

## **Census of Restricted Regime Prisoners April 2014<sup>1</sup>**

The Irish Prison Service Statistics Unit commenced the collation of a quarterly Census of Restricted Regime Prisoners with surveys conducted in 2013 in July and October. Two census surveys have now been carried out in 2014. The first on 14 January 2014 and the most recent on 1 April 2014.

The result of the April Census shows that the number of prisoners on restricted regimes the figures has been a small increase in the overall figure compared to Oct 2013. Figures show that there has been an increase from 263 (October 2013) to **295** (April), an increase of **32 or 14.4%** This however, represents a decrease of 44 (13%) on the figures for July 2013 (**339**)

The figure for those on a restricted regime for protections reasons (**Rule 63**) was **251**, (of which **249** were there at their own request). This represents an increase of 22 on the October 13 figure (229).

The number of prisoners on **22 and 23 hour lock up** was 43 (**23hr – 43, 22hr 0**). This represents a decrease of 92 on the January figure of 135.

**Since the commencement of the Census in July 2013, the number of prisoners on 22/23 hour lock up has decreased by 168 or almost 80% from 211 to 43.**

### **Key Statistics**

- 295 prisoners in total were subject to a restricted regime
- 251 (6.1% of prison population 4,104) prisoners on protection (Rule 63), of which 249 were there of their own request.
- 37 prisoners restricted on grounds of order (Rule 62)
- 1 prisoner restricted due to discipline (Rule 67, Part 3 Prisons Act 2007).

The restriction of a prisoner's regime can occur due to a number of factors including, the protection of vulnerable prisoners. This is provided for under Rule 63 of the Prison Rules 2007. A prisoner may, either at his/her own request or when the Governor considers it necessary, in so far as is practicable and subject to the maintenance and good order and safe and secure custody, be kept separate from other prisoners who are reasonably likely to cause significant harm to him/her.

The fact that prisoners seeking protection are immediately separated from the general population or from specific prisoners identified as presenting a threat, clearly demonstrates the commitment of the Irish Prison Service to ensure their

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<sup>1</sup> The April Census 2014 was revised on 27 February 2015

safety and security. The status of each prisoner on restricted regime within the prison system is regularly reviewed. If possible, prisoners can be transferred to other institutions where a restricted regime would not be necessary.

In addition, the Governor may decide, for the maintenance of good order in the prison, to remove a prisoner from general association or structured activity to reduce the negative effect that a prisoner or prisoners may have on the general population. This is provided for under Rule 62 of the Prison Rules 2007. There may also be a smaller number of prisoners who would be restricted for medical (Rule 64) or discipline reasons (Rule 67).

In July last year, the Director General of the Irish Prison Service established a high level group to look at measures which can be introduced to reduce the number of prisoners currently held on restricted regimes with a view to ensuring that all receive, as a minimum standard, out of cell time of 3 hours per day, to engage in exercise or activity.

**Table 1. Out of Cell time**

Prison	total	No. On 23Hr	No. On 22hr	No. On 21hr	No. On 20hr	No. On 19hr
Arbour Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlerea	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cloverhill	2	2	0	0	0	0
Cork	30	2	0	13	0	15
Dochas	1	1	0	0	0	0
Limerick	69	0	0	62	0	7
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	18	18	0	0	0	0
Mountjoy (M)	75	0	0	5	44	5
Portlaoise	24	0	0	0	0	24
Shelton Abbey	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Pats	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatfield	76	20	0	54	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>53</b>

**Table 2. Reason for Restricted Regime**

Prison	total	Rule 62	Rule 63 V	Rule 63 IV	Rule 64	Rule 67	Other
Arbour Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlerea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cloverhill	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Cork	30	0	27	0	2	1	0
Dochas	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	69	0	69	0	0	0	0
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	18	0	18	0	0	0	0
Mountjoy (M)	75	5	70	0	0	0	0
Portlaoise	24	21	2	0	0	0	1
Shelton Abbey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Pats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatfield	76	10	63	2	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**Note: Definition of Rules**

**Rule 62** Removal on grounds of order

**Rule 63** Protection of vulnerable prisoners – Voluntary

**Rule 63** Protection of Vulnerable prisoners – Involuntary

**Rule 64** Special observations

**Rule 67** Discipline (Part 3 of Prisons Act, Section 13)

**Table 3. 22/23 hour lock up**

Prison	April 2014	January 2014	October 2013	July 2013	Difference Jul13 – Apr14
Arbour Hill	0	0	0	0	0
Castlerea	0	0	0	0	0
Cloverhill	2	0	22	19	-17
Cork	2	7	5	10	-8
Dochas	1	0	0	0	1
Limerick	0	5	3	6	-6
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	18	11	6	10	8
Mountjoy (M)	0	5	43	46	-46
Portlaoise	0	6	19	24	-24
Shelton Abbey	0	0	0	0	0
St Pats	0	0	16	17	-17
Training Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatfield	20	16	21	79	-59
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>-168</b>