

Census of Restricted Regime Prisoners January 2015

The result of the January 2015 Census shows that the number of prisoners on restricted regimes has increased by 3 in the overall figure compared to October 2014. Figures show that there has been an increase from **257** (October 2014) to **300** (January 2015), an increase of 43 or **16.7%**. The number of prisoners on a restricted regime has decreased by 39 or 12% since the introduction of these surveys in July 2013.

The figure for those on a restricted regime for protection reasons (Rule 63) was 278, (of which 264 were there at their own request).

The number of prisoners on **22 and 23 hour lock up** was **57** (23hr – 22, 22hr - 35) which represents an increase of **5** on October 2014. Since the commencement of the Census in July 2013, the number of prisoners on 22/23 hour lock up has decreased by 154 or 74% from 211 to 57.

Key Statistics

- Of the 931 prisoners classified as protection prisoners only 278 had regime restricted.
- 300 prisoners in total were subject to a restricted regime
- 278 (7.5% of prison population 3,661) prisoners on protection (Rule 63), of which 264 were there of their own request.
- 15 prisoners restricted on grounds of order (Rule 62)
- 4 prisoners were 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 2013, 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	11	11	0	0	0	0
Cork	21	1	7	0	0	13
Dochas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	61	0	0	61	0	0
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	29	0	28	0	1	0
Mountjoy (M)	91	3	0	5	0	83
Portlaoise	22	0	0	5	0	17
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	65	7	0	54	0	4
Totals	300	22	35	125	1	117

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	11	1	7	0	2	1	0
Cork	21	0	21	0	0	0	0
Dochas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	61	0	61	0	0	0	0
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	29	1	27	1	0	0	0
Mountjoy (M)	91	7	78	5	1	0	0
Portlaoise	22	6	13	0	0	3	0
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	65	0	57	8	0	0	0
Totals	300	15	264	14	3	4	0

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 - difference

Prison	Jan 2015	Oct 2014	Jul 2014	Apr 2014	Jan 2014	Oct 2013	Jul 2013	Difference Jul13 – Jan15
Arbour Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlerea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cloverhill	11	5	1	2	0	22	19	-8
Cork	8	4	6	2	7	5	10	-2
Dochás	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Limerick	0	0	2	0	5	3	6	-6
Loughan House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands	28	22	17	18	11	6	10	+18
Mountjoy (M)	0	2	5	0	5	43	46	-46
Portlaoise	0	0	0	0	6	19	24	-24
Shelton Abbey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Pats	0	0	0	0	0	16	17	-17
Training Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatfield	7	17	11	20	16	21	79	-72
Totals	54	52	42	43	50	135	211	-157