

Census of Restricted Regime Prisoners January 2014

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. The first Census for 2014 was carried out on 14 January 2014.

The result of the January Census shows that there has been a further decrease in the total number of prisoners on a restricted regime since October 2013. Figures show that there has been a reduction from **263** (October) to **228** (January), a decrease of **35 or 13.3%** This also represents a decrease of 111 (**32.7%**) on the figures for July 2013 (**339**)

The figure for those on a restricted regime for protection reasons (**Rule 63**) was **201**, (of which **183** were there at their own request). This represents a reduction of **28** on the October figure (229) or **12.0%**

The number of prisoners on **22 and 23 hour lock up** was 50 (**23hr – 44, 22hr 6**). This represents a decrease of **85** on the October figure of **135** (or a **63%** reduction).

Since the commencement of the Census in July 2013, the number of prisoners on 22/23 hour lock up has decreased by 161 or almost 76% from 211 to 50.

Key Statistics

- 228 prisoners in total were subject to a restricted regime
- 201 (5.1% of prison population 3,973) prisoners on protection (Rule 63), of which 183 were there of their own request.
- 17 prisoners restricted on grounds of order (Rule 62)
- 5 prisoners 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 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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cork	26	7	0	0	0	19
Dochas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	59	5	0	9	0	45
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	11	11	0	0	0	0
Mountjoy (M)	45	5	0	0	30	10
Portlaoise	12	0	6	5	1	0
Shelton Abbey	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Pats	12	0	0	3	8	1
Training Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatfield	63	16	0	41	3	3
Totals	228	44	6	58	42	78

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cork	26	0	25	0	0	0	1
Dochas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	59	0	53	3	1	0	2
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	11	2	9	0	0	0	0
Mountjoy (M)	45	5	27	13	0	0	0
Portlaoise	12	6	0	0	0	5	1
Shelton Abbey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Pats	12	3	9	0	0	0	0
Training Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatfield	63	1	60	2	0	0	0
Totals	22	17	183	18	1	5	4

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	January 2014	October 2013	Difference	July 2013	Difference
Arbour Hill	0	0	0	0	0
Castlerea	0	0	0	0	0
Cloverhill	0	22	-22	19	-19
Cork	7	5	2	10	-3
Dochas	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	5	3	2	6	-1
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	11	6	5	10	+1
Mountjoy (M)	5	43	-38	46	-41
Portlaoise	6	19	-13	24	-18
Shelton Abbey	0	0	0	0	0
St Pats	0	16	-16	17	-17
Training Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatfield	16	21	-5	79	-63
Totals	50	135	-85	211	-161

Table 4. Restricted Regime comparison Jan 14 – Oct 13

Prison	23 Hour Lock		22 Hour		21 Hour		20 Hour		19 Hour		Total	
	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct
Arbour Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlerea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cloverhill	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Cork	7	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	19	16	26	25
Dochas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	5	0	0	3	9	0	0	0	45	46	59	49
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6
Mountjoy (M)	5	0	0	43	0	1	30	0	10	0	45	44
Portlaoise	0	19	6	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	12	21
Shelton Abbey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Pats	0	0	0	16	3	0	8	0	1	0	12	16
Training Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
Wheatfield	16	18	0	3	41	54	3	0	3	5	63	26
Totals	44	65	6	70	58	61	42	0	78	67	228	263