

2016-17

Irish Penal Reform Trust Annual Review and Financial Statement

About IPRT

Who we are

The Irish Penal Reform Trust is Ireland's leading independent charity campaigning for a penal system that is just and humane; protects and promotes human rights, equality and social justice; and uses prison as a last resort.

What we do

IPRT publishes a wide range of policy positions and research documents; we campaign vigorously across a wide range of penal policy issues; and we have established IPRT as the leading independent voice in public debate on the Irish penal system.

What we have achieved

IPRT's effectiveness over recent years is demonstrated by real achievement in terms of progressive policy change, alongside a deepening of wider public debate around prisons and prisoners, and provision of a key central resource of research and information on prisons and penal reform.

In the last 5 years, key reforms that IPRT's work has contributed to include:

- Strategic Review of Penal Policy, which endorses the principle of imprisonment as a sanction of last resort (2014).
- Chronic prison overcrowding safely reduced by over 10% from 2011 peaks.
- Stopping out reduced to 50 in April 2017, down from 1,000 in 2011.
- The new Cork Prison opened in February 2016, ending stopping out in cramped, shared cells.
- Reduction in numbers held in solitary confinement from 211 in 2013 to 44 in 2017.
- Extension of the Inspector of Prisons' remit to include investigations into deaths in prison custody (2012).
- Extension of the Ombudsman for Children's remit to receive complaints from children detained in the adult prison system (2012).
- Legislation introduced to limit the use of imprisonment for failure to pay court-ordered fines (2014).
- Legislation introduced which allows certain minor convictions to become spent after 7 years (2016).
- End of the imprisoning of 16 and 17-year-old boys in the adult prison system, April 2017.

How you can support our work

IPRT relies on individual donations, membership subscriptions and charitable trusts to cover its operational costs. This contributes to guaranteeing the independence of the organisation, which is essential to the integrity of our work. If you value the contribution IPRT has made over recent years, please consider showing your support by becoming a member or making a donation.

Registered charity: CHY 11091

For more information about how you can support the work of IPRT, please visit: www.iprt.ie/what-you-can-do or call us on 01-8741400

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Chairperson's Foreword

Since the publication of our 2015-2016 Annual Report, the Irish Penal Reform Trust has worked through a year of significant changes and developments in the policy and political environment, along with internal changes within IPRT.

Through all of this, IPRT has remained unwavering in the production of high quality, evidence-informed human rights advocacy.

2017 marks the first year of the *IPRT Strategic Plan 2017-2021*. In developing the Plan, IPRT consulted with key stakeholders during 2015. This was done with the dual objective of reflecting on lessons learned and identifying key priorities for the future. After only one year, IPRT has performed well against the defined priorities, as will be outlined throughout this report.

In my 2016 message, I stated that our focus in the years ahead will be to work to advance human rights and equality standards in the penal system. This has been embodied this year by our flagship human rights project *Progress in the Penal System (PIPS)*. IPRT also continues to engage in international monitoring processes, with the goal of protecting human rights for those in contact with the penal system. Owing to our work around both CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) and UNCAT (UN Convention against Torture), we secured strong recommendations from the Committees regarding women in detention, prisoner issues and prison conditions.

To ensure the sustainability of IPRT, we have established a Fundraising and Sustainability Subcommittee, who provide expert advice and insight regarding the fundraising operations of IPRT. We are pleased to say that we

continue to receive funding from both the State and philanthropic sectors. Their commitment to combating social injustice has enabled us to continue to produce high quality campaigns and publications. We look forward to their continued support.

IPRT could not have achieved any of the above were it not for the tireless effort and dedication shown by our staff. On behalf of the Board it is my pleasure to thank the entire staff most sincerely for their dedication and high professionalism. In particular, I congratulate Fíona Ní Chinnéide on her successful transition to Acting Executive Director during Deirdre Malone's absence. She has achieved an extraordinary amount during her time in the role. I would also like to welcome Deirdre back as Executive Director in October 2017.

On my own behalf, and that of the IPRT membership, I acknowledge the work of our Board. I was privileged, once again, to work alongside my Board colleagues: Christine Littlefield, Kevin Gregory, Kathleen Leader, Eddie D'Arcy, Aislinn O'Donnell, Joan O'Flynn, David Perry, Brigid Pike and Niall Walsh. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Vice-chairperson Christine Littlefield, who is stepping down from the Board after many years having undertaken an excellent role and lead on human resources in IPRT. I would also like to express my thanks to Brigid Pike, who is also stepping down, for her contribution to the Board. I wish them both the best in their future endeavours.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to offer my sincere gratitude to the membership of the IPRT for your engagement, commitment and support, including financial contributions. We hope that you will continue to support our valuable work.

In late 2016, everyone at IPRT was deeply saddened by the news of the untimely passing of the Inspector of Prisons, Mr Justice Michael Reilly. Judge Reilly was always very generous in his engagement with IPRT. He was a strong champion of the human rights of those in the prison system and showed consideration for their families on the outside. We would also like to pass on our condolences to the family of T.K Whitaker, who passed away earlier this year. His service to the State has left a legacy, which will endure for years to come. May they rest in peace.



*Seamus Taylor,
Chairperson,
August 2017*

Introduction from the IPRT Acting Executive Director

Welcome to our Annual Review of July 2016 to July 2017.

It has been a year of transitions for IPRT, with a new strategic plan, new funders, new staff, new projects and new opportunities. Throughout these changes, IPRT has maintained its profile, influence and impact on Ireland's penal policy landscape.

Our new 5-year strategic plan for 2017-2021 identifies three strategic priority areas for the organisation to work towards, namely: a just and humane penal policy that uses prison as a last resort; a penal policy that protects and promotes human rights and equality, and strives to achieve best practice; and IPRT as a well-resourced, well-respected and collaborative stakeholder in penal policy in Ireland. Our priority goals are both ambitious and achievable, and we look forward to working towards the achievement of these goals over the next 5 years.

IPRT's sustainability to end 2019 was secured in 2016 through the hard work and determination of Executive Director Deirdre Malone and the Futures Group, a subcommittee of the IPRT Board. In 2016 and 2017, IPRT received State funding for the first time, along with two new donor-advised funds and individual project funding. IPRT has maintained the independence of our voice throughout these changes.

There were a number of changes to the staff team in autumn 2016, including the creation of the new role of Senior Research and Policy Project Manager. This filled a gap in IPRT's capacity that has existed since end 2013, and has increased IPRT's capacity for development of the robust evidence-based policy proposals and submissions that underpin our successful programme of work.

New projects include an exciting new flagship project, *Progress in the Penal System (PIPS)*, in which IPRT has set out 35 standards for the prison system to meet and exceed. Over the next three years, progress towards meeting these standards will be tracked and presented by way of an annual report. The first of these reports will be launched in October 2017.

This Annual Review centres on IPRT's activities and achievements during the period. None of the work could have been achieved without the hard work and commitment of the IPRT staff team, who always go above and beyond what is required. Many thanks to Michelle Martyn, Lorraine Whitty, and Pamela Drumgoole, along with the interns who extended our work throughout the period: Stephen, Aoife, Neil, Aisling, John and Leanne. All of us are really looking forward to the return to the staff team of Executive Director Deirdre Malone, who welcomed her gorgeous baby Dylan in October 2016.

I would like to extend my personal thanks for the warm and unceasing support of all members of the Board of IPRT throughout the period of the Acting Executive Director role. Every single member helped me during the year, but very special thanks are due to Seamus Taylor and Christine Littlefield.

Finally, the quality, professionalism and impact of our work is only made possible by the support of all of our funders, members and Friends – and for this, we are grateful. We again invite you to invite interested colleagues and family members to become a member or Friend of IPRT in 2017-2018, if they have not already done so.



*Fiona Ní Chinnéide,
Acting Executive Director –
August 2017*

Our Vision

IPRT's vision is of a penal system that:

- is just and humane;
- protects and promotes human rights, equality and social justice;
- uses prison as a last resort.

Our Mission

IPRT's mission is to work towards progressive reform of penal policy and practice to achieve a penal system in line with our vision.

Our Values

Our values guide us in how we achieve our mission.

Independent we are fearless in our voice and in our actions	Committed to holding the State to account	Fair we are committed to tackling social injustice	Authoritative we are guided by human rights frameworks and best international standards
Informed our advocacy is based on high quality research and evidence-informed policies	Constructive we are constructive in our work with others in the penal system	Engaged we are mindful of the importance of engaging directly with people in prison and their families	Accountable we are committed to the highest levels of good governance and financial integrity

Our People

Patron of IPRT



Michael D. Higgins
President
of Ireland

Advocates of IPRT



Paula Meehan
Poet



Peter Sheridan
Author and
Director



Ivana Bacik
Senator



John Lonergan
Former Governor
of Mountjoy Prison

IPRT Board of Directors

IPRT is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors, made up of a minimum of seven members with expertise in a range of areas relevant to penal reform. The Board focuses on the broader strategic goals of the organisation. At least seven members of the Board are elected at the organisation's AGM and further members may be co-opted by the Board.



Seamus Taylor
(Chairperson),
Lecturer in Social
Policy, Maynooth
University



Christine Littlefield
(Vice-Chairperson),
PhD candidate,
and former
Director of
Fundraising &
Communications
with Depaul
Ireland



Kevin Gregory
(Treasurer),
Finance & ICT
Manager with
Vita Ireland



Kathleen Leader
(Secretary),
Barrister



Johnny Connolly
(until Sept 2016)
Postdoctoral
researcher,
University of
Limerick



Eddie D'Arcy
CEO of the
Solas Project



Aislinn O'Donnell
Professor of
Education
in Maynooth
University, and
former prison
teacher



Joan O'Flynn
CEO of the
Camogie
Association and
board member
of the Ana Liffey
Drug Project

IPRT Board of Directors continued



David Perry
(from Feb 2017),
Barrister and
lecturer at the
Honorable Society
of King's Inns and
Dublin Institute
of Technology



Brigid Pike
(from Sept 2016)
Researcher,
drugs policy



Niall Walsh
Manager of the
Pathways Centre



Dr Kevin Warner
(to Sept 2016)
Adjunct Lecturer,
and former
Co-ordinator
of Education
in the Irish
prison system

IPRT Staff

In 2016-17, the day-to-day work of IPRT was carried out by a team of four staff.



Deirdre Malone
Executive Director
(maternity leave
from Oct 2016
to Oct 2017)



Fíona Ní Chinnéide
Deputy Executive
Director Acting
Executive Director
(from Oct 2016
to Oct 2017)



Lorraine Whitty
Membership &
Administrative
Officer
Membership &
Communications
Officer (from Oct
2016 to Sept 2017)



Michelle Martyn
Senior Research
& Policy Projects
Manager (from
Nov 2016)



Pamela Drumgoole
Campaigns &
Admin Officer
(from June to
Dec 2017)

IPRT Interns

Our work is supported by a team of dedicated interns, who bring their skills and passion for social justice and penal reform to their work with IPRT.

- **Stephen Byrne** (Jul - Sept 2016)
- **Aoife Hyde** (Aug 2016 – Jan 2017)
- **Neil Rafter** (Sept 2016 – Jan 2017)
- **Aisling Bruen** (Feb – Mar 2017)
- **Pamela Drumgoole** (Jan – May 2017)
- **John Lynch** (Apr 2017 – present)
- **Leanne Digney** (Jun 2017 – present)

In Memoriam: Judge Michael Reilly

The Board and staff of the Irish Penal Reform Trust were deeply saddened at the untimely passing of Ireland's Inspector of Prisons, Judge Michael Reilly on 26th November 2016.



As Inspector, Judge Reilly was unswerving in his commitment to ensuring respect of human rights and dignity in the prison system, and he had a deep compassion for the hardship and challenges faced by families outside.

Judge Reilly was appointed Inspector of Prisons on 21st November 2007, and took up this role on 1st January 2008. In 2009, he set out his expectations for prisons in Ireland by way of his *Standards for the Inspection of Prisons in Ireland and Standards for the Inspection of Prisons in Ireland - Juvenile Supplement*, which he grounded firmly in national and international human rights law and standards. In 2011, he issued his *Standards for the Inspection of Prisons in Ireland - Women Prisoners' Supplement*, in which he stated that treating women prisoners the same as men "is not tantamount to achieving equality of gender", citing the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

Pictured: Inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly (RIP), speaking at the Launch of IPRT Report 'Improving Prison Conditions by Strengthening the Monitoring of HIV, HCV, TB and Harm Reduction', at the Wood Quay Venue in June 2016. Photo by Derek Spiers.

"the concept of equality means much more than treating all persons in the same way. Equal treatment of persons in unequal situations will operate to perpetuate rather than eradicate injustice".

His 2010 report on *The Irish Prison Population - an examination of duties and obligations owed to prisoners* was important in its assessment of the operational capacities of individual prisons according not only to cell size, but also in relation to the services and regimes (education, training, work) available.

In his examinations, Judge Reilly was rigorous in identifying root causes. In a case study in the 2010 *Guidance on physical healthcare in a prison context*, the Inspector made clear that prison staff were not failing in their duties, and were providing care despite not being trained to deal with these challenges; this situation had arisen because of a lack of spaces in the Central Mental Hospital.

Among his most critical and impactful inspection reports was the 2012 *Report on an Inspection of St Patrick's Institution for Young Offenders*. The report is worth reading in full. In response, then Minister for Justice Alan Shatter announced the closure of that prison.

From 2012, the regular publication of the Inspector's reports on his investigations into deaths occurring in prison custody and shortly after release from prison shone an important light on the day-to-day operations of the prison system,

and the vulnerabilities faced by people on release from prison. While Judge Reilly acknowledged good performance by many staff in these reports, frustration at the failure to implement his recommendations across all prisons was also evident. Another significant report was his overarching review of the *Culture and Organisation in the Irish Prison Service: A Road Map for the Future* (November 2015).

A recurring concern of the Inspector was prisoners' access to a robust and independent complaints mechanism. In his *Review, Evaluation and Analysis of the Operation of the present Irish Prison Service Complaints Procedure* (June 2016) Judge Reilly proposed that prisoners should be entitled to bring complaints before a judicial or other authority, and that authority should be the Ombudsman. This proposal was welcomed by the Tánaiste. His final report, *Review of Prison Healthcare* was published by Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald on 21st February 2017.

Judge Reilly was always very generous in his engagement with the Irish Penal Reform Trust, participating as speaker in many of our events, and attending many, many more. We remain deeply saddened by this loss of a strong champion of the human rights of people detained in prison and of their families outside. On his passing, IPRT shared our sincere condolences to his family, his friends and his colleagues.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Legacy: T.K. Whitaker

8 December 1916 – 9 January 2017

The passing of T.K. Whitaker in January 2017 rightly drew attention to his important role and contribution in many areas of Irish life, including the *Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Penal System of 1985*, which he chaired.

What became known as the 'Whitaker Report' was a wise and comprehensive investigation into a decrepit prison system. It set out clear, progressive and attainable proposals, which would have provided Ireland with a humane and effective way of responding to the problem of crime. Whitaker advocated penal policy "based on the principles of minimum use of custody, minimum use of security, and normalisation of prison life", and emphasised the contribution to crime made by the deficiencies in society.

What would the prison system look like today, had the Whitaker recommendations been implemented? It would have placed us among the best internationally. Here are ten key features of a prison system we would now have, had Whitaker's advice been followed. The gaps between that vision and present reality are very clear.

1) An independent Prisons Authority

The Whitaker Committee was severely critical of the Department of Justice's stewardship of the prison system and advocated "a separate executive agency or board", established by statute, to manage prisons. Reflecting the Committee's focus on helping people, this board was to include "members with experience and competence in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, education, care and social reintegration". Despite political promises, this Board has not been created, and the Department's control of the prison system is as strong today as it ever was.

2) A limited prison population

Seeking to make imprisonment "a last resort", they wanted the number of people in prison reduced through alternatives to custody and higher remission. Making adjustments for demographic changes, the Whitaker upper limit for the number in prison would today be about 2,300 – far below the actual present level of some 3,700.

3) Smaller Prisons

The Whitaker Committee understood that smaller institutions facilitate "better prisoner/staff relationships and a more constructive life for prisoners". They suggested a maximum size of 100. Today, seven of Ireland's 13 prisons hold more than 200, and the Midlands Prison has more than 800. Overcrowding, more severe confinement and restrictions to services tend to be features of our larger prisons.

4) Young People

The report devoted a chapter to 'juveniles', meaning those under the age of 21. The report strongly advocates that these young people need liberal regimes with high levels of support and activity. Today, there are no institutions dedicated to the 18 to 21 year age-group. Some 200 young men of this age are in closed adult institutions, very often in entirely inappropriate regimes.

5) Single Cells

Whitaker required men and women in prison to have single cells, a stipulation also in the European Prison Rules. However, close to half of all prisoners must share cells currently, including nearly all in the new prison in Cork.

6) “Maximum possible out-of-cell time”

The report saw a minimum of 12 out-of-cell hours each day as one of the “basic living conditions” that should pertain for prisoners. Very few are allowed that today, six or seven hours being the norm. Many are in regimes that are even more restricted.

7) Visiting arrangements

“Liberal visiting arrangements with minimum of supervision (especially of family visits) and maximum allowance of personal contact” was another “basic living condition”. Although such humane conditions are generally available to prisoners in other countries, nothing approaching this requirement is allowed in Irish prisons.

8) “Personal development of prisoners”

Whitaker required prisoners to have “access to ordered activity” such as education, work and welfare services, to enable them “not merely to survive but to return to society better equipped”. Education was seen to afford “opportunities to prisoners for increased self-improvement, self-esteem and self-reliance and makes more sense than the unrealistic goal of a reform to be accomplished in three months or three years”. Extensive education continues to be available in prisons, but access is limited in some larger prisons and it is often regarded now as a privilege rather than a right. While there were over 140 in prison studying at third level a decade ago, today there are just 50.

9) Progression

Whitaker envisaged prison regimes giving greater opportunities to people in prison to progress: to engage in meaningful activity, to obtain help with addiction problems, to move to open prisons, to get early release, to receive support in resettlement. Developments in these areas have been patchy at best when set against the numbers held in prison.

10) Open Prisons

The Whitaker Report viewed open prisons as “the best means of minimising the harmful effects of custody”. Open prisons are also widely recognised as facilitating reintegration and better staff-prisoner relations. Yet today they hold only 5% of the Irish prison population (compared to about 12% in the 1980s). Over 40% of their prison populations are in open prisons in Denmark and Norway currently.



Kevin Warner was Board member of IPRT from 2012 to 2016. He was national co-ordinator of prison education from 1979

to 2009. He received a PhD in 2009 for research into Nordic penal policy and now teaches part-time in UCC, UCD and Maynooth University.

Our Strategic Priorities

IPRT is committed to reducing imprisonment, ensuring access to human rights in prisons, and progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies.

The focus of our activities is on: the use of imprisonment, including sentencing policy; alternatives to custody and diversion; and the treatment and rehabilitation of those in detention. All of our work is underscored by our commitment to promoting equality and to combating social injustice.

Following the development of our new Strategic Plan 2017-2021, three strategic priorities have been identified:

01

Progressive Penal Policy

IPRT advocates for a national penal policy that is:

- just and humane,
- promotes effective non-custodial responses to crime, and
- uses prison as a last resort.

02

Humane Penal System

IPRT promotes a national penal system that is:

- humane as experienced by people who are detained,
- protects and promotes human rights and equality, and
- strives to achieve international best practice in formal regimes, daily practices and overall culture.

03

Our Organisation

IPRT ensures that the organisation is a sustainable, well-resourced, respected and collaborative stakeholder in penal policy in Ireland.

Priority 1: Progressive Penal Policy

IPRT advocates for a national penal policy that is: just and humane, promotes effective non-custodial responses to crime, and uses prison as a last resort.

Penal Policy

A key strategic goal of IPRT is to contribute to the development of an Irish penal policy that operates a long-term, system-wide and evidence-informed approach to the causes and contributing factors to offending. On 8th February 2017, IPRT was invited to address the Joint Committee on Justice and Equality on “penal reform, prisons, and sentencing”. IPRT was scheduled to present in the first session, in order to provide a framework within which the Committee would invite other agencies and organisations. This reflects the regard in which the work of IPRT is held. IPRT was represented by Acting Executive Director Fíona Ní Chinnéide and Senior Research & Policy Projects Manager Michelle Martyn.

In our Opening Statement and Priority Penal Policy Directions Paper, IPRT set out our vision for a penal system that is just and humane, that addresses social inequalities, and contributes to safer communities. The wide-ranging meeting addressed: principles of penal reform; bail; alternatives, including community service and restorative justice; progress on the Oireachtas Sub-Committee report on penal reform; sentencing for burglary; victims; addictions treatment in prison; mental health in prison; the role of the media; spent convictions; and much more. The meeting provided a broad platform for the work of the Committee in the area of penal reform.

Mandatory Sentencing

A strategic goal of IPRT is to promote reform of Irish sentencing practice in a number of key areas, including the abolition of mandatory sentencing regimes. Despite recommendations in comprehensive reviews that no new mandatory sentencing schemes should be introduced in Ireland (Law Reform Commission, 2013); Strategic Review of Penal Policy, 2014) such proposals return to public debate periodically.

In February 2017, the *Minimum Custodial Periods upon Conviction for Murder Bill* (2017) [PMB] was introduced at second stage. The Bill seeks to set out in law mandatory minimum custodial periods for life sentences of 25, 30 and 40 years. IPRT engaged directly with Senators and justice spokespersons on this Bill. While IPRT’s advocacy proved successful on this occasion, we were disappointed that mandatory sentencing proposals returned to the agenda in July 2017 by way of the *Criminal Justice (Commission of Sexual Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2017* [PMB], which was subsequently withdrawn but which received approval from the recently appointed Minister for Justice and Equality. The campaign continues.

Parole Reform

An identified key strategic action of IPRT is to engage with the Oireachtas in working towards the creation of an independent Parole Board established on a statutory footing, which functions in a fair, transparent and accountable manner. During 2016 and 2017, IPRT engaged with provisions contained within the *Parole Bill 2016*, a Private Member’s Bill introduced in June 2016 by Fianna Fáil spokesperson on justice, Deputy Jim O’Callaghan T.D.

In August 2016, IPRT drafted an initial submission on the Bill, and on 6th October 2016, Senator Ivana Bacik hosted an All Party Penal Reform Group Briefing Seminar in Leinster House to explore the present Bill and the wider context for parole reform. Speakers were: Deputy Jim O’Callaghan, T.D.; Mr. John Costello, Chairman of the Parole Board; Dr Diarmuid Griffin, Department of Law, NUI Galway; Mr. Thomas O’Malley, Department of Law, NUI Galway & the Irish Sentencing Information System; and Deirdre Malone, IPRT Executive Director. A revised *IPRT Briefing on Parole and Temporary Release of prisoners serving long sentences* was presented as part of the seminar. A closed roundtable meeting with key policy stakeholders followed the seminar, chaired by Dr Mary Rogan.

IPRT continued to engage with the Bill during 2017, and advocates for a strong, independent and robust legislative scheme covering prisoner releases.

Alternatives to Custody

A key strategic goal of IPRT is to advocate for an Irish penal policy that is focused on non-custodial responses to crime, and which has rehabilitation and social integration at its centre. In spring 2017, IPRT commissioned a discussion paper grounded in a longer Irish Research Council/IPRT co-funded doctoral research study, Examining the comparative use, experience, and outcomes of community service orders as alternatives to short prison sentences in Ireland by Dr Kate O'Hara. The paper presents key qualitative findings to support the greater use of alternatives to short-term imprisonment, and includes 20 recommendations on how community service can be better utilised in Ireland. The paper will be launched by way of a prison law seminar in October 2017, along with the doctoral research, with a target audience of key stakeholders including judges, legal professionals, legislators, and probation service practitioners.

Spent Convictions

A key strategic action of IPRT is to promote rehabilitation and social integration as central concerns of Irish penal policy. Effective spent convictions legislation has a major role to play in removing barriers to the reintegration of former offenders and prisoners who have demonstrated that they have moved on from past offending behaviour. Whilst IPRT welcomed the enactment of the *Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions and Certain Disclosures) Act 2016* in April 2016, we consider it so limited that it fails to fulfil its rehabilitative purpose.

IPRT continues to raise this as a key issue in a wide range of fora and communications, including the Annual Social Inclusion Forum 2017, and is engaging with a working group on access to insurance for people with convictions. In 2017, IPRT has also developed an information campaign around the current schemes that exist for the expungement of convictions, with the goal of building support for a review of spent convictions legislation.

IPRT's 2017 campaign on spent convictions is supported by the Community Foundation for Ireland.

Children of Prisoners

During 2017, IPRT has been working as part of an important collaboration led by University College Cork and including the Children's Rights Alliance on the development of a National Advocacy Strategy for children with a parent in prison. Activities included delivery of a video-link presentation on the impact of imprisonment on children and families in Ireland to the International Coalition for Children with Incarcerated Parents in New Zealand (March 2017), travel to Naples in June 2017 for the annual COPE (Children of Prisoners Europe) Conference to discuss best practice ideas at a European level, and consultation with a number of groups, including those working directly with children and their families. A joint event launching this very important strategy takes place 6 September 2017.

Focus On: Improving conditions for people sentenced to life in prison

People serving life sentences make up 11% of the sentenced prison population.

The lengths of time that life-sentenced prisoners spend in prison – the custodial part of their sentence, since they remain on license for the rest of their lives – has increased to an average of 17.5 years in 2015. 26% of current prisoners have spent more than 15 years in prison, and 4% have spent over 30 years in custody. Due to the nature of their sentence, life-sentenced prisoners have the specific risks and needs that should be addressed by prison authorities. Ageing, mental health issues, institutionalisation and hopelessness are just a few of the issues faced by this group. IPRT has particular concerns about the confidence of this group in their ability to make complaints, due to their concerns that it might have negative impact on parole decision-making.

A series of actions towards improving the situation for this cohort of prisoner was undertaken in 2016 and 2017, including:

- Ongoing engagement around the *Parole Bill 2016*, which was introduced by Deputy Jim O’Callaghan TD in June 2016. This included an Oireachtas All Party Penal Reform Seminar, hosted by Senator Ivana Bacik in October 2016. IPRT also engaged with members of the Oireachtas around the *Minimum Custodial Periods upon Conviction for Murder Bill 2017* [PMB] introduced in February 2017, which would have had significant impact on custodial periods of life-sentenced prisoners.
- IPRT submitted its *Preliminary Submission to the IPS Working Group on Life-Sentenced Prisoners* in November 2016. The submission details the specific rights, risks and needs of this group of prisoners in 17 areas ranging from committal and maintaining family contact through to parole processes and release planning. IPRT also met with a group of life-sentenced prisoners in Limerick Prison in November 2017 to discuss key issues, including parole reform and complaints.
- Working in collaboration with Midlands prison staff, the IPRT Preliminary Submission was distributed to the two ‘Living with Life’ groups in Midlands Prison, with an invitation to respond. (One group is made up of ‘ordinary’ prisoners; the other group is of prisoners under protection.) Seven detailed responses were received from current life-sentenced prisoners by letter in December 2016.
- To further facilitate input by prisoners affected, Senior Research & Policy Manager Michelle Martyn led an IPRT team to Midlands Prison in Portlaoise to meet with the two groups of prisoners on 16th January 2017. The team presented on information across a number of relevant areas – families, complaints, and parole. Feedback from the sessions was strong, and invaluable in terms of informing IPRT’s programme of work.
- On 23rd January 2017, IPRT’s Acting Executive Director was invited to chair a meeting between the Probation Service and IPS Psychology Service towards a best practice model of care for life-sentenced prisoners, with emphasis on earlier interventions in the sentence, with sentence planning on committal and not when the first parole review is scheduled.
- In February 2017, the Irish Prison Service invited IPRT to submit its observations and suggested amendments to its *Draft Report on the Sentence Management of Life Sentenced Prisoners*. IPRT welcomed that many of our suggestions from the Preliminary Submission (Nov 2016) had been reflected in this strategy, in particular around maintaining good mental health and strong relationships with children and family. IPRT’s recommendations for clarifications, expansion and improvements were submitted 22nd March 2017.
- The final Report on the Sentence Management of Life Sentenced Prisoners was due to be submitted to the Director General of the Irish Prison Service in April 2017.

Priority 2: Humane Penal System

IPRT promotes a national penal system that is: humane as experienced by people who are detained, protects and promotes human rights and equality, and strives to achieve international best practice in formal regimes, daily practices and overall culture.

Progress in the Penal System (PIPS) Project

In 2016, IPRT secured funding for an innovative 3-year annual flagship project, with the overall objective of providing a comprehensive report on human rights issues in Irish prisons. For the first time, the prevailing situation within Ireland's prisons will be independently tracked, monitored and assessed on an annual basis.

Titled the Progress in the Penal System ('PIPS') project, the project is informed by international and European human rights standards and best practice. IPRT has developed its own set of 35 standards across a number of areas of the prison system, including: conditions, regimes, oversight mechanisms and reintegration. To monitor performance against these standards, indicators have been developed that will be used to evaluate the State's progress over an initial three-year period. Annual reports on progress towards meeting these standards will be published 2017-2019. These reports will act as an advocacy tool for the realisation of human rights and best practice in Ireland's prison system.

Michelle Martyn, IPRT Senior Research and Policy Manager, is leading the design, research and delivery of this publication, with the support and guidance of a Research Advisory Group: Prof Aislinn O'Donnell (Chair), David Perry, Niall Walsh and Prof Ian O'Donnell. The first annual PIPS report will be launched in October 2017.

The PIPS Project is supported by the Community Foundation for Ireland.

Children in Detention

St Patrick's Institution was finally closed and its name "consigned to history", as recommended by the late Inspector of Prisons, on 7th April 2017. This followed the signing on 30th March 2017 of a Ministerial Order ending the sentencing of children to adult prison in Ireland. These were the final important steps towards ending the damaging practice of placing children in adult prisons in Ireland. Since 1994, IPRT had played a central role in maintaining pressure on Government to address this serious breach of international human rights standards.

However, a number of serious incidents on Oberstown Children Detention School Campus in 2016 gave rise to serious concerns. IPRT joined with the Children's Rights Alliance and other concerned stakeholders to meet with the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in September 2016 in order to communicate our concerns and advocate for best practice on Campus. In November 2016, IPRT sought an opportunity to submit to the Operational Review undertaken by independent experts Prof Nick Hardwick and Prof Barry Goldson. IPRT co-ordinated a joint civil society submission, with input from the Children's Rights Alliance, Barnardos, EPIC and the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, submitted on 1st December 2016.

IPRT continues to engage with all stakeholders to ensure that the number of children detained on remand is reduced; that adequate staff training and resources are made available at Oberstown to ensure standards of safety and excellence; and that the use of single separation or isolation is an exceptional measure, used only as a last resort, and for the shortest time possible.

Older People in Prison

Older people in prison are a particularly vulnerable group, and they face a wide range of issues that are different from those faced by the general prison population. On 30th September 2016, the eve of U.N. International Day of Older Persons, IPRT launched a new report: *“In here, Time Stands Still” – the rights, needs and experiences of older people in prison*. The report makes key recommendations as to how the Irish Prison Service can meet these needs, based on best practice examples and on the recommendations of the research participants and professional stakeholders. The report is based on research commissioned by IPRT and conducted by Joanna Joyce and Dr Tina Maschi.

The launch took place in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin 8. Speakers were: Senator David Norris, who launched the report; Joanna Joyce, co-author of the report; Justin Moran, Head of Advocacy and Communications, Age Action Ireland; Patrick Gageby SC, who examined the issues from a legal perspective.

Significant practical and ethical challenges surround the continued detention of these people presents for prison staff and for other prisoners. On publication of the report, IPRT called for a wider national debate about the appropriateness of detaining old and seriously ill people in a prison environment, particularly those living with dementia or other terminal illnesses.

The St Stephen’s Green Trust supported this research project.

Closure of the Training Unit

IPRT welcomes initiatives by the Irish Prison Service to better support rehabilitation of prisoners, including the introduction of Independent Living Skills Units in Wheatfield Place of Detention. In this context, IPRT regrets the closure of the Training Unit semi-open facility in May 2017. In March and April 2017, IPRT engaged directly with a number of key stakeholders, including Irish Prison Service and Campus management on the proposals, and sought clarifications and assurance for the current residents of the Training Unit. IPRT developed a briefing grounded in stated policy commitments, which was submitted to the Tánaiste and the Implementation Oversight Group of the Strategic Review of Penal Policy.

It is IPRT’s position that a semi-open regime cannot be provided for within Mountjoy West (former St Patrick’s Institution) and that until alternative semi-open or open facilities are made available in the Dublin area, it would be preferable to make improvements to structure and management to keep the Training Unit open in the short-term. IPRT is particularly concerned at the impact on prisoners approaching the end of long sentences who were transferred back to the closed prison estate. IPRT continues to engage on these issues.

Engagement with CEDAW

In January and February 2017, IPRT engaged with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in advance of their examination of Ireland's sixth and seventh periodic reports on issues relating to women in prison. IPRT made a submission to the UN Committee, along with submissions to the National Women's Council of Ireland shadow report and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission consultation. Senior Research & Policy Project Manager Michelle Martyn travelled to Geneva as part of a delegation of Irish NGOs to engage directly with the CEDAW Committee.

As a response to IPRT's advocacy work, Ireland received a number of strong and incisive questions relating to women in prison. Recommendations to the Irish State by the Committee following Ireland's hearing focused on overcrowding, the inadequate prison complaints system, and the over-representation of Traveller women in the criminal justice system.

Commitments to women in the criminal justice system were subsequently included in the *National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020*, launched on 3rd May 2017 by Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald. The Strategy includes: an overall commitment by Government Departments, State Agencies and partners to implement the *Joint Probation Service Irish Prison Service Strategy: an Effective Response to Women Who Offend 2014-2016*; commitment to implementation of relevant recommendations made by the Strategic Review of Penal Policy Group (2014) towards addressing the "improved health, wellbeing and rehabilitation of women offenders"; and a commitment by the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service to open a step-down facility by the first quarter of 2018 for women leaving prison. IPRT will now use these recommendations to leverage further reforms for vulnerable women in the criminal justice system.

The Community Foundation for Ireland supported IPRT's CEDAW campaign work in 2017.

UNCAT

The UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) is one of the most important tool for achieving penal reforms in Ireland. IPRT's engagement with the UN Committee against Torture in advance of Ireland's first periodic review in 2011 led to Government commitments on ending imprisonment of children in St Patrick's Institution; abolishing slopping out in prisons; a reduction in chronic overcrowding in prisons; and more. For Ireland's second periodic review under UNCAT, which took place on 27 and 28 July 2017, IPRT's objective was to secure equally strong and realisable commitments on: prison monitoring and inspection; prison healthcare services, including measures to transfer people with serious mental health issues out of prison; reductions in the use of solitary confinement; and more.

In June 2017, IPRT held a closed consultation with external stakeholders working with prisoners and ex-prisoners. Chatham House Rules applied so that participants could speak freely. The insights and contributions informed IPRT's submission to the UN Committee against Torture in advance of the hearing (26 June 2017); a short briefing paper on the OPCAT; and IPRT's oral presentation to the UN Committee on 26 July 2017. IPRT also commissioned a number of discrete briefings arising from the UNCAT research on: ratification of OPCAT; prisons inspections; and solitary confinement. These will inform future engagement with policy makers.

Acting Executive Director, Fíona Ní Chinnéide travelled to Geneva as part of a delegation of Irish NGOs to engage directly with the UN Committee against Torture. IPRT participated in both an informal and a formal session with the Committee members, fielding a number of questions from the country Rapporteurs. A short briefing document summarising key recommendations and additional information updates was disseminated directly to the UN Committee. Updated figures in relation to violence, the use of control and restraint, solitary confinement, prison health and the detention of people who are mentally unwell, were used by the Committee during the hearing.

IPRT's strong engagement with the Committee resulted in detailed and incisive questions to the State on prisons. Information from the IPRT submission was read out by the Rapporteur during the session, which demonstrates the weight attached to the quality of IPRT's work. The Concluding Observations of the UN Committee against Torture are due to be published on Friday 11th August 2017.

IPRT is very grateful to Community Foundation for Ireland for supporting our UNCAT campaign work in 2017.

Ratification of the OP-CAT

A strategic action of IPRT is to campaign for the positive transformation of systems of accountability and governance of the penal system in the area of inspection, complaints and monitoring. A key objective is ratification of the OPCAT (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture), which Ireland signed in October 2007. OPCAT provides for preventative oversight and inspection of all places of detention through the establishment of a National Preventative Mechanism (NPM).

In February and May 2017, IPRT provided feedback to the Department of Justice and Equality on proposed models of inspectorates towards the establishment of an NPM. This included submission of the *IPRT Discussion Paper on ratification of the OPCAT and the establishment*

of an NPM and IPRT Observations on Department of Justice & Equality Revised Inspectorate Options Paper.

Ratification of OPCAT was a central concern in IPRT's engagement with the UNCAT (see above) and forms the centre of a public information online campaign, for launch autumn 2017. The campaign aims to build a groundswell of support for ratification through raising awareness about the importance of oversight of all places of detention: secure children's homes, psychiatric units, Garda stations, pre-trial detention facilities – wherever people are deprived of their liberty in Ireland.

The Community Foundation for Ireland supported IPRT's OPCAT campaign work in 2017.

Focus On: Solitary Confinement in Prisons in Ireland

Since 2013, IPRT has campaigned against the practice of solitary confinement – defined as social isolation in a cell for 22 or more hours per day – in Irish prisons due to its significant negative physical and psychological effects.

Since IPRT's campaign began in July 2013, the numbers held on solitary confinement have been regularly published by the Irish Prison Service, with the numbers locked up for 22 or more hours per day reduced from 211 men to 44 men in April 2017.

However, IPRT remains seriously concerned about the lengths of time that individuals are held in solitary confinement, with 24 men so held for more than 100 days in Jan 2016, including 9 for more than 1 year. In line with international recommendations and standards, IPRT advocates for isolation to be a measure of last resort, for the shortest time possible.

In Nov 2016, IPRT was awarded grant funding from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission for a research and campaign project, Abolishing Solitary Confinement in Prisons in Ireland. The objective of IPRT's campaign is to bring about an end to the practice of solitary confinement in prisons in Ireland by end 2018.

The project encompasses a research study with a focus on best practice alternatives, and a wider advocacy campaign around its damaging effects. The research is being conducted by a team from Edge Hill University, Liverpool (Dr Agnieszka Martynowicz) and University of Ulster (Dr Linda Moore) and will be delivered in October 2017.

As part of the project, in June 2017 IPRT facilitated a number of high-level meetings with international expert on solitary confinement, Professor Craig Haney. Prof Haney was one of the researchers on the renowned Stanford Prison Experiment in 1971, and his extensive C.V. includes acting as advisor on justice policy to the U.S. Senate and White House under the Obama administration.

Prof Haney travelled to Ireland on the invitation of IPRT from 12th to 16th June 2017, during which time he met with:

- the legal and policy teams of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission;
- the Irish Prison Service Senior Management Team (including the Director General, Governors and Chief Officers, and representatives of the Dept. of Justice & Equality); and
- members of the Select Justice Committee, who will scrutinise the *Prisons (Solitary Confinement) Bill 2016* in autumn 2017.

The meeting with the Irish Prison Service was particularly successful, and had clear objectives of supporting existing reforms underway in the area, and emphasising the importance of absolute minimal use of isolation in prisons. Key messages were that the protection of a person's physical integrity should never be at the expense of their psychological integrity, and that the reasons for prolonged isolation (whether punishment or 'protection') are irrelevant because the negative consequences for the person detained are always the same.

During the meeting, the Irish Prison Service stated its commitment to providing opportunity for 'meaningful human contact', with a deep discussion around what that means. An entitlement of all prisoners to a minimum of 2 hours' out of cell time, which must include an opportunity for meaningful human contact, has since been included in an amendment to the Prison Rules, signed by Minister Charles Flanagan TD on 29 June 2017.

IPRT warmly welcomes the engagement of the Irish Prison Service on this issue, and thanked the Director General and Director of Corporate Affairs for facilitation of the meeting with Prof Haney in June 2017.



Priority 3: Our Organisation

Ensure IPRT is a sustainable, well-resourced, respected and collaborative stakeholder in penal policy in Ireland.

Strategy & Governance

IPRT is committed to transparency and accountability around how we work, achieving the highest standards of governance and compliance.

Strategy

During 2016, Executive Director Deirdre Malone led the development of a new 5-year strategic plan for 2017-2021, in close consultation with the Board. The Strategic Plan 2017-2021 was approved by the Board on 12th December 2016. Three strategic priorities are identified in the Strategy:

- 1 Advocate for a national penal policy that is just and humane, promotes effective non-custodial responses to crime, and uses prison as a last resort.
- 2 Promote a penal system that is humane as experienced by people who are detained, protects and promotes human rights and equality, and strives to achieve international best practice in formal regimes, daily practices and overall culture.
- 3 Ensure IPRT is a sustainable, well-resourced, respected and collaborative stakeholder in penal policy in Ireland.

Governance

IPRT achieved full compliance with the Governance Code - a Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland in 2014. IPRT is registered with the Companies Registration Office (CRO Number 21844) and with the Charities Regulatory Authority (CHY Number 11091), and meets all requirements to file returns to the Register of Lobbying. We are committed to complying with the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

Board of Directors

At the AGM in September 2016, Johnny Connolly and Dr. Kevin Warner stepped down from the Board. Both Johnny and Kevin were thanked for their enormous contribution to IPRT over many years, and both received honorary lifetime membership of IPRT. David Perry BL was co-opted to the Board in February 2017.

Patrons

President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, is Patron of IPRT. Our work is also supported by IPRT Advocates: poet Paula Meehan, author and director Peter Sheridan, Senator Ivana Bacik, and former Governor of Mountjoy Prison, John Lonergan.

Staff and Internships

IPRT's Executive Director Deirdre Malone went on maternity leave in October 2016, with Deputy Director Fíona Ní Chinnéide stepping into the role of Acting Executive Director from 15th October 2016. To ensure online communications were maintained during the period, IPRT Membership and Administrative Officer Lorraine Whitty moved into the role of Membership and Communications Officer from October 2016. Both Fíona and Lorraine will return to their previous roles when Deirdre returns to IPRT mid-October 2017. Michelle Martyn joined IPRT on 7th November 2016 in the new role of Senior Research and Policy Project Manager, and Pamela Drumgoole took up the temporary role of Campaigns and Administration Officer on 7th June 2017.

IPRT's work was greatly supported by interns during the period. Stephen Byrne filled the summer internship placement in July/August 2016, with Aoife Hyde joining IPRT from August 2016 to January 2017, and Neil Rafter worked with us from Sept 2016 to January 2017. Ashling Bruen worked with IPRT February and March 2017, and Pamela Drumgoole joined IPRT on an internship programme with NUI Maynooth February to May 2017. Our current interns are John Lynch, who joined IPRT in May, and Leanne Digney who joined in June 2017.

IPRT Office

IPRT ensures that robust levels of organisational systems, structures and practices are in operation to ensure sustainable organisation and high quality place of work for staff. Performance reviews are conducted on a quarterly basis with all staff, with performance objectives agreed collaboratively. In 2017, improvements to the office environment included a new telephone system, upgraded software and hardware, and re-organisation of the office layout. In 2018, IPRT's membership and administrative capacity will be further streamlined through the implementation of a new database management system.

Finance

IPRT is committed to ensuring that the organisation's finances are managed to the highest standard, and in line with established accounting practices.

Since 2015, IPRT has produced FRS 102 SORP compliant accounts. The FRS 102 requirements relating to the trustees' annual report, fund accounting, the format of the statement of financial activities and additional disclosures are aimed at providing a high level of accountability and transparency to donors, funders, financial supporters and other stakeholders. The 2015 accounts, prepared by Best Practice Accountant - Chartered Accountants (Mary-Louise O'Loughlin ACA) were approved at the IPRT AGM in September 2016, and submitted to the Companies Registration Office. The 2016 accounts are for approval at the IPRT AGM in September 2017.

An independent audit is conducted each year by the auditors who bring to the attention of the board through the finance committee any matters of concern. Our registered auditors are Anne Brady McQuillans DFK. DFK are authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and with the Irish Taxation Institute and PCAOB (Public Company Accounting Oversight Board). The auditors are also invited each year to the AGM of the IPRT.

IPRT has a full written finance policy with protocols (available on request) in place in relation to the respective roles of Finance Committee, Executive Director, and Treasurer; the handling and management of petty cash, donations and membership, and grants; and retention of financial documentation. In line with the IPRT expenses policy, all expenditure must be vouched for and approved by the Executive Director, or in the case of the Executive Director's expenses must be approved by the Chairperson. The Finance Committee of the IPRT Board consults in advance of each Board meeting, approximately six times per annum.

Fundraising and Sustainability

The sustainability of IPRT for the period 2017-2019 was secured in 2016 by Executive Director Deirdre Malone, with the guidance and support of the Futures Group. IPRT's funding base now comprises two separate sources of State funding, two significant donor-advised funding streams, along with project grants, membership and donations. This represents a shift in our funding base from two major philanthropic funders, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and The Atlantic Philanthropies, to a more diverse funding base, including public funding.

State Funding

In July 2016, IPRT secured multi-annual grant funding from the Department of Justice for three years. IPRT was also awarded Pobal funding under the Scheme to Support National Organisations in the Community and Voluntary Sector 2016-2019. This combined funding represents an annual core grant of approximately €190,000 per annum and covers core costs of the organisation, including core staff and office costs. It is important to note here that IPRT's continuing independence is recognised by all funders as essential to the integrity of our work.

Philanthropic Funding

Funding from both the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and The Atlantic Philanthropies ended in December 2016. IPRT is most grateful to both funders for their significant investment in IPRT and penal reform over many years, without whose core funding the organisation could never have achieved such significant reforms.

In 2016, IPRT secured two anonymous donor-advised fund commitments of €150,000 and €180,000 over the next 3 years, matched with two Impact Grant commitments of €36,000 and €33,000, through the Community Foundation for Ireland. One of these grants covers a new 3-year role in IPRT of Senior Research & Policy Manager. Grant funding from the St. Stephen's Green Trust of €10,000 supported core costs, including sustainability and expert facilitation in 2016 and 2017. IPRT also received in-kind support from the Public Interest Law Alliance and the Bar of Ireland Voluntary Advice Service.

Project Funding

In October 2016, IPRT was awarded a research grant from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission of €18,750, and in January 2017 IPRT received a campaign grant of €9,830 from the Community Foundation for Ireland for an information campaign on Spent Convictions.

Membership & Friends of IPRT

In November 2015, IPRT launched the 'Friends of IPRT' scheme. Friends of IPRT pledge annual support of €250 or more per year for a 3-year period. We have 33 Friends of IPRT in July 2017, and plan to grow the network to 100 members over the coming years. IPRT would like to warmly thank Giollaíosa Ó Lideadha SC who continued to provide us with invaluable practical support on this initiative.

Sustainability

Arising from the success of the Futures Group, a Funding & Sustainability Subcommittee of the IPRT Board of Directors has been established to continue the work towards sustainability beyond 2019. Its first meeting took place on 31st January 2017. Duties of the Subcommittee include, inter alia, supporting the Executive Director in developing the fundraising strategy; monitoring and evaluating the strategy once adopted; and supporting the Executive Director to achieve its objectives. A Fundraising & Sustainability Strategy for 2017-18 has been developed with oversight by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee meets 2 weeks in advance of every IPRT Board meeting.

Financial Statement

Supplementary information relating to the financial statements.
Schedule 2: charitable activities and other expenses.

		2016(€)	2015 (€)
For the year ended 31 December 2016	Expenses		
	Wages and salaries	164,144	168,502
	Social security costs	17,389	17,881
	Staff training	536	2,598
	Human resources	180	90
	Rent and utilities	7,908	7,907
	Insurance	1,178	1,236
	Office equipment	28	601
	Cleaning	282	416
	Repairs and maintenance	63	—
	Stationery	2,261	1,440
	Postage	763	617
	Courier	140	98
	Marketing and advertising	404	65
	Website and social media	3,026	3,890
	Prisoner engagement and building alliances	1,324	643
	Commissioned research	1,250	4,140
	Events	2,243	7,698
	Sponsorship and awards	225	530
	Telephone and broadband	2,340	2,811
	Computer hardware and software	342	1,124
	IT support	475	3,864
	Postgraduate funding (IRC) expenses	—	709
	Rights and needs of LGBT prisoners (CFI) expenses	2,118	3,200

	2016(€)	2015 (€)
Expenses		
Human rights in prisons (CFI) expenses	277	—
Turnaround Youth: Youth in the criminal justice system (The Ireland Funds) expenses	4,986	5,514
Rights and needs of older prisoners (SSGT) expenses	6,948	—
Travellers in prison initiative (SSGT) expenses	—	3,567
Children Behind Bars (EC) expenses	470	24
Prison Litigation Network (EC) expenses	5,981	—
Infectious Diseases (EC) expenses	1,092	8,000
Alternatives to Detention (EC) expenses	—	18
Solitary confinement (IHREC) expenses	91	—
Publications and reports	9,780	2,978
Evaluation and sustainability	6,000	1,600
Staff travel	3,399	1,706
Other staff expenses	247	—
Meetings	988	862
Volunteer and intern expenses	619	351
Board expenses	1,012	1,609
Legal and professional	669	2,400
Accountancy	3,752	2,696
Audit fees	3,700	3,880
Bank charges	304	338
General expenses	508	1,832
Membership and subscriptions	553	478
Total	€259,995	€267,913

Communications

The importance of IPRT as an independent voice in public debate was clear over the 12 months. IPRT consistently engages with tough issues in the media.

Our everyday challenge is to challenge the demonization of offenders and uninformed commentary in the public sphere. Through the combined use of social and traditional media, IPRT extends the reach of our core messages, to engage more widely with the issues at stake and those affected.

Media

IPRT maintained its strong media profile during 2016 and 2017, with appearances on a broad range of national and local media. Traditional media engagement included several interviews on RTÉ's Drivetime, Six-One, and Nine News; Newstalk FM's Pat Kenny Show, Moncrieff, The Right Hook and Newstalk News; along with regional radio, including Kildare FM, WLR FM (Waterford), East Coast Radio (Wicklow) and Castlebar CRC. IPRT comment appeared in The Irish Times, Irish Examiner, Irish Independent, and The Times (Ireland edition), along with regular inclusion in online news outlets thejournal.ie and Irish Legal News.

Website & Online Presence

IPRT proactively uses social media tools to extend our audiences, foster wider debate, and nurture international relationships with prison reform movements around the world. The IPRT website is maintained as central source of information and updates on penal reform for media, policy-makers, researchers and other key stakeholders.

- www.iprt.ie
- www.twitter.com/iprt
- www.facebook.com/irishpenalreformtrust
- www.flickr.com/photos/irishpenalreformtrust

E-bulletins

Six editions of the IPRT e-bulletin were issued during the period.

Media Releases

- *Oberstown Management and Trade Unions must resolve issues urgently to ensure duty of care to children is not undermined* (30 August 2016)
- *IPRT calls for national debate on appropriateness of prison for older people with serious health needs* (30 September 2016)
- *IPRT welcomes deferral of industrial action at Oberstown* (23 December 2016)
- *Ireland's unequal treatment of women in the criminal justice system raised with the U.N. by IPRT* (14 February 2017)
- *Ministerial Order to end sentencing of children to adult prison "momentous"* (30 March 2017)
- *IPRT welcomes reduction in prison committals but repeats its calls for stronger systems of prison oversight* (15 May 2017)
- *IPRT welcomes National Drugs Strategy recommendations on criminal convictions and alternative sanctions* (17 July 2017)
- *IPRT highlights lack of mental health services in Irish prisons ahead of UN Committee hearing* (25 July 2017)
- *UN Torture Committee puts tough questions on prison issues to Irish Government* (27 July 2017)

Research and Policy

IPRT's advocacy work is informed by our comprehensive research and evidence-led policies. Our published research and policy papers are available at: www.iprt.ie/research-centre

Policy Submissions

- *IPRT Submission to the Cross Grade Working Group of the Consultation of The Statement of Strategy for The Department of Justice and Equality* (Sept 2016)
- *Preliminary Submission to the Irish Prison Service Working Group on Life-Sentenced Prisoners* (Nov 2016)
- *Joint Civil Society Submission to the Operational Review of Oberstown Detention Campus* (co-ordinated and drafted by IPRT) (Dec 2016)
- *IPRT Submission to the Citizens' Assembly on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution* (Dec 2016)
- *IPRT Submission to National Women's Council of Ireland shadow-report on Ireland's performance under CEDAW* (Jan 2017)
- *IPRT Submission to the Department of Justice and Equality Value for Money and Policy Review of Prisoner Escort Services* (March 2017)
- *IPRT Observations and Suggested Amendments to the draft Irish Prison Service Strategy for Management of Life-sentenced Prisoners* (March 2017)
- *IPRT Submission on Closure of the Training Unit* (April 2017)
- *IPRT Observations on Department of Justice & Equality Revised Inspectorate Options Paper* (May 2017)

Oireachtas Submissions

- *IPRT Submission on Penal Policy Directions to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality* (Feb 2017)
- *IPRT Observations on the Minimum Custodial Periods upon Conviction for Murder Bill 2017 [PMB]* (Feb 2017)

Submissions to International Monitoring Bodies

- *IPRT Submission in Advance of the Examination of Ireland's combined sixth and seventh periodic reports under CEDAW* (Jan 2017)
- *IPRT Briefing: Recommendations to the UN CEDAW Committee* (Feb 2017)
- *IPRT Submission to the UNCAT in advance of the Second Periodic Review of Ireland* (June 2017)
- *IPRT Recommendations and Additional Information to inform Ireland's Second Periodic Review of Ireland under the UNCAT* (July 2017)

Research Reports and Briefings

- *IPRT Briefing: Parole and Temporary Release of prisoners serving long sentences* (Oct 2016)
- *"In here, time stands still": Rights, Needs and Experiences of Older People in Prison* (Oct 2016)
- *IPRT Discussion Paper on ratification of the OPCAT and the establishment of an NPM* (Jan 2017)
- *Towards an Innovative, Just, Humane and Effective Penal System – an overview of penal reform priorities 2017-21* (June 2017)

Alliances and Engagement

IPRT's relationships with key agencies and actors in the penal system are fundamental to our ability to influence change. We also increase our impact through working in partnership and in alliance with other organisations to achieve common policy goals.

Constructive Engagement

During the grant period, IPRT engaged directly with the following stakeholders (among many others) on IPRT positions and consultations:

Civil Society

Children's Rights Alliance; Prevention and Early Intervention Network; Mental Health Reform; EPIC (Empowering Children in Care); Dublin Rape Crisis Centre; Victims Rights Alliance; National Women's Council of Ireland; Travellers in Prison Initiative; Free Legal Advice Centres; Public Interest Law Alliance; Irish Council for Civil Liberties; Childhood Development Initiative; Jesuit Centre for Faith & Justice; IASIO; Pathways; PACE.

Statutory

Office of Inspector of Prisons; Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; Ombudsman for Children

State

Irish Prison Service; The Probation Service; Irish Youth Justice Service; Department of Justice and Equality; Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Legislature

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; Minister for Justice and Equality; Joint Committee on Justice and Equality; TDs; Senators.

Academia

Dublin Institute of Technology; Trinity College Dublin; UCD and University of Warwick 'History of Prison Health'; Irish Research Council.

International

UN Committee on CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women); UN Committee against Torture; Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture; Penal Reform International.

Presentations & Consultations

During the period, IPRT delivered more than 20 presentations to key groups and diverse audiences, ranging from policy stakeholders to students. Highlights included: panel participation as part of the 'Ireland and the Council of Europe Today: A Round Table with Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Mr Nils Muižnieks' at the Department of Foreign Affairs (25 Nov 2016); presentation on the Prisoner Family Survey project at the launch of the Family Links evaluation at the Department of Justice and Equality (13 Feb 2017); presentation to the INCCIP International Conference on Children and Families of Prisoners, New Zealand (via Skype, March 2017); seminars on the work of IPRT to new Prison Officer recruits (June 2017); and participation on the Irish Research Council funded LEADERS programme, hosted jointly by TCD and IPRT, which saw leaders of correctional services from the United States and Europe come together in Ireland for learning exchange (14-16 June 2017).

IPRT was invited to participate in more than 10 consultation processes, including the Irish Research Council 'Engaged Research' Consultation (October 2016) and the Department of Justice and Equality civil society consultation in advance of UNCAT (June 2017). Additionally, IPRT hosted a closed UNCAT consultation with 7 stakeholders working directly with prisoners in prison and post-release (21 June 2017).



Top (L-R):

Fiona Ní Chinnéide, IPRT; Raphael O'Keefe, Chief Officer, Irish Prison Service College; and Governor Donnacha Walsh, Mountjoy Prison at the Family Links Evaluation launch, February 2017. Photo: Conor Healy Photography

Bottom (L-R):

Michelle Martyn, IPRT; Saoirse Brady, Children's Rights Alliance; Dr Aisling Parkes and Dr Fiona Donson, University College Cork at the COPE Conference in Naples, Italy in May 2017.

Prisoners and Prisoners' Families

Although IPRT does not follow a service provision model, we regularly receive queries from prisoners and prisoners' families regarding legal or administrative concerns about the prison system.

A vast number of queries received by phone related to people who had previous convictions; the issues highlight the limitations of the current spent convictions legislation, including its impact on accessing certain college courses, as well as concerns at the potential impact of disclosure of convictions to employers. There were also professional queries received related to the practice of solitary confinement. IPRT also received five letters from prisoners concerned at the impact of the closure of the Training Unit.

Further queries raised by prisoners and their families in 2016 and 2017 included: the complaints system for prisoners in Irish prisons; procedures related to transfers to other prisons; issues relating to parole board hearings and recall to prison; prison escort conditions, including the practice of handcuffing as standard; gratuity levels; access to healthcare, including delays in mental health assessments and treatment; invasion of privacy by media; and supports for families of prisoners and access to accommodation for prisoner's post-release.

The lack of a fully independent prisoner complaints mechanism, combined with a lack of advocacy services for prisoners and for their families, remains a serious gap in Ireland

Photo Gallery



1 Fíona Ní Chinnéide, IPRT presenting artwork by a prisoner to former IPRT Board member Dr. Kevin Warner. Photo: Lorraine Whitty



2 Civil Society and NGO Delegation to UNCAT in Geneva, July 2017. Photo: Jane Mulcahy



3 Michelle Martyn, IPRT with Tessa Collins of Pavee Point, attending Ireland's hearing under CEDAW in Geneva in February 2017. Photo: Pavee Point



4 'In Here, Time Stands Still' IPRT report launch, in the Ashling Hotel, September 2016. Photo: Derek Spiers



5 Senator David Norris speaking at the 'In Here, Time Stands Still' IPRT report launch, in the Ashling Hotel in September 2016. Photo: Derek Spiers

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