

PRISON RULES CONSULTATION

Tips for making your submission



DISCUSS IN ORDER

Read through the current *Prison Rules 2007* and list out your recommendations for change in chronological order i.e Part 1, Part 2, etc. You do not need to suggest a change in each part if you do not want to.

You should state in your submission that you have laid it out this way for ease of understanding, not in order of priority.

NOTHING IS TOO MINOR

If you think something should change - no matter how minor you think it is - include it! Explain why you think it needs to change.

If you believe a rule should be taken out or a new rule inserted, include references to give some rationale, where possible.

USE PLAIN LANGUAGE

You do not need to use legal terminology if you are not comfortable doing so. Non-legal language is preferred.

It is more important that you focus your time and energy on highlighting the areas you believe are in need of reform.

POSITIVE OBLIGATIONS

Consider amendments that would support implementation of the *Rules* e.g. inclusion of an obligation to make a record of certain decisions being made, or an obligation to provide resources to support people in prison to comply with specific *Rules*.

This can have positive effects.

CHALLENGE AMBIGUITY

This is an opportunity to challenge ambiguity and caveats.

Be conscious of any existing clauses such as '*in so far as practicable*' or '*at the discretion of the Governor*'. Where you think these caveats should be removed, state it.

Keep the promotion of accessibility and inclusion in mind while drafting your submission.

MEET THE DEADLINE!

The deadline is 30th September at 5pm.

Send your submission by email to prisonrulesreview@irishprisons.ie or by post to:

Prison Rules Review
Irish Prison Service
Ballinalee Road
Co. Longford
N39 A308