the Act accordingly.**
- 6.3. **Juveniles should not be mixed with adult prisoners.... Juveniles if at all possible should not be sharing cells with adult prisoners and should be kept separated as far as possible (exception being a family member).**
- 6.6. **That all committals to the prison receive a physical medical examination by the doctor....This practice should be implemented immediately and the Irish Prison Service to pursue same.**
- 7.1. **Education....The opening of the new educational facility as soon as possible.**
- 8.1. **Activities....Additional activities to occupy the prisoners' time and reduce boredom.**
- 9.3. **Fire vulnerability study....Its recommendations to be implemented by the Irish Prison Service as soon as possible.**
- 9.11. **Equipment replaced....Its replacement as recommended as soon as possible.**

- 11.3. Fluorescent lighting in the toilets of the visitors' waiting room....**To be replaced by blue lighting as soon as possible.**
- 12.1. The Probation & Welfare Service to be placed on a statutory basis....**To be considered by the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform.**
- 12.2. The Probation and Welfare Officer with responsibility for servicing Cloverhill Courthouse to be part of the Probation & Welfare Officers Team within the prison....**To be considered by the Head of Probation Service.**
- 13.3. Asylum seekers not to be held in prison while awaiting decision regarding Irish citizenship....**That such applicants should be detained elsewhere.**
- 14.2. Removal relocation form (AH390)....**That the time of examination by the nurse/medical orderly should also be recorded on the form**

16. CONCLUSIONS

In general, it was a clean and bright prison and there was no obvious evidence of low morale among the staff and there appeared to be good rapport between the prisoners and officers. All of the officers who were dealing with the Inspectorate were most helpful and co-operative and went out of their way to provide whatever information that was requested.

The high level of applications from staff for transfer (150) to other prisons was a cause of concern to the Inspectorate. However, this is probably due to the geographical location of the prison where officers are seeking transfers to be nearer their homes and do not wish to reside in the greater Dublin area. The other aspect is the duty roster situation where a considerable number of officers are operating on a 5 day Monday to Friday duties and thereby cannot avail of the additional allowances for working at weekends or nights. This, of course does not exclude them from working overtime.

The cell accommodation where 3 prisoners reside appears to be too small for that number of people. There are two bunk beds alongside one wall while on the opposite wall a third bed is attached. Underneath the 3rd bed, there is a table which the 3 prisoners must share. It is a most unsatisfactory arrangement where prisoners have to eat their meals directly underneath a bed. (In some cases the 3rd prisoner remains in his bed while his other two cell mates eat their meals underneath him.) Contents from the bed can fall into the meals which is most unhygienic. Despite the fact that it is a new modern prison, there seems to be a definite problem regarding ventilation in the cells. The cells should not be used above capacity and should be segregated between smokers and non smokers. The Inspector would query whether these three person cells comply with the safety and health regulations or indeed common sense.

Any new prison building plans should be designed for single cell occupancy save where otherwise dictated for medical reasons or for family reasons.

