

IRISH PRISON SERVICE

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IRISH PRISON SERVICE

Annual Report 2007

IRISH PRISON SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Mission Statement

The mission of the Irish Prison Service is to provide safe, secure and humane custody for people who are sent to prison. The Service is committed to managing custodial sentences in a way which encourages and supports prisoners in their endeavouring to live law abiding and purposeful lives as valued members of society.

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CHAIRMAN'S AND DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORTS

The year 2007 saw significant developments in the Irish Prison Service (IPS), from the successful decentralisation of its corporate headquarters to Longford, to major investment in the prison estate, to a major recruitment campaign of recruit prison officers, increased security measures and the continued successful implementation of organisational change. The Prisons Authority Interim Board ('the Board'), together with the Director General, continues to play its part in helping to provide leadership, and to support and encourage change in the prison system.



Brian McCarthy
Chairman

Interim Board Meetings

There were five meetings of the Board during 2007. The meetings concentrated on the critical change programmes under way or planned in the IPS. The Board allocated significant time to advancing implementation of the measures agreed in the Proposal for Organisational Change (POC), the Prisons Capital Programme - especially the replacement of the prisons on the Mountjoy Campus and Cork Prison - and the implementation of sound financial management in controlling prison costs. The Board remains convinced that the Irish Prison Service must succeed in these key areas if it is to establish the platform for development of custody and care to the standards expected of a truly modern and efficient prison service.

Capital Projects

The Board was pleased to see further progress of the Government's extensive prisons' capital programme – the intention being to replace 40 percent of the prison estate over the coming years.

The largest of these projects is the development of a new prison complex on a green-field site to replace the facilities on the Mountjoy campus on a value for money public private partnership basis. The new prison complex located at Thornton Hall, North County Dublin will provide accommodation for 1,400 prisoners in a range of security settings together with the provision of rehabilitation facilities to help prepare prisoners for reintegration back into society.

Other capital projects that were under way or completed during 2007 included the Kilworth Project. This project involves the replacement of Cork Prison with a modern prison complex on a green field site at Kilworth, County Cork.

Government approval for the assignment of approximately 160 acres from lands owned by the Department of Defence was obtained during the year. A preliminary site suitable report was completed during the year and the Board approved a preliminary business case in respect of the project.

Major construction projects were underway or completed in Portlaoise Prison, Shelton Abbey, Loughan House, Castlerea Prison, Limerick Prison, Wheatfield Prison, all with a view to providing additional or enhanced accommodation for prisoners and staff. An extensive programme of maintenance works was also carried out in each of our institutions to protect the fabric of the prison estate and to ensure the welfare & safety of prisoners and staff.

Policy Developments

The Board was pleased to note that a programme of works to facilitate the introduction of high security search areas at the entrances to all closed institutions commenced during 2007. The measures include X-ray machines, walk-through metal detectors and provision of facilities for use of drug detection dogs at the prison entry points. Installation of a technology based pilot scheme to inhibit the use of mobile phones in prisons got underway in Midlands Prison in 2007. Initial evaluations of the system were positive and it was decided to extend the scope of the pilot scheme to cover most of the prison complex. Works on extending the scheme were still in progress at the end of 2007.

These measures are essential to stem the flow of contraband into prisons and to combat the growth of organised criminal activities within and from prisons and to maintain a safe and secure regime for prisoners and staff alike.

In this regard, the Board also welcomes the Government's decision to approve staff resources to support the security measures. The initiative involved the establishment of a national Operational Support Group and dedicated units within the prisons to facilitate security screening and intelligence gathering.

A major recruitment campaign for recruit prison officers (RPOs), a position introduced in the context of the roll out of the agreed POC in July 2005, took place in March 2007. Two hundred and sixty five staff were appointed in 2007 and employed on the conditions of service agreed for the new RPO.



Organisational Change

The Board welcomed the continued successful operation of the agreed change process contained in the POC agreed with the IPS and the Prison Officers Association (POA). Under the new arrangements, staff are contracted to work an annual rather than a weekly number of hours, thus enabling management to structure attendance to better meet work demands in areas which are unpredictable.

The Board welcomes a 17 percent reduction in prison staff sick leave relative to 2006 levels. Sick leave levels were and are a particular concern of the Board. It is very difficult to implement a regime for the benefit of prisoners if staffing levels are compromised through short-term sick leave absences. The Board will continue to monitor developments under the POC where sick leave levels are concerned.

Financial Management

Sound financial management is essential if overall prison costs are to be controlled in the interest of diverting a greater proportion of the prison budget towards improving prisoner services and facilities. The Interim Board continued to closely monitor Prison Service expenditure in 2007 and was pleased that significant progress was again made in capping prison costs - most notably in relation to overtime.

Mentally-ill Prisoners

As in previous Annual Reports the Board outlined its concern at the delays experienced in accessing care for prisoners at the Central Mental Hospital. The Board remains concerned that admissions are still not up to the required level. The Interim Board will continue to devote attention to this matter as it considers that further improvements should be possible at the existing facility in Dundrum ahead of the proposed development of a new facility at the Thornton Hall site.

Remuneration Sub-committee

The Remuneration Sub-Committee of the Board again reviewed the performance of the Director General against set targets in accordance with the terms of the Scheme of Performance Awards for Chief Executives of Non-commercial State Sponsored Bodies. The Sub-Committee's recommendation for the year 2007 took account of the strong personal contribution made by the Director General in advancing change in 2007.

Statutory Board

Board members continue to be disappointed at the delay in establishing the Board as a statutory body.

Brian McCarthy

Chairman

Prison Authority Interim Board

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

To:

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Dermot Ahern, T.D.



Brian Purcell
Director General

To:
The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Dermot Ahern TD

Minister,

I am pleased to transmit to you the Annual Report of the Irish Prison Service for 2007.

While the control of prisons, the management of prisoner numbers and the provision of appropriate accommodation and services to prisoners remained our priority activities during 2007, the two key areas for particular focus during the year were the security of our prisons and the prison building programme. The focus on security is essential to stem the flow of contraband into prisons, to combat the growth of organised criminal activities within and from prisons and to maintain a safe and secure regime for prisoners and staff alike.

Prisoner Numbers

During 2007 there were a total of 11,934 committals to prison, compared with 12,157 in 2006. A total of 9,711 persons accounted for these committals. Of those, 6,447 were Irish Nationals, which is a decrease of 352 on the 2006 figures. Almost one third of persons committed in 2007 were non-Irish Nationals.

In total there were 6,455 committals under sentence during the year, which was an increase on the 2006 figure of 5,802. Of note is the fact that while the number of persons committed serving sentences of less than 2 years has remained largely unchanged, the numbers committed serving longer sentences has increased significantly and the numbers committed

serving sentences of 10 years and over have more than doubled (mainly for sexual and drug offences).

The daily average number of prisoners in custody in 2007 was 3,321 - an increase of 130 on the 2006 figure of 3,191. The average number of female offenders in custody was 111, a small increase on the 2006 level. Most prisons operated at or near full capacity in 2007.

Enhanced Security Measures

In June, the Government approved the necessary resources for us to introduce a package of new security measures. These measures will target the routes whereby contraband such as drugs, weapons and mobile phones are trafficked into our prisons. Since then the Irish Prison Service has been putting in place the necessary physical infrastructure for these measures and recruiting the extra staff.

The additional resources allow for; the establishment of a Drug Detection Dog Unit; the introduction of security screening for all personnel entering our closed prisons, including walk-through metal detectors and x-ray scanners; the establishment of Operational Support Units in each closed prison; and, the opening of new remand segregation units for serious drug and criminal gang members.

In April, we embarked on the development of ground-breaking technology in the Midlands/Portlaoise Prison Complex to prevent the use of mobile phones in prisons. Evaluation of the project so far has yielded positive results and, if confirmed, the inhibitors will be installed in all our closed prisons.

Prison Building Programme

Significant progress was made during 2007 on the implementation of the prison building programme which will when complete replace approximately 40% of the prison estate that is in poor condition in accordance with commitments in the Programme for Government.

The most ambitious project in this programme is, of course, the replacement of the four prisons on the Mountjoy Campus with a new prison at Thornton Hall in North County Dublin. Work also continued during the year on major projects at Limerick, Portlaoise, Wheatfield and Castlereagh Prisons and at Shelton Abbey and Loughan House. A significant acquisition during the year was the 160 acre site at Kilworth. The intention is to build a facility to replace the existing prison in Cork. In this context, we are grateful for the cooperation of the Department of Defence and the Army.



Decentralisation

The Irish Prison Service Headquarters decentralised from Clondalkin to Longford in July 2007. I was very pleased, and somewhat relieved, at how successfully this transition was effected. I would like to thank the Office of Public Works for providing us with our excellent new offices and I would like to thank Longford County Council for facilitating the smooth progress of this project.

We were one of the first Government offices to move locations under the decentralisation programme and this involved the relocation of the entire Headquarters staff complement. Despite staff turnover of over 80% as a result of the move to Longford, business and services to stakeholders was largely unaffected. This was a significant achievement and one that reflects great credit on the management and staff, old and new, who worked together over the last number of years to make the transition a success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff who transferred out of Headquarters in advance of the move to Longford for their individual and collective input to making the IPS what it is today. To those who have joined the Headquarters team, I welcome you all to the organisation and I am pleased that the Irish Prison Service has succeeded in attracting capable and qualified people to Longford.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Dermot Ahern and his predecessors Mr Brian Lenihan TD and Mr Michael McDowell for their support during the year. I would also like to thank the Secretary General of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and all his staff, in particular in the Prisons and Probation Policy Division, for their assistance and support.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Prison Authority Interim Board and the management and staff of the Irish Prison Service for their continued dedication and professionalism.

Brian Purcell

Director General

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD 2007



Brian McCarthy
Chairman



Brian Purcell
Director General



Mairead Ahern



Anne Counihan



Kathleen O'Neill



Jim O'Hanrahan



Jerry Kiersey



Michael Whelan



Jimmy Martin



Tom Hoare



Frank McCarthy



Michael O'Shea

HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORATES

MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY & LAW REFORM

Prisons Authority
Interim Board

Secretary General, Department of
Justice, Equality & Law Reform



Brian Purcell
Director General

William Connolly
Operations Directorate
Custody of Prisons
Management of the
Prisoner Population



John Conlan
Estates and Finance Directorate
Estate Management
Thornton Project
Central Purchasing Unit
Information Technology



Dr. Enda Dooley
Healthcare Directorate
Prisoner Healthcare
Nursing
Prisons Pharmacy



Derek Brennan
Regimes Directorate
Prisoner Care and Rehabilitation
Specialist Services
(Education, Psychology,
Vocational Training
and Chaplains)



Michael Fay
Human Resources Directorate
Human Resource Management
Training & Development
Industrial Relations



Michael Rigney
Corporate Services and ICT Directorate*
Board Secretariat
Strategic Planning
Information and Communications Technology



* Mr Rigney was appointed Director of Corporate Services and ICT in November 2007, replacing Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick who transferred to the National Commission on Restorative Justice earlier in the year.

01 CUSTODY OF PRISONERS

There were 11,934 committals to prison in 2007 comprising 5,715 committals under sentence, 4,967 committals on remand, 1,249 committals under immigration law and 3 indefinite contempt of court. The 11,934 committals were in relation to 9,711 persons.

Number of committals to prison in 2007

A total of 11,934 committals to prison took place in 2007, compared with 12,157 in 2006. A person could be included more than once if committed more than once in the year. This represents a decrease of 1.8 percent over the 2006 figure.

Figure 1: Chart – Committals to Prison 2001 to 2007

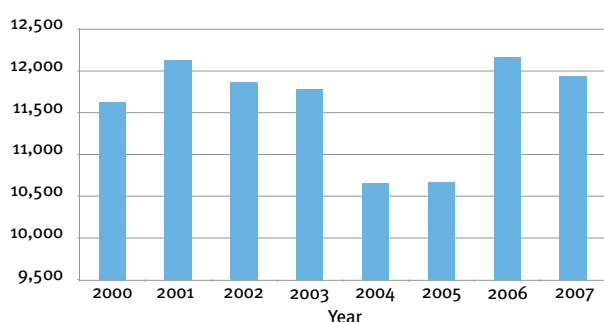
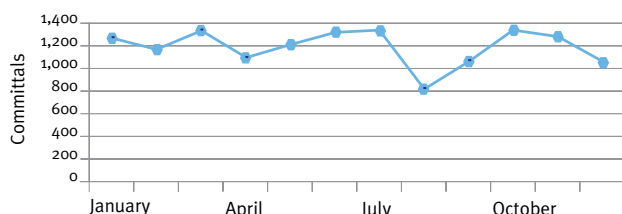


Figure 2: Committals per month 2007



The total of 11,934 comprised:

- 5,715 committals under sentence,
- 4,967 committals on remand,
- 1,249 committals under immigration law and
- 3 indefinite contempt of court.

Committals were highest in July and October and lowest in August and averaged nine hundred and ninety-five per month. For further details, see Tables 20 to 23 below.

Number of persons committed to prison in 2007

A total of 9,711 persons accounted for the 11,934 committals. This figure relates to persons newly committed to prison (i.e. not already on remand or serving another sentence). This represents a similar number to the 2006 total of 9,700. The average of committals per person was 1.23 in 2007 compared with 1.25 in 2006.

Table 1: Persons committed to prison 2001 to 2007

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number	9,539	9,716	9,814	8,820	8,686	9,700	9,711
Change	-	177	98	-994	-134	1,014	11
% change	-	1.9	1.0	-10.1	-1.5	11.7	0.1

The breakdown by gender of persons committed was 88.1 percent male and 11.9 percent female compared with 2006 figures which were 90.1 percent male and 9.9 percent female.

Table 2: Age and gender of persons committed to prison in 2007

Age (years)	Female	Male	Total	%
15	0	1*	1	0.0
16	0	100	100	1.0
17	5	141	146	1.5
18 - <21	142	1,164	1,306	13.4
21 - <25	216	1,831	2,047	21.1
25 - <30	265	1,835	2,100	21.6
30 - <40	355	2,171	2,526	26.0
40 - <50	133	949	1,082	11.1
50+	39	364	403	4.1
Total	1,155	8,556	9,711	100.0
%	11.9	88.1	100.0	

* Committed for 1 night on the consent of the Judge and of his Defence Counsel as no place was available at Trinity House School, Oberstown.

County and Country of Origin

A third (33.3%) of all persons committed declared Dublin as their county of residence. Cork with 9.5%, Limerick with 5.5% and Galway with 3.7% were the next largest counties of residence indicated.



Table 3: : Home address, by county given by persons committed in 2007 by gender

County	Female	Male	Total	%
Antrim	2	31	33	0.3
Armagh	0	16	16	0.2
Carlow	15	74	89	0.9
Cavan	3	107	110	1.1
Clare	10	156	166	1.7
Cork	78	848	926	9.5
Derry	0	19	19	0.2
Donegal	6	138	144	1.5
Down	1	15	16	0.2
Dublin	331	2,900	3,231	33.3
Fermanagh	0	5	5	0.1
Galway	15	344	359	3.7
Kerry	17	127	144	1.5
Kildare	16	175	191	2.0
Kilkenny	14	97	111	1.1
Laois	8	113	121	1.2
Leitrim	3	32	35	0.4
Limerick	53	484	537	5.5
Longford	3	76	79	0.8
Louth	11	198	209	2.2
Mayo	8	145	153	1.6
Meath	14	150	164	1.7
Monaghan	3	93	96	1.0
Offaly	4	110	114	1.2
Roscommon	3	61	64	0.7
Sligo	3	58	61	0.6
Tipperary	18	221	239	2.5
Tyrone	0	11	11	0.1
Waterford	15	208	223	2.3
Westmeath	15	156	171	1.8
Wexford	9	114	123	1.3
Wicklow	13	129	142	1.5
Not Stated	159	831	990	10.2
Outside Country	305	314	619	6.4
Total	1,155	8,556	9,711	100.0

Of those committed 6,447 were Irish nationals (66.4%) of the total (9,711) which is a decrease of 352 on the corresponding 2006 figure of 6,799. Almost one third of persons committed in 2007 were non-Irish nationals.

Other EU nationals (excluding Irish) accounted for 1,354 (13.9%) of persons committed. Other European nationals accounted for 311 (3.2%), African nationals for 612 (6.3%), Asian nationals for 611 (6.3%) and Central/South American nationals accounted for 303 (3.1%). See Table 4 for further details.

Table 4: Comparison of Nationality as Given by Persons Committed in 2007 and 2006

Nationality	2006		2007		Change	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Irish	6,799	70.1	6,447	66.4	-352	-5.2
U.K.	226	2.3	228	2.3	2	0.9
Other EU*	785	8.1	1,126	11.6	341	43.4
Other European	618	6.4	311	3.2	-307	-49.7
African	550	5.7	612	6.3	62	11.3
Asian	483	5.0	611	6.3	128	26.5
Austral/Asian	6	0.1	4	0.0	-2	-33.3
Central/South American	183	1.9	303	3.1	120	65.6
North American	19	0.2	18	0.2	-1	-5.3
Not Recorded	31	0.3	51	0.5	20	64.5
Total	9,700	100.0	9,711	100.0	11	0.1
Total EU (including Ireland)	7,810	80.5	7,803	80.3	-8	-0.1
Other EU (including UK)	1,011	10.4	1,354	13.9	343	33.9

*Figures for Other EU increased due to the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU on 1 January, 2007; Other European figure has decreased accordingly.

Committals under sentence

There were 5,715 committals directly under sentence in 2007. When an additional 740 prisoners, who were already in custody at the start of the year on remand/awaiting trial and who were subsequently recommitted on conviction are included, the total number of prisoners received on conviction in 2007 is 6,455. Males accounted for 5,979 (92.6%) and females accounted for 476 (7.4%) of these.

Table 5: Committals under sentence by age group

Age	No.	%
16	39	0.6
17	84	1.3
18 - <21	930	14.4
21 - <25	1,480	22.9
25 - <30	1,342	20.8
30 - <40	1,582	24.5
40 - <50	683	10.6
50+	315	4.9
Total	6,455	100

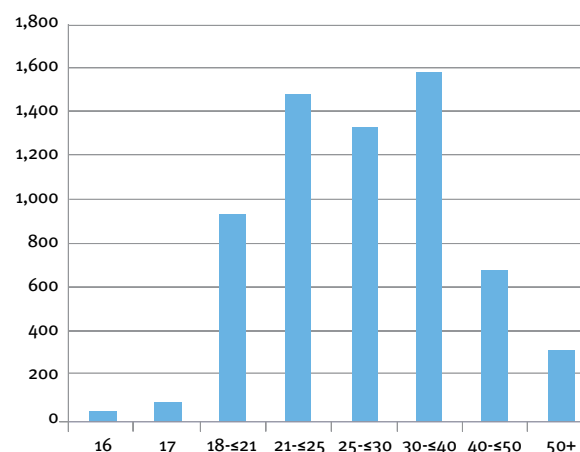
Sentence length

There was an 11.3 percent increase in the numbers committed to prison under sentence in 2007 (6,455) over 2006 (5,802). Committals under sentence of less than 3 months increased by 40 over the 2006 figure of 2,253 to 2,293 (1.8%). However, this category of sentence reduced as a proportion of the total numbers committed under sentence representing 35.5% of the total committed under sentence from 39% in both 2005 and 2006. The number of prisoners serving sentences of 3 to less than 6 months to 1 to less than 2 years, while increasing in numbers, remained largely unchanged proportionally from 2006. It is in the sentence lengths ranging from 2 to less than 3 years up to life imprisonment that the largest proportional increases over 2006 are evident, for example the number of prisoners serving 2 to less than 3 years increased by 52 (18.5%) to 333; the 3 to less than 5 years cohort increased by 110 (44.0%) to 360; the 5 to less than 10 years by 63 (37.5%) to 231; and the 10 years or more cohort had the greatest increases from 20 offenders in 2006 to 47 in 2007 (135.0%) mainly for sexual offences, up from 3 offenders in 2006 to 17 in 2007 and drugs offences, where the number increased from 3 offenders in 2006 to 22 in 2007. The number of prisoners serving life increased by 27.8 percent from 18 in 2006 to 23 in 2007. Tables 5 - 9 show further details for 2007.

As in previous years, persons aged between 21 and 40 years accounted for the majority of committals under sentence. In 2007 they accounted for 68.2 percent of the total (4,404) as compared with 65.9 percent in 2006.

The number of persons committed under sentence aged under 21 was 1,053, (16.3%) an increase of 38 on the 2006 total. The number of persons committed under sentence aged under 18 was 123 (1.9%). The youngest was aged 16.

The number of persons aged 40 or over was 998, a 3.9 percent increase on the 2006 total of 961. This age grouping accounted for 15.5 percent of the total, down from 16.6 percent in 2006 and 17.5 percent in 2005. See Tables 5 - 9 for further details.

Figure 3: Age profile of persons committed in 2007**Committals by offence group**

The Irish Prison Service uses four main offence groupings to present information on offence type.

Group 1 (Offences against the person)

There were 882 committals under sentence in 2007 in respect of offences against the person (Group 1), which accounts for 13.7 percent of the 2007 total. The comparable figures for 2006 were 780, which accounted for 13.4 percent of the total committals under sentence in that year.

Group 2 (Offences against property without violence) and Group 3 (Offences against property with violence)

The total number of sentenced committals for offences against property was 1,785 as compared with 1,625 in 2006. Of this total, forty-one committals are classified as offences against property with violence. The comparable figure in 2006 was sixty-three.

Group 4 (Other offences)

The largest grouping consists mainly of drug offences, road traffic offences and miscellaneous other offences, the largest of which relate to public disorder. All three sub-categories showed increases over 2006.

- Sentenced committals for drug offences were up significantly from 395 or 6.8 percent of the 2006 total to 530 or 8.2 percent of the 2007 total, an increase of 34 percent in this category.
- Sentenced committals for road traffic offences increased from 1,452 in 2006 (25.0 percent of the 2006 total) to 1,564 (24.2 percent of the 2007 total) in 2007. This represents an increase of 8 percent in this category.
- Sentenced committals for miscellaneous other offences increased from 1,550 in 2006 (26.7 percent) to 1,694 (26.2 percent) in 2007, an increase of 9.3 percent in this category.
- Sentences for road traffic offences and miscellaneous other offences were of relatively short duration compared with other categories.
- Almost half (48.7 percent) of road traffic sentences were for less than three months, and 78.6 percent for less than six months.
- Almost 62 percent of sentences for other offences were for less than three months with 80 percent for less than six months.

A more detailed breakdown of offences is contained in the following Table 6.

Table 6: Committals under sentence in 2007 breakdown by Offence Description

	Female	Male	2007		2006	
			Total	%	Total	%
Total Group 1:						
<i>Offences Against the Person</i>	45	837	882	13.7	780	13.4
Murder	0	19	19	0.3	17	0.3
Manslaughter	1	18	19	0.3	18	0.3
Sexual Offences	0	116	116	1.8	90	1.6
Other Offences Against The Person	44	684	728	11.3	655	11.3
Assault	23	338	361	5.6	343	5.9
Assault Causing Harm	12	194	206	3.2	155	2.7
Assault on Garda	4	23	27	0.4	32	0.6
Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm (OABH)	0	20	20	0.3	26	0.4
Other Offences	5	109	114	1.8	99	1.7
Total Group 2:						
<i>Offences Against Property With Violence</i>	1	40	41	0.6	63	1.1
Total Group 3:						
<i>Offences Against Property Without Violence</i>	154	1,590	1,744	27.0	1,562	26.9
Theft	113	574	687	10.6	602	10.4
Criminal Damage	7	323	330	5.1	308	5.3
Burglary - Full	1	189	190	2.9	115	2.0
Robbery	7	159	166	2.6	99	1.7
Handling Stolen Property	13	76	89	1.4	92	1.6
Entering Building with intent to Commit Offence	2	68	70	1.1	61	1.1
Other Offences in this Category	11	201	212	3.3	285	4.9
Total Group 4:						
<i>Other Offences</i>	276	3,512	3,788	58.7	3,397	58.5
Drug Offences	41	489	530	8.2	395	6.8
Road Traffic Offences	122	1,442	1,564	24.2	1,452	25.0
No Insurance (User/Owner)	54	657	711	11.0	671	11.6
Drunken Driving (Breath/Blood/Urine Specimen)	9	180	189	2.9	130	2.2
Dangerous Driving (Speeding/Careless)	2	103	105	1.6	69	1.2
Unauthorised Taking of Mechanically Propelled Vehicle (MPV)	1	90	91	1.4	75	1.3
Non Display of Disc (Insurance/Road Tax/NCT/Parking)	16	84	100	1.5	42	0.7
No Driving Licence (Owner/Driver)	8	44	52	0.8	38	0.7
Unauthorised Carriage in/on MPV	1	36	37	0.6	25	0.4
Other Road Traffic Offences	31	248	279	4.3	402	6.9
Other Offences	113	1,581	1,694	26.2	1,550	26.7
Threatening/Abusive/Insulting Behaviour in a Public Place	25	456	481	7.5	461	7.9
Debtor Offences (Debtor/Fail to pay Maintenance)	19	195	214	3.3	194	3.3
Intoxication in a Public Place	8	127	135	2.1	113	1.9
Failure to Comply with Direction of a Garda (Resisting Arrest/Obstruction)	10	126	136	2.1	56	1.0
Possession of Knives and Other Articles	2	74	76	1.2	69	1.2
Failing to Appear (Remand Date/Date Originally Set)	5	74	79	1.2	52	0.9
Breach of Barring Order (Interim/Protection/Safety Order)	3	56	59	0.9	47	0.8
Failed to make Income Tax Returns	0	24	24	0.4	30	0.5
Breach of the Peace	0	30	30	0.5	24	0.4
Other Offences in this Category	41	419	460	7.1	504	8.7
Total	476	5,979	6,455	100.0	5,802	100.0

Table 7: Sentence length by age of offender in 2007

	<3 mths	3 - <6 mths	6 - <12 mths	1 - <2 yrs	2 - <3 yrs	3 - <5 yrs	5 - <10 yrs	10 + yrs	Life	Total
16	5	12	17	0	3	2	0	0	0	39
17	18	20	37	4	1	3	1	0	0	84
18 - <21	285	198	232	84	55	49	24	2	1	930
21 - <25	457	326	310	150	84	99	44	7	3	1,480
25 - <30	420	295	263	116	86	84	55	16	7	1,342
30 - <40	610	337	298	93	67	88	69	14	6	1,582
40 - <50	322	140	102	36	27	22	26	7	1	683
50+	176	46	26	26	10	13	12	1	5	315
Total	2,293	1,374	1,285	509	333	360	231	47	23	6,455

Table 8: Offence by Sentence length of offender in 2007

	<3 mths	3 - <6 mths	6 - <12 mths	1 - <2 yrs	2 - <3 yrs	3 - <5 yrs	5 - <10 yrs	10 + yrs	Life	Total
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	19
Manslaughter	0	0	0	1	1	0	13	3	1	19
Sexual Offences	1	5	9	26	14	14	29	17	1	116
Other Offences										
Against the Person	77	156	158	127	84	89	33	2	2	728
Offences Against										
Property with Violence	1	3	6	5	10	8	6	2	0	41
Offences Against										
Property without Violence	332	357	555	198	125	131	45	1	0	1,744
Drug Offences	78	70	119	49	47	67	78	22	0	530
Road Traffic Offences	761	469	228	57	26	20	3	0	0	1,564
Other Offences	1,043	314	210	46	26	31	24	0	0	1,694
Total	2,293	1,374	1,285	509	333	360	231	47	23	6,455

Table 9: Offence by age of offender in 2007

Age In Years	16	17	18 - <21	21 - <25	25 - <30	30 - <40	40 - <50	50+	Total
Murder	0	0	1	2	7	4	1	4	19
Manslaughter	0	0	3	5	6	3	2	0	19
Sexual Offences	0	1	7	8	18	21	24	37	116
Other Offences									
Against the Person	7	9	153	202	140	143	51	23	728
Offences Against									
Property with Violence	0	0	8	11	8	13	1	0	41
Offences Against									
Property without Violence	23	44	293	404	388	422	138	32	1,744
Drug Offences	0	1	53	142	148	145	35	6	530
Road Traffic Offences	6	12	215	367	345	374	171	74	1,564
Other Offences	3	17	197	339	282	457	260	139	1,694
Total	39	84	930	1,480	1,342	1,582	683	315	6,455

Persons detained under immigration laws

In 2007 there were 1,249 committals in respect of immigration issues involving 1,145 detainees. This represents an increase of 3% over the 1,113 persons detained in 2006. There was an average daily number of persons in custody under this category of 24.

Number of prisoners in custody

Most prisons operated at or near full capacity in 2007. The average number of prisoners in custody per month shows small variation around the year's average, with custody levels highest in June, July and November. See Table 26.

- The overall daily average number of prisoners in custody in 2007 was 3,321, compared to 3,191 in 2006.
- The average number of female offenders in custody was 111, compared to the 2006 level of 106.

The average total number in the prison system, which is a combination of the prisoners in custody (3,321) and those on temporary release (153), was 3,474 in 2007. The corresponding figures for 2006 were 3,191 in custody and 140 on temporary release giving an average of 3,331.

Figure 4: Time spent in custody by persons committed under the Immigration Acts

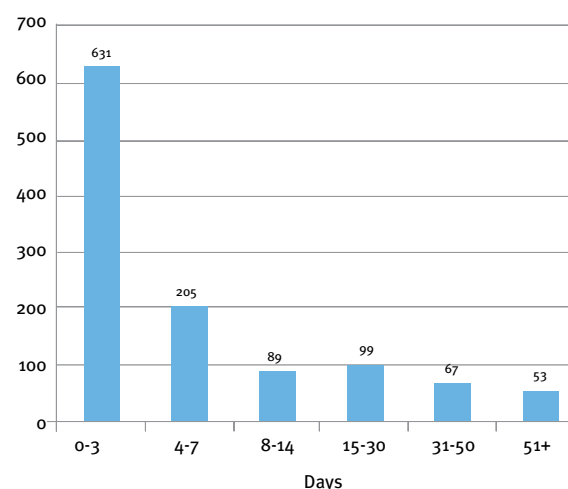


Table 10: Daily average number of prisoners per institution 2007

Institution	Bed Capacity	Average No in Custody	% Bed Capacity	Reviewable TR	Total	Sex Offenders	Immigration Warrant Cases
Arbour Hill	139	138	99.3	0	138	80	1
Castlerea	228	230	100.9	3	233	19	0
Cloverhill	432	418	96.8	3	421	0	16
Cork	268	264	98.5	23	287	6	1
Limerick (f)	20	19	95.0	5	24	0	0
Limerick (m)	274	277	101.1	13	290	3	1
Loughan House	105	87	82.9	5	92	0	0
Midlands	465	442	95.1	13	455	74	1
Mountjoy (f)	86	92	107.0	22	114	0	4
Mountjoy (m)	540	518	95.9	37	555	0	0
Portlaoise	198	117	59.1	1	118	0	0
Shelton Abbey	60	55	91.6	14	69	0	0
St Patrick's	216	197	91.2	3	200	7	0
Training Unit	96	91	94.8	4	95	0	0
Wheatfield	374	376	100.5	7	383	60	0
Total	3,501	3,321	94.9	153	3,474	249	24

Snapshot of Prison Population

The profile of the prison population on any one day is perhaps the most reliable indicator of the prisoners we have within the system. See Tables 26 to 30 for further details.

On 5 December 2007, the prison population totalled 3,334

• Sentenced	2,696
• Remand/Awaiting Trial/Others	619
• Immigration	19

This total included 228 offenders serving sentences for murder and 84 for manslaughter. Drug offences accounted for 471 offenders (17%) and road traffic offences 191 (7%).

Some 239 prisoners were serving life sentences and another 208 were serving determinate sentences of ten years or more, and accounted for 8.9 percent and 7.7 percent of the total population respectively.

With regard to prisoners serving shorter sentences, 57 offenders were serving sentences of less than three months representing just over 2% of the sentenced prison population. Sixteen prisoners were in prison for non-payment of debt or fines.

As regards nationality, Irish nationals accounted for 89.5 percent of the total number of persons in custody under sentence on the 5 December 2007

Table 11: Nationality of persons in custody under sentence on 5 December 2007

	Female	Male	Total	Female %	Male %	Total %
Irish	50	2,363	2,413	2.1	97.9	89.5
UK	4	70	74	5.4	94.6	2.7
Other EU	6	100	106	5.7	94.3	3.9
Other European	1	20	21	4.8	95.2	0.8
African	4	52	56	7.1	92.9	2.1
Asian	0	13	13	0.0	100.0	0.5
Central/South American	1	8	9	11.1	88.9	0.3
North American	0	4	4	0.0	100.0	0.1
Total	66	2,630	2,696	2.4	97.6	100.0

Table 12: Age Profile of Prisoners in Custody under Sentence on 5 December 2007

	Female	Male	Total	Female %	Male %	Total %
16	0	10	10	0.0	100.0	0.4
17	0	21	21	0.0	100.0	0.8
18 - <21	7	290	297	2.4	97.6	11.0
21 - <25	7	543	550	1.3	98.7	20.4
25 - <30	24	588	612	3.9	96.1	22.7
30 - <40	16	677	693	2.3	97.7	25.7
40 - <50	8	306	314	2.5	97.5	11.6
50+	4	195	199	2.0	98.0	7.4
Total	66	2,630	2,696	2.4	97.6	100.0

Table 13: Sentence Profile of Prisoners in custody under sentence on 5 December 2007

	Female	Male	Total	Female %	Male %	Total %
<3 Months	4	53	57	7.0	93.0	2.1
3 to <6 Months	2	124	126	1.6	98.4	4.7
6 to <12 Months	12	263	275	4.4	95.6	10.2
1 to <2 Years	8	344	352	2.3	97.7	13.1
2 to <3 Years	7	286	293	2.4	97.6	10.9
3 to <5 Years	17	499	516	3.3	96.7	19.1
5 to <10 Years	9	622	631	1.4	98.6	23.4
10+ Years	2	205	207	1.0	99.0	7.7
Life Sentence	5	234	239	2.1	97.9	8.9
Total	66	2,630	2,696	2.4	97.6	100.0

Table 14: Offence Profile of Prisoners in custody under sentence on 5 December 2007

	Female	Male	Total	%
Total Group 1:				
Offences Against the Person	17	937	954	35.4
Murder	5	223	228	8.5
Manslaughter	4	80	84	3.1
Sexual Offences	0	237	237	8.8
Other Offences Against The Person	8	397	405	15.0
Assault	1	100	101	3.7
Assault Causing Harm	5	148	153	5.7
Assault On Garda	0	8	8	0.3
Assault OABH	0	17	17	0.6
Other Offences	2	124	126	4.7
Total Group 2:				
Offences Against Property With Violence	0	86	86	3.2
Total Group 3:				
Offences Against Property Without Violence	17	679	696	25.8
Theft	7	155	162	6.0
Criminal Damage	1	91	92	3.4
Burglary - Full	0	89	89	3.3
Robbery	2	179	181	6.7
Handling Stolen Property	3	19	22	0.8
Entering Building with intent to Commit Offence	0	14	14	0.5
Other Offences in this Category	4	132	136	5.0
Total Group 4:				
Other Offences	32	928	960	35.6
Drug Offences	23	449	472	17.5
Road Traffic Offences	1	189	190	7.1
No Insurance (User/Owner)	0	36	36	1.3
Drunken Driving (Breath/Blood/Urine Specimen)	0	17	17	0.6
Dangerous Driving (Speeding/Careless)	0	17	17	0.6
Unauthorised Taking of M.P.V.	0	60	60	2.2
Non Display Of Disc (Insurance/Road Tax/NCT/Parking)	0	2	2	0.1
No Driving Licence (Owner/Driver)	0	5	5	0.2
Unauthorised Carriage in/on M.P.V.	1	8	9	0.3
Other Road Traffic Offences	0	45	45	1.7
Other Offences	8	290	298	11.1
Threatening/Abusive/Insulting Behaviour	0	36	36	1.3
Debtor Offences (Debtor/Fail to pay maintenance)	0	6	6	0.2
Intoxication in Public	0	4	4	0.1
Failure to Comply with Garda Síochána (Resisting arrest/Obstruction)	1	11	12	0.4
Possession of Knives & Other Articles	0	21	21	0.8
Failing to appear (Remand Date/Date Originally Set)	4	16	20	0.7
Breach of Barring Order (Interim/Protection/Safety Order)	1	12	13	0.5
Failed to make Income Tax Returns	0	1	1	0.0
Breach of the Peace	0	1	1	0.0
Other Offences in this Category	2	182	184	6.8
Total	66	2,630	2,696	100.0

Temporary Release

The Criminal Justice (Temporary Release) Act, 2003 and the Prisoners (Temporary Release) Rules 2004 provide the legislative basis for the power of the Minister to grant temporary release by setting down the principles which apply to the exercise of this power. The Act also provides a clear and transparent basis, as well as the necessary safeguards required, for the operation of the system of temporary release.

The average number of persons serving sentences who were on temporary release during 2007 was 153. This amounts to 4.4 percent of the average total number of prisoners in the system. This is a rise of 0.2 percent on the previous years figure.

At Christmastime an additional number of prisoners are granted varying periods of temporary release. The figure for 2007 was 137 prisoners. This figure represented approximately 4 percent of the prisoner population and was a significant reduction on the number released at Christmas 2006, which was 238 prisoners.

The periods of release varied from a few hours (in some cases accompanied by another responsible person) up to 10 nights. All releases were subject to stringent conditions, which in the vast majority of cases included a requirement to report to the local Garda station. Any offender who breaks these conditions may be arrested and returned immediately to prison by the Gardaí.

Prisoners temporarily released at Christmas were coming towards the end of their sentences and the overriding concern when considering the applications was the safety of the public. In addition to compassionate and humane considerations, other criteria taken into account included the nature and gravity of the offence, length of sentence served to date, prior record on temporary release, behaviour while in custody and previous criminal history.

In general, prisoners are considered for temporary release in various circumstances, for example, release under the direct supervision of the Probation Service; to employment or training programmes; on compassionate release because of ill health or family related circumstances; or for reintegration purposes because they are nearing the end of their sentence. The judicious use of temporary release remains an important instrument in the rehabilitation process. It is also used from time to time to help relieve overcrowding by granting early release to low risk prisoners coming to the end of their sentence. Each case is examined on its own merits.

Escapes and Absconds from custody

There were no escapes from within the confines of a closed prisons during 2007 however, three prisoners absconded from the custody of prison officers while outside a closed institution and these are recorded in Table 15.

A total of 135 prisoners absconded from custody, either from an open centre or while on accompanied outings (with an officer, a prison chaplain or other support services, such as a Probation and Welfare Officer). A number of attempted escapes were frustrated due to the vigilance of escort staff. Some 106 of those who escaped or absconded were back in custody by year-end

Table 15: Escapes and Absconds from custody in 2007

Prison	Escapes	Absconds	Total	Returned to custody (before 31/12/07)	Still at Large (31/12/07)
Arbour Hill	0	0	0	0	0
Castlerea	1	0	1	1	0
Cloverhill	1	0	1	1	0
Cork	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	1	0	1	1	0
Loughan House	0	61	61	43	18
Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
Mountjoy (f)	0	1	1	1	0
Mountjoy (m)	0	0	0	0	0
Portlaoise	0	0	0	0	0
Shelton Abbey	0	72	72	58	14
St. Patrick's	0	0	0	0	0
Training Unit	0	1	1	1	0
Wheatfield	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	135	138	106	32

Deaths in Custody

There were six deaths in custody in 2007. At the end of the year, inquests were pending in all of these cases.

On 25 June 2007, Mr. Derek Glennon died following an attack by a fellow prisoner in Mountjoy Prison.

Mobile Phones in Prisons

Section 36 of the Prisons Act 2007, which was brought into operation from 1 May, 2007 makes it an offence for prisoners to have unauthorised possession of or use of mobile telecommunication devices.

Mobile phones are viewed as highly valuable commodities which could assist in illegal activity and eliminating their supply is one of the major challenges facing prisons worldwide.

Under the Act it is also an offence to supply such a device to a prisoner. The penalties for such an offence, on summary conviction, include a fine not exceeding €5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both, and on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or both.

It is Irish Prison Service policy to report seizures of mobile phones to the Garda authorities. By the end of 2007 two thousand one hundred and twenty-four mobile phones had been seized in the institutions.

Interim Parole Board

The Parole Board was established by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to review the cases of prisoners with longer term sentences and to provide advice in relation to the administration of those sentences.

The cases of 74 prisoners were referred to the Board during 2007. In addition two cases were re-referred to the Board for review and one prisoner, who having previously declined an invitation to participate in the review process, accepted the invitation during 2007 bringing the total number of cases to 77.

In addition to dealing with new referrals, 108 cases, at various stages of the review process, were carried over from 2006 and 44 cases were scheduled for a second or subsequent review.

During 2007 the Board made recommendations to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in 73 cases, the same number as in the previous year. The Minister accepted in full the recommendations of the Board in the majority of the cases.

Outcome of recommendations made by the Parole Board to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Recommendations made	73
Outcomes	
Recommendations accepted in full	66
Recommendations accepted in part	4
Recommendations not accepted	1
Ministerial decisions pending	2

Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons statistics

In total, 134 prisoners have now transferred into the Irish Prison system from abroad and 91 prisoners have transferred out since the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Act, 1995 came into operation on 1 November, 1995.

In 2007, eight prisoners transferred into the State; 6 from the United Kingdom, 1 from Spain and 1 from Japan. Fourteen prisoners were transferred out of this jurisdiction during 2007; 8 to the United Kingdom, 2 to Northern Ireland, 3 to the Netherlands and 1 to the USA.

02 CARE AND REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS

The Irish Prison Service aims to provide a range of care services to prisoners to a standard commensurate with that obtaining in the wider community. These services include medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, education, vocational training, work, welfare, spiritual, counselling and recreational services. These services are important in sustaining prisoners' physical and mental health and preparing them for reintegration into society following release.

There was continuing high demand for the services outlined above in 2007. The new organisational and working arrangements under the Proposal for Organisational Change helped towards the restoration of prisoner regimes and services which had been constrained by the budgetary restraint measures introduced in 2004 due to the then industrial relations situation.

Integrated Sentence Management

Sentence management processes have operated in the Irish prison system for many years to the benefit of prisoners and the community. Over much of this time, the development of these processes to their full potential has, however, been constrained by a number of factors.

New regulatory, organisational and working arrangements, together with the ongoing programme of modernisation of the prison estate and the addition of new programmes and services, have transformed the situation in recent times. The Irish Prison Service commenced the development of a fully coordinated Integrated Sentence Management system (ISM) in 2007. Funding for this initiative is to be provided under the National Development Plan 2007-2013.

ISM will involve a new orientation in the delivery of services to prisoners and a new emphasis on prisoners taking greater personal responsibility for their own development through active engagement with both specialist and non-specialist services in the prisons. The end result will be a prisoner-centred, multidisciplinary approach to working with prisoners with provision for initial assessment, goal setting and periodic review to measure progress.

The Prison Education Service

Education in prisons is delivered by way of a partnership between the Irish Prison Service and a range of educational agencies from the community. Vocational Education Committees (VECs) and Public Library Services make the largest contribution to, and are the mainstay of, the Prison Education Services.

The Department of Education and Science provided an allocation of 220 whole-time teacher equivalents to the prisons through the VECs in the academic year 2006/07. This enabled education to be offered in all

prisons, including some provision for the summer months and special teaching arrangements where prisoners are segregated. In addition, three full-time librarians employed by Dublin Public Libraries, work in prisons in the Dublin area and part-time library staff work in the open prisons at Loughan House and Shelton Abbey. Two full-time library staff began work in Portlaoise and the Midlands prisons in 2007. Prison staff assist in the delivery of education in certain areas. Prison officers assist the librarian staff and operate library services in some prisons.

Other agencies also contribute significantly to prison education, for example:

- The Open University, which now caters for well over 100 prisoners annually on degree-level distance education courses;
- The Arts Council, which provides writers' workshops and artists' workshops;
- Other third-level colleges, such as the National College of Art and Design, which is involved in Portlaoise and Midlands prisons, and the Law Department of UCC which is involved in Cork Prison.

A high quality Education Unit became available at Loughan House in 2007 and a new Education Unit at Limerick was nearing completion.

The Curriculum

The objectives, methods and course content of education provision in prisons are largely those of adult education. Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) accreditation is widely used in prison education, with all prison education centres meeting the quality assurance standards demanded by FETAC.



In broad terms, courses may be classified as follows:

- Basic Education, including Literacy, Numeracy and the Teaching of English as a Second Language.
- General subjects, e.g. English, History, Geography, Mathematics, Languages, Information Technology.
- Physical Education, Home Economics and Health Education.
- The Arts, e.g. Visual arts, Music, Drama, Creative Writing, Photography and Film-Making.
- Technology Courses (e.g. Woodwork, Metalwork) and Horticulture.
- Courses that address particular problems or needs that prisoners have, e.g. Pre-Release courses, Addiction Awareness, Childcare, Group Skills, Anger Management.

Participation in education

Participation in education varies with factors such as access, facilities, turnover of population and segregation. At the end of 2007, based on enrolment figures for a sample week, 50 percent of prisoners were involved in education, with approximately 25 percent involved for 10 hours or more per week. The pattern of participation for each prison may be seen in Table 16. Participation in education is counted as involvement in at least one structured class in the sample week.

Table 16: Participation in Education

Prison	Participation	Population (21/11/07)	Percentage %	Intensive Participation*	Intensive Participation %
Arbour Hill	120	138	87%	66	48%
Castlerea	115	230	50%	42	18%
Cloverhill	46	425	11%	14	3%
Cork	167	269	62%	76	28%
Dóchas Centre	73	94	78%	58	62%
Limerick	150	292	51%	96	33%
Loughan House	48	86	56%	42	49%
Midlands	201	441	46%	44	10%
Mountjoy	232	542	43%	146	27%
Portlaoise	97	113	86%	23	20%
Shelton Abbey	45	57	79%	24	42%
St. Patrick's Institution	111	199	56%	84	42%
Training Unit	62	94	66%	10	11%
Wheatfield	208	373	56%	128	34%
Total	1,675	3,353	50%	853	25%

Figures based on enrolment in sample week in November 2007

* Intensive participation = Involved in structured classes for 10 hours or more per week

Literacy and Basic Education

During 2007 progress continued in relation to Literacy and general basic education provision - a priority area for prison education in response to a very significant need. The strategy is to draw on best practice in adult literacy work in the community, as found, for example, in VEC provision and as expressed in the policies of the National Adult Literacy Agency.

Prison Education: Other Developments

A major conference in Prison Education, organised by the Irish Prison Education Association, with financial assistance from the Irish Prison Service, took place at Dublin City University. Some 170 prison educators from 33 countries attended the 11th European Prison Education Association (EPEA) conference which was held over four days in June 2007 (see www.epea.org).

Also in June 2007, a national prison art exhibition was held in Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin.

Work and Vocational Training in Prisons

The Irish Prison Service places a strong emphasis on the provision of vocational training activities for prisoners. Training activities are chosen to give as much employment as possible for those in prison and to give opportunities to acquire skills which will help them secure employment on their release. A wide range of training workshops operate within the institutions, e.g. printing, computers, Braille, woodwork, metalwork, construction, industrial contract cleaning, craft, horticulture and electronics. In addition, the work and training function comprehends such essential services as catering and laundry services.

While external accreditation of certified training is available for a number of courses run within the institutions, work was ongoing during 2007 to develop a quality assurance system (QAS) to underpin the FETAC certification of a range of additional activities. City and Guilds accreditation in a number of skills areas, such as waste management and hurley repair, was also progressed during the year.

Work and Training

There is an authorised complement of over 250 posts involved in work and training - a major increase on the numbers engaged prior to the Proposal for Organisational Change (158). Over 90 workshops actively catered for over 860 prisoners each day which represents approximately 26 percent of the daily prisoner population.

New Programmes and Activities

New programmes and activities were developed in a number of institutions and a refurbishment and equipment replacement programme continued in other workshops. One of the new developments was the establishment of a National Apprenticeship Programme in Professional Cookery in partnership with the Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT). This three year course leads to a national certificate, accredited by FETAC. Prisoners who achieve the certification will become qualified chefs which will significantly enhance their employment prospects on release from custody.

The work training database system, which was rolled out to nine prisons during the previous year, was extended to a further four prisons during 2007. The database facilitates the tracking of prisoners' participation and progress in work and vocational training activities and courses during

their time in custody. It also assists in the monitoring and evaluation of the level and effectiveness of work and training services to prisoners.

Community Assistance Programmes and Project Work

Community assistance programmes and community project work continued throughout the year. Several prisons raised funds and provided a wide range of material and products for charitable organisations. Beneficiaries included Barnardos, Aware, Barretstown Gang Camp, the Arts for Peace project, CARL (Children at Risk in Ireland) and To Russia with Love (an organisation that helps orphaned Russian children).

Partnership arrangements with FAS, the Probation Service, the Linkage Programme and Pobal were maintained and strengthened during the year in the interest of improving prisoners' prospects of employability on their return to the community. All the organisations mentioned are participating in the development partnership of an EQUAL project which was launched in 2005. The main aim of the action research project is to maximise the employment and resettlement opportunities for prisoners and ex-prisoners from the committal areas of Castlerea and Cork prisons through the development of integrated appropriate training, mentoring and guidance services and associated research. There is a range of other statutory and community voluntary agencies and organisations involved in the project including a number of Area Partnership Companies and Vocational Education Committees. The purpose of the course was to equip prisoners with the necessary information and skills to set up their own business on release.

Dormant Accounts Funding

The Irish Prison Service secured Dormant Accounts Funding for employability support projects. Under this initiative, two Linkage Programme Training and Employment Officers (TEOs) were engaged to provide a fulltime information, career guidance and a dedicated training, education and placement service to prisoners in the Mountjoy and Midlands campuses. The two TEOs concerned commenced work during the late summer of 2007. Within four months of the start of the new service, 123 referrals had already been made to the two TEOs. Also in 2007, the IPS secured €500,000 of this funding to establish a pilot mentoring resettlement scheme for the Training Unit, the Dóchas Centre and St. Patrick's Institution.

Psychology Service

The Psychology Service forms part of the Regimes Directorate of the Irish Prison Service and applies psychological research, principles and skills to the needs of the prison service. As well as maintaining a commitment to the provision of mental health services to offenders, the Service addresses those factors that put offenders at risk of re-offending; participates in the development of group programmes for particular offender groups; contributes to a variety of training initiatives with prison officers aimed at enhancing the role of the officer and is involved in the development of strategy, policy and protocols in areas significant to the operation of the prison system. The Service also supports and facilitates research projects, including the evaluation of interventions with offenders.

The Psychology Service comprises 7 clinical psychologists, 7 counselling psychologists, 1 forensic psychologist and 2 psychologists in clinical training.

Work Undertaken by Psychologists

The primary focus of the work undertaken by psychologists in the various prisons can be categorised under three main headings:

- Individual Work
- Group Interventions
- Regime/policy development work.

Individual work has been the primary role of the Psychology Service. While an offender may be seen for any of a number of reasons, such individual sessions generally fall into one of three categories:

- Therapeutic work is typically longer-term work and focuses on mental health issues
- Motivational counselling involves encouraging the offender to address long-standing problems such as addictions or a criminal lifestyle, where there is an ambivalent attitude towards change.
- Crisis counselling is offered to those offenders managing highly stressful circumstances or emotions, such as those who are feeling suicidal or those who have experienced a recent trauma, such as bereavement.

Considerable effort was devoted to individual work in most prisons in 2007. In Mountjoy, for example, 195 individual referrals were processed during the year, involving 153 prisoners; 14 clinics were provided per week.

Group programmes were delivered on motivational enhancement, relapse prevention, anxiety management (in Mountjoy); dialectical behaviour therapy, stress management (in the Dóchas Centre), sex offending (Arbour Hill), enhanced thinking skills and anger control training (Cork). Some of the programmes were delivered in association with the Probation Service and contracted addiction counsellors.

Research and programme development activity focused on manual development for anger management and anxiety management; a motivation-to-change programme for prisoners who misuse drugs; administration of the Hanson and Harris measure as part of a project on child sex offenders; evaluation of a Cognitive Behavioural Anxiety Management Group; an evaluation of two Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) programmes run within prisons and an evaluation of the screening instrument used; and a qualitative study of prisoners' experience of personal violence.

Working with Sex Offenders

Every effort is made to assist sex offenders in custody who are willing to participate at any level in rehabilitation and relapse prevention. While offenders can be supported and encouraged in their efforts to change and to address their offending behaviour, ultimately successful completion of any intervention programme depends on the willing participation and commitment of appropriately motivated individuals. The challenge, therefore, for the Irish Prison Service, is to use a range of channels to motivate as many offenders as possible to undertake change and to address their offending behaviour.

There are three main forms of direct therapeutic intervention for sex offenders currently operating within the Irish prison system. These are as follows:

- An intensive sex offender programme which has been in operation since 1994,

- Individual counselling from the Irish Prison Service's Psychology Service and from the Probation Service, and
- One-to-one interventions by visiting psychiatrists who provide support to prisoners.

The intensive programme is an 11-month group programme managed and delivered by the Irish Prison Service's Psychology Service in partnership with the Probation Service. Although delivered in Arbour Hill Prison, it is available to sex offenders in other prisons. The programme is a structured, offence-focused programme, employing a cognitive behavioural approach with a relapse prevention component. The programme places considerable emphasis on the therapeutic process within the group and on supporting each participant in gaining the knowledge, skills, attitudes and self confidence necessary to live life differently and more constructively in the future. The programme seeks to address the behaviour that leads to offending. Eight offenders completed the programme in 2007 and a further programme commenced in Arbour Hill in the autumn of 2007. A total of 128 sex offenders have completed the programme since its inception in 1994.

A review of the Sex Offender Programme has been initiated as part of a more general review of models of intervention, taking account of the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Child Protection which reported in 2006. The objective is to increase the range and availability of therapeutic interventions, improve participation rates and enhance the effectiveness of interventions. Options under consideration include more flexible delivery of programmes based on individual offender's risks, needs and capacity. The likely outcome is a package of sex offender interventions comprising group and individual programmes for a significantly larger group of offenders.

Chaplaincy

There are 20 fulltime and 5 part-time chaplains in the Irish Prison Service. The chaplains are responsible for the pastoral and spiritual care of the entire prison community and approach this in a holistic way. They also aim to provide a link with the wider community.

The chaplains work within the multidisciplinary framework of the prison and attend meetings and case conferences organised within the prisons. The confidential nature of the chaplain's role is respected at all times and this contributes to the unique nature of their work.

On a day-to-day basis, the chaplains visit prisoners in all parts of the prison. They aim to meet all prisoners as soon as possible after committal and to support those about to be released. They spend time with people at times of bereavement and loss and liaise with families through phone calls, meetings and home visits.

Probation Service

As a result of a national audit of service delivery in 2006, the Probation Service undertook a radical restructuring exercise during 2007. This involved a redistribution of staff to match the changing population demographics and an alignment of structures with those of the Courts Service by utilising county boundaries. A national Young Persons Probation Division was also set in operation. For the Service's work in prisons, the restructuring brought a newly formed national region entitled 'Prisoners, Risk and Resettlement'. The Region replaced a structure of service delivery, which was based on geographical areas, with one

region and dedicated staff. The new region will now focus on developing consistent practice throughout the prison estate and will provide a clear structure to support the delivery of Integrated Sentence Management in partnership with the Irish Prison Service. The Region comprises 12 of the 14 prisons with St Patrick's remaining as part of the Young Persons Probation Division and Cloverhill, as a remand prison, being assigned to the Homeless Offenders Team.

Homelessness

Appropriate and accessible accommodation is a vital factor in successful rehabilitation. It is crucial to sustaining employment, treatment, family support and finances. The issue of homelessness among ex-prisoners is an ongoing problem. Over recent years, the Irish Prison Service, working in partnership with the Probation Service, has taken a number of initiatives to help alleviate the extent and risk of homelessness. During 2007, the Irish Prison Service continued its representation on the Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness, the National Homeless Consultative Committee, the Homeless Agency Consultative Forum and a range of other fora focused on addressing the accommodation needs of persons at risk of homelessness, including prisoners.

The Homeless Persons' Unit (HPU) of the Health Service Executive (HSE) extended its in-reach community welfare service to 10 prisons during 2007. This service, delivered in partnership with the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service, ensures that prisoners at risk of homelessness on release have a direct access to accommodation placement and income maintenance support. Figures for 2007 indicate that 590 prisoners accessed this service.

In September 2007, Focus Ireland commenced a new pilot homeless service initiative in Cloverhill Prison. Focus Ireland are providing a case management and pre-settlement service for prisoners, mainly aged 18-25, who are homeless and on remand to Cloverhill. The service aims to provide a seamless service between prison, homeless services and accommodation, supporting each participant in accessing appropriate services and accommodation and on the pathway to independent living. In addition to the IPS, the project is being supported by the Probation Service, and by the HSE HPU.

Dormant Accounts Funding

The Irish Prison Service has secured €250,000 of Dormant Accounts Funding for the provision of homelessness support services to prisoners at risk in Cork and Limerick prisons. The call for proposals issued in November 2007 with a closing date in January 2008.

Drugs and Prison

The Irish Prison Service continued the roll-out of its Drugs Policy and Strategy - entitled Keeping Drugs out of Prison. This drugs strategy was launched in May 2006 and significant progress has been made to date in its implementation.

Reduction of Supply of Illicit Drugs

During 2007 the Irish Prison Service introduced further new facilities and procedures to have, in as far as is possible, a prison system free of drugs. Specific measures which have been taken include:

- New prison visiting arrangements which involve greater control over the number and identity of visitors, and enhanced supervision

of such visits. As a result only identified and known persons are allowed to have visits with prisoners, reducing the likelihood of visitors attempting to pass drugs, and of prisoners being coerced into receiving visits from persons not known to them to facilitate the passing of drugs.

- Enhanced perimeter security involving improved netting and closer cooperation with the Garda Síochána to arrest and prosecute persons attempting to convey drugs into prisons. This has resulted in arrest, prosecution and imprisonment of persons attempting to convey drugs into prisons.
- Improved technology for searching of cells and prison property which has resulted in the improved detection and seizure of contraband.
- Improved prison design aimed at ensuring greater security, for example new prisons are designed to be impervious to attempts to propel drugs into prison yards,
- The introduction of drug detection dogs to monitor persons entering prisons and to aid searches within prisons.
- The establishment of an Operational Support Group dedicated to, and developing expertise in, searching and gathering intelligence.

Reducing the supply of drugs into prisons and helping those addicted to drugs to break the cycle of crime and drug abuse will remain a central focus.

Drug Rehabilitation Programmes

Drug rehabilitation programmes for prisoners involve a significant multidimensional input by a diverse range of general and specialist services provided both by the Irish Prison Service and visiting statutory and non-statutory organisations. The programmes seek to reduce the demand for drugs within the prison system through education, treatment and rehabilitation services for drug-addicted prisoners. Particular initiatives include, inter alia, the provision of detoxification, methadone maintenance, education programmes, addiction counselling and drug therapy programmes.

The Drugs Policy and Strategy mentioned above sees existing drug treatment programmes being expanded and enhanced with the further recruitment of nurses, as well as other staff, including prison officers. The expansion of these services is being achieved in partnership with community-based services and will see a significant improvement in the range, quality and availability of drug treatment services in the prisons.

Specific developments advanced during 2007 include:

- The awarding of a contract for the provision of Addiction Counsellor Services to Merchants Quay Ireland. The Addiction Counselling Service will, in conjunction with other developments, deliver 1,000 hours per week of prisoner access to addiction counselling.
- The allocation of additional nurse officers and prison officers to dedicated Drug Treatment Teams in prisons with significant needs, improving service quality in prisons.
- The provision of funding under the Dormant Accounts Fund to community groups to provide addiction counselling and support to prisoners while in prison and on release in the community.
- The provision of additional specialist sessions in addiction psychiatry, significantly improving the quality, co-ordination and availability of drug treatment in prisons.

These services will be provided on the basis of clinical needs and will be supported by the implementation of a system of mandatory drug testing (provided for in the Prisons Act 2007).

Drug Treatment

The number of prisoners who are in receipt of various drug treatment interventions continues to increase year on year. The IPS was the second highest provider nationally of new treatment contacts and Cloverhill Prison continues to demonstrate the highest clinical activity in this area. However, accessing treatment places on discharge from prison continues to present the IPS with significant challenges.

The introduction of formal Addiction Counselling services across the prison estate, by means of a contract arrangement with Merchants Quay, will greatly increase our ability to respond to the needs of the addicted population in prisons. The addition of this service has been widely welcomed by all disciplines interfacing with drug users in prisons. While additional clinical resources have been approved to assist in improving the overall coordination of treatment the dedicated therapeutic resources available remain less than in comparable community settings.

Considerable work was undertaken during the year in consultation with practitioners at local prison level to draft a Drug Treatment Clinical Policy document to provide guidance to practitioners regarding various clinical issues that may arise in treating addiction in a prison context. The policy will increase standardisation of approach and improve quality of care to prisoners.

Table 17 - Numbers receiving Methadone Substitution during 2007

	Total Patients during period	Total Patients at End of Period	New (1st time patient on Central Treatment List)
Cloverhill Prison	710	176	124
Dóchas Centre	225	38	26
Limerick Prison	10	3	0
Midlands Prison	90	30	8
Mountjoy Main Prison	474	112	9
Mountjoy Prison Medical Unit	120	53	8
Portlaoise Prison	3	1	1
St. Patrick's Institution	15	6	0
Wheatfield Prison	193	90	9
TOTALS for 9 Clinics	1840	509	185

As part of the roll-out of the Drugs Policy, discussion continued with the HSE regarding the possibility of establishing a joint HSE/IPS arrangement for the provision and management of pharmacists to provide addiction/drug treatment pharmacist services. However as this option was not possible it was decided to tender for the service and financial sanction was obtained for the provision a professional pharmacy service on a contractual basis.

A tender competition was subsequently advertised in November for the provision of Drug Treatment Pharmacists Services to five prisons – Mountjoy, Dóchas, Wheatfield, Cloverhill and Midlands. It is hoped that the introduction of this service will be possible following a successful tender competition.

Regular contact was maintained with HSE Pharmacist colleagues, working in Drug Treatment Services, to ensure effective and efficient communication between prisons and clinics, when clients move between both areas of healthcare, particularly at Christmas time.

Preventing Self-Harm

The Irish Prison Service Steering Group on Prevention of Self-harm and Death in the Prisoner Population met on three occasions in 2007. The Group promote best practice in the Irish Prison Service in preventing and, where necessary, responding to self-harm and death in the prisoner population.

HEALTHCARE

Service Developments

During 2007 there has been significant progress in developing an appropriate Nurse Management structure at establishment level (see below). This will significantly assist in coordinating the organisation of healthcare interventions and it is hoped to complete the implementation of a management structure in all locations by early 2008.

Following on the resolution of the Prison Doctor's strike in 2004 it was agreed as part of the industrial relations process that independent reviews be undertaken 1) to consider the availability and suitability of facilities and support structures to facilitate the medical provision of primary care within the prison environment, and, 2) to consider the appropriateness of current medical structures for current and future demands for the assessment, treatment and care of substance misusers such that the services provided are comparable to those available in the community and are appropriate to the prison setting. Both reviews commenced in 2007 and should be completed in 2008 and circulated to the relevant parties for discussion as part of the on-going industrial relations process aimed at achieving satisfactory and full implementation of the doctors contract.

Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Visit, September 2006

The Report of this visit was received during 2007 and following consideration the Report together with the Response of the Irish Government was made public towards the end of the year. Comments and recommendations relating to the organisation and provision of health services to prisoners are in the process of being implemented and this process will continue.

Prison Medical Record System (PMRS)

During the year the use of the PMRS has increased and by end year it was in use, with certain exceptions, across the IPS estate. Use of the system for the routine recording of clinical intervention will significantly assist in overcoming difficulties and deficits which have historically existed. With the development of new pharmacy arrangements (see below) it is essential that the system be employed fully for recording the prescription and administration of medication as this mechanism is required to

enable the efficient ordering and dispensing of prescribed medications. Arising from user feedback a significant number of system updates were identified and financial resources obtained to further improve functionality. It is hoped to have these improvements introduced as early as possible in 2008.

NURSING

2007 saw the introduction of nurse managers in healthcare. There are 14 posts in total, the majority of which have been filled. The development of a 'Prison Complex' management structure for nursing is particularly innovative. The first of these posts to be filled was in the Mountjoy complex and it is assisting in standardising healthcare inputs and ensuring the quality of nursing interventions at prison level.

Primary care underpins all developments in healthcare provision. While treatment of addiction continues to form a significant part of the healthcare workload, the addition of specific addiction nursing posts have added greatly to the quality of treatment interventions and through-care. This development has been widely welcomed by both practitioners and members of the multi disciplinary team.

The full implementation of the nursing management structure will assist in developing the effectiveness and efficiency of the healthcare system in prisons, in addition developing accountability structures that are essential to ensure better healthcare risk management. Recruitment of nurses into the prison system has not been problematic and our attrition rates remain one of the lowest when compared to the nursing workforce planning data available nationally.

PHARMACY SERVICES

Professional Pharmacy Services:

Following the awarding of tenders, professional pharmacy services were introduced to the Training Unit (January 07), Arbour Hill (March 07), Portlaoise (April 07), St. Patrick's (July 07), Wheatfield (August 07), Midlands (October 07) and Castlerea (October 07). The introduction of these contracts ensures that all prisoners in these institutions now have access to professional pharmacy services, on an equivalent basis to that available in the community, taking into consideration the constraints that custody imposes. Both the technical (supply) and professional (pharmaceutical care) elements of pharmacy service provision are now provided as part of these contracts.

It is planned to introduce similar services to the remaining prisons early in 2008.

While ensuring that all prescriptions are now monitored and checked by a pharmacist, and dispensed on an individual patient-basis, the introduction of pharmacy services also supports more effective through-care, as each prisoner's dispensed medicines are now sent with him/her on transfer to another prison, thus ensuring continuity of essential treatment. Similarly, where appropriate, a prisoner's dispensed medicines can be given to him/her on full or temporary release again supporting continuity of necessary treatment until the prisoner can engage with the community healthcare services.

The total expenditure on pharmaceuticals (medicines, dressings and other

medical supplies) in 2007 was €2,396,502.40, which was a decrease of 7% (€172,557) on the 2006 expenditure. When the pharmacy service is operational in each prison, it will be possible to provide an accurate report on the cost of pharmaceuticals for all prisons.

The average daily population for 2007 was 3,321, and so the average cost per prison space was €722, which is a significant decrease from the average 2006 cost of €805. The annual cost of pharmacy services per person of those who availed of pharmaceutical services in 2006 was €809.

Joint HSE/IPS Contracts

The supply of flu vaccines to all prisons was once again arranged on the basis of a joint HSE/IPS contract, thus ensuring availability of these vaccines in a timely manner.

03 HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2007, in addition to provision of day to day human resources services (pensions, allowances, absence management, implementation of policies and procedures in line with employment legislation, etc.) for approximately 3,300 staff, significant developments included a major recruitment drive for the new recruit prison officer grade and the completion of the decentralisation of Prison Service Headquarters to Longford in July 2007.

Recruitment

A major recruitment campaign for recruit prison officers (RPOs), a position introduced in the context of the roll out of the agreed Proposal Organisational Change (July 2005), took place in March 2007. A three stage recruitment competition was completed and a panel of successful candidates formed.

Two hundred and sixty five staff were appointed in 2007 and employed on the conditions of service agreed for the new Recruit Prison Officer.

A demand for accelerated recruitment arose from a decision by the Government to approve resources for a range of security measures aimed at preventing contraband from entering the prisons. It was necessary to increase the capacity of the Irish Prison Service Training and Development Centre to cope with the increased influx of recruits.

Training and Development

Recruit prison officers are required to undergo an intensive training and development programme co-ordinated by IPS Training and Development Centre (IPSTDC). The training is provided through a two year programme and syllabus which leads to the award of a National Certificate Level 6 HETAC accreditation. The Higher Certificate in Custodial Care (HCCC) programme was accredited by HETAC in March 2007 and the first entrants to the programme were enrolled in September 2007. The raising of the standard of training of recruits in the HCCC programme is to ensure a high degree of professionalism so that the officers are fully competent in the role. The HCCC provides social, educational, legal and other skills and knowledge to RPO's, enhancing the professionalism of the service. The course provides an integrated approach to the values, standards and behaviour of international best practice. It is intended that serving prison officers will be offered an opportunity to obtain the HCCC qualification.

The IPSTDC maintained commitments to earlier training courses and obligations such as development and delivery of training in Prison Rules 2007 and delivery of EUJUST LEX programme. Also, continuous professional development programmes emphasising operational needs were developed for all managerial grades as a result of the extensive Training Needs Analysis findings and as a result of the implementation of the Performance Management and Development System.

Decentralisation to Longford

The Irish Prison Service was one of the first Government offices to move under the decentralisation programme. Decentralisation involved the relocation of the full HQ staff complement, comprising 141 posts. These were mainly general Civil Service grades, but also included some

professional grades and contract staff. Staff turnover as a result of the move to Longford was over 80 percent. The staff shortfalls at various grades were met through a combination of new applications assigned from the Central Application Facility (CAF), promotions and open recruitment.

Organisational Change

The new working arrangements agreed and implemented under the revised Proposal for Organisational Change in the Irish Prison Service (July 2005), continued to operate successfully. Under the new arrangements, staff are contracted to work an annual rather than a weekly number of hours, thus enabling management to structure attendance to better meet work demands in areas which are unpredictable.

The focus during 2007 was on reinforcing the operation of the Agreement and on completing the implementation of some outstanding elements. For example, a new roster was negotiated with the POA for staff of the Prison Service Escort Corps (PSEC) in accordance with the terms of the agreed Proposal for Organisational Change. The new roster, which matches attendance with the Courts sitting terms, is working well and PSEC is now providing a more efficient and flexible service with increased levels of escort coverage.

Progress continued to be made towards completing the agreed staffing configurations for each prison by way of recruitment, promotions, transfers, etc. Achievement of these configurations is essential to the effective operation of the Agreement.

The Agreement on the Proposal for Organisational Change provided for the restructuring of the Maintenance and Stores areas and work on this aspect of the Agreement continued in 2007. However, some difficulties in relation to this restructuring were encountered during the year. These related to the redeployment of surplus staff, the failure to reach agreement on new rosters and establishing centralised stores in the manner contemplated in the Agreement. Work on resolving these difficulties is ongoing.

The Agreement on the Proposal for Organisational Change provides for the payment of lump sums to staff in four instalments over the first three years of the operation of the Agreement. The third such instalment was due for payment in November 2007. These payments are dependent on the full co-operation of staff with the operation of the additional hours system provided for by the Agreement. This Report was completed in



August 2007 and the relevant lump sum payment was approved. Payment of the lump sum due in respect of 2007 was made following an assessment of the operation of the agreement.

Monitoring of sick leave by the HR Directorate, coupled with the introduction of the annualised hours system, has contributed towards a 17.4% reduction in sick leave relative to 2006 levels. Intensive monitoring of absenteeism will continue with a view to ensuring a consistent reduction in sick leave.

Industrial Action

During the year there were a number of instances of industrial action, both official and unofficial. This sort of action is not in keeping with the spirit of the Agreement on the Proposal for Organisational Change or with the terms of 'Towards 2016' and is a cause for serious concern for the Irish Prison Service.

Employee Assistance Programme

With a view to enhancing and developing the Employee Assistance Programme, a Chief Welfare Officer (CWO) was appointed in 2007. The CWO, in conjunction with Human Resource Directorate, Governors, Welfare Officers, Staff Support Officers and the Employee Advisory Committee is tasked with developing the welfare service across all prisons. The CWO is supported by 2 Employee Welfare Officers and in the region of 50 voluntary Staff Support Officers.

04 MANAGING THE PRISON ESTATE

Implementation of the prison building and refurbishment programme continued throughout the year. A key feature of this programme is the replacement of approximately 40% of the prison estate that is old and in poor condition in accordance with the commitment in the Programme for Government.

This will include the replacement of the four prisons on the Mountjoy Campus (Mountjoy male prison, Dóchas Centre (female prison), St. Patrick's Institution and the Training Unit) with a new modern operationally efficient prison at Thornton Hall in north County Dublin and a new Munster prison development to replace Cork Prison. It is also planned to replace the older parts of Portlaoise Prison and Limerick Prison with new modern facilities over the coming years.

Capital projects

The following capital projects were under way or completed during 2007:

Thornton Hall Public Private Partnership (PPP) Project

The proposed new prison at Thornton Hall, North County Dublin, is being procured under a PPP basis.

Tenders for the design, construction, finance and maintenance of the new prison were received in January 2007. Following a detailed evaluation of the tenders a consortium, Leargas, comprising M. McNamara and Company, Barclays Private Equity and GSL were selected as the preferred tenderer. Negotiations with the preferred tenderer in relation to various aspects of the design of the new facilities were progressed in 2007.

The new prison will comprise eight individual, practically self-contained facilities, each with its own unique and discrete regime which will give access to work, training, education programmes as well as recreation areas and activities appropriate to the prison population all on a single campus.

Approval from Government was obtained to purchase an additional 8.7 acres at Thornton for the provision of a dedicated access road to serve the prison development. The new access road will benefit the local community by ensuring that access to the prison site during construction and operational phases is via a separate access road.

Work on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in respect of the development commenced during the year with the appointment of Jacobs Engineering to undertake the study.

Kilworth Project

This project involves the replacement of Cork Prison with a modern prison complex on a green field site at Kilworth, County Cork. Government approval for the assignment of approximately 160 acres from lands owned

by the Department of Defence was obtained during the year.

A preliminary site suitability report was completed during the year. This report covered a range of surveys such as archaeology, flora and fauna, road/infrastructure, topography, etc. Further studies will be undertaken as the project progresses.

A preliminary business case in respect of the project was completed and approved by the Prisons Authority Interim Board. Work on the preparation of the detailed business case is underway.

Portlaoise Prison

Construction work continued on the new C Block at Portlaoise. This will accommodate 138 and will also include a new reception area, medical suite, education and recreation facilities. It is due for completion in 2008.

Shelton Abbey and Loughan House

Construction of a 60 bedroom accommodation block in Loughan House and a new education facility at the prison was completed. A heating upgrade to the main house commenced in 2007 and will be completed in 2008. At Shelton Abbey a new accommodation building which can accommodate 44 offenders was also completed.

Castlereagh Prison

A new remand unit which will accommodate 64 offenders was commenced. It is due for completion in 2008. Also, the construction of 2 additional houses at The Grove was completed in 2007 and provided extra accommodation for 12 offenders.

Limerick Prison

Construction work on a new support service block with enhanced education facilities, gymnasium, medical, pharmacy and administration rooms was completed in 2007.

Wheatfield Prison

A contract for a new accommodation block was awarded in 2007. The new block will provide accommodation for 144 offenders. This new block is expected to be completed by the end of 2008 / beginning of 2009.

Prison Maintenance Programme

An extensive programme of maintenance works was carried out in each of



our institutions to protect the fabric of the prison estate and to ensure the welfare & safety of prisoners and staff.

A significant portion of the prison estate is comprised of 19th century buildings which often require specialised and sensitive approaches to their maintenance needs.

Security Measures

Estates Management undertook a programme of works to facilitate the introduction of high security search areas at the entrances to all of our closed institutions. Works commenced in late 2007. The measures include X-ray machines, walk through metal detectors and provision of facilities for use of drug detection dogs at the prison entry points.

Installation of a technology based pilot scheme to inhibit the use of mobile phones in prisons got underway in Midlands Prison in 2007. Initial evaluations of the system were positive and it was decided to extend the scope of the pilot scheme to cover most of the prison complex. Works on evaluating and extending the scheme were still in progress at the end of 2007.

Environmental Management System (EMS) Implementation

The Irish Prison Service EMS implementation strategy has been developing under the guidance of the Executive Environmental Management Team (EEMT) and the Environmental Manager. Some of the key strategic objectives and developments achieved covered infrastructure, waste management equipment, energy and resource usage projects. There has also been significant investment in training and awareness packages for staff and prisoners.

An IPS EMS training manual has been developed by the Environmental Manager and Environmental Consultant with pilot prisons Loughan House, Midlands and Portlaoise. These prisons will also pilot the EMS ISO 14001 template for the service, which is targeted for completion and external accredited audit by end of 2008.

Training

EMS Training has been completed in all locations. This training involves environmental management and implementation teams from all prisons and centres. The training covers environmental awareness, impact assessment, procedures, recording and documenting the system.

The IPS Training and Development Centre in partnership with the Institute of Technology Sligo completed the first Higher Certificate Course in Environmental Management Systems. Eleven Environmental Health & Safety Coordinators completed the course there was also a member of An Garda Síochána in the group.

Other Developments

- A National Health Care Risk Waste contract is now in place covering all medical areas of IPS.
- Major recycling initiatives are underway in Arbour Hill, Castlereagh, Midlands, Mountjoy Complex, Portlaoise, Shelton and Wheatfield.
- Cloverhill, Loughan, Limerick and Cork are developing their infrastructure.
- Arbour Hill won the overall prize for their waste segregation and management facility in the Living Dublin and Dublin City Neighbourhoods Awards. Staff there also completed a training and awareness DVD. The DVD will be used to train staff and prisoners throughout the service in best waste management practice.
- The recycling initiatives showed significant cost savings with 30% savings in some cases on previous years' contractor costs. It has also led to links with charities and community enterprise schemes, which has encouraged staff and prisoner participation in a positive way.
- A new purpose-built waste management and recycling building was completed at Portlaoise Prison. Its heating is provided by a sustainable wood pellet boiler. Staff there have also produced an information booklet on environmental awareness entitled "We Can Still Make A Difference".
- Castlereagh completed a compost pilot on food waste and produced Class 1 grade compost. This has resulted in the IPS working with Cré, the National Compost Association, in developing an accredited compost facility operator training course, which can be delivered to IPS staff and prisoners.
- The Environmental Policy Statement has been incorporated in the new Thornton Hall Project by way of inclusion in call for tenders and contractor information documentation with environmental considerations and sustainability issues highlighted as being a priority within the development.

05 FINANCE

Apart from pay, the most significant area of expenditure is capital spending. Capital investment has been significant in providing improved accommodation and facilities at prisons and places of detention and enhanced officer training facilities.

Dáil Éireann voted a gross total of €397,138,000 for the Irish Prison Service in the Prisons Vote 2007 (Vote 21).

Finance Review

The total gross expenditure by the Irish Prison Service in 2007 was €394,550,000 some €2,588,000 within budget. Pay accounted for approximately 63% of all spending by the Irish Prison Service in 2007. Particulars of the 2007 Provisions and Expenditure are set out in Table 18.

Apart from pay, the most significant area of expenditure is capital spending. Capital investment has been significant in providing improved

accommodation and facilities at prisons and places of detention and enhanced officer training facilities. Particulars of the Prison Service 2007 building programme are given in the chapter on Estate Management. IT developments during 2007 are covered later in this chapter.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Cost of Keeping a Prisoner

The average cost of keeping a prisoner in custody during the calendar year 2007 was €97,700. The increase on the 2006 cost is mainly due to National Pay Agreement increases of 2.5%, 2% and 2% with effect from 1

Irish Prison Service 2007 Expenditure and Income

Table 18: Prison Service 2007 Budget Provision and Actual Expenditure

	2006 Actual Expenditure €000	2007 Provision €000	2007 Actual Expenditure* €000
Administration			
A.1 - Salaries, Wages and Allowances	229,819	252,724	248,075
A.2 - Travel and subsistence	2,458	2,722	2,721
A.3 - Incidental Expenses	7,982	13,124	11,850
A.4 - Postal and telecommunications services	2,427	3,330	3,165
A.5 - Office Machinery and Other Office Supplies	4,547	1,439	1,157
A.6 - Consultancy Services	185	248	243
A.7 - Value for Money and Policy Reviews Other Services	-	50	-
B - Buildings and Equipment	110,985	87,680	94,405
C - Prison Services, etc	26,300	30,421	28,498
D - Manufacturing Department and Farm	420	1,106	583
E - Probation Service -Services to offenders	-	52	44
F - Educational Services	1,474	1,631	1,800
G - Prison Officers, Medical Aid Society (Grant-in-Aid)	-	-	-
H - Compensation	2,105	2,111	1,830
I - Social Disadvantage Measures (Dormant Accounts Funded)	-	500	179
Total Gross Expenditure	388,702	397,138	394,550
J - Appropriation in Aid (Receipts)	1,462	22,749	22,449
Total Net Expenditure	387,240	374,389	372,101

* These figures are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General



June 2006, 1 December 2006 and 1 June 2007 respectively. The breakdown by Institution is shown in Table 19 below.

The cost per prisoner is based on the average daily number of offenders in custody during 2007. The number of prisoner places is based on the number of places in each institution at end-December 2007. The operational cost of each institution is based on actual running costs, i.e. pay, overtime, food, light and heat, maintenance, etc. These costs include certain fixed costs that arise irrespective of the number of offenders in custody, e.g. staffing numbers, utilities, etc. All headquarters and central service costs are allocated over the prison establishments for the purpose of calculating the cost per prisoner at each institution. Capital expenditure is excluded from the calculation in the interest of facilitating comparison between individual institution costs, however certain building projects under the B2 subhead 'small works and environmental projects' were included, most notably at Arbour Hill, Castlereagh, Loughan House and Shelton Abbey.

Implementation of Management Information Framework (MIF) within the Irish Prison Service

The Irish Prison Service is implementing the Management Information Framework to bring about improved financial management and control within the Prison Service. The intention is to have a more strategically driven organisation that meets the demands of a modern justice system and does so in a cost effective manner. The Irish Prison Service has implemented many parts of MIF to date primarily relating to developing improved accounting systems and is pressing forward with financial training for key groups of staff.

Financial Management System

The Irish Prison Service has been operating an Oracle financial management system since July 2002. During 2007, significant progress was made on the project to establish up to date asset registers on the Oracle system in respect of all IPS institutions. A timetable will be agreed in 2008 to complete the rollout of the Oracle system within the IPS.

Table 19: Cost of Keeping a Prisoner and Cost of a Prisoner Place by Institution in 2007

Institution	Cost of Keeping an Offender (€)		Cost Per Prison Place (€)	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Arbour Hill	93,000	81,400	91,400	80,600
Castlereagh	86,200	76,700	86,500	72,800
Cork	93,000	90,100	90,000	88,200
Cloverhill	84,700	81,600	81,600	76,100
Limerick	82,400	76,900	82,000	74,800
Loughan House	82,200	70,000	66,000	52,800
Midlands	88,600	81,900	81,800	79,300
Mountjoy (Male)	99,800	101,200	95,200	101,300
Dóchas (Mountjoy Female)	102,000	87,600	109,500	91,300
Portlaoise	269,800	247,200	152,700	150,500
Shelton Abbey	107,800	95,200	100,600	81,400
St Patricks	106,800	97,100	98,900	83,900
Training Unit	90,400	82,200	83,900	78,700
Wheatfield	88,600	84,000	89,700	81,400
Overall Average Cost Per Prisoner	97,700	91,700	91,800	85,800

Expenditure Reviews

The third expenditure review in the area of capital expenditure was completed and published during 2007. A Capital Monitoring Committee was established to oversee implementation of the recommendations contained in the report.

Central Procurement Unit (CPU)

During 2007, the CPU procured services and goods to support the strategic objectives of the Irish Prison Service. The CPU is responsible for modernising and advising on procurement matters and ensuring that reporting practices outlined in Department of Finance guidelines are implemented.

The main EU and national tender competitions run by the CPU were for the supply of food, cotton fabrics, purchase cards, construction works framework, staff training services, catering services, taxi services, cleaning services and security services.

The CPU liaised with the Office of Public Works and the Government Supplies Agency in relation to aggregation of IPS supply requirements. This resulted in supply contracts for items such as natural gas, oil, staff uniforms, nurses' uniforms, prisoner clothing, office supplies, personal protective equipment, furniture, bedding, janitorial supplies and other sundry goods. The Central Procurement Unit has a central coordinating role in establishing the Irish Prison Service requirements for all of the above items.

The ongoing management of a number of contracts including food, gym equipment, photocopiers maintenance and related contracts, was also carried out by the CPU in 2007. This also included annual price reviews as provided for under the various contracts.

During 2007, the CPU implemented a staff familiarisation and training process for new staff assigned to our Clondalkin offices to facilitate the decentralisation of the Irish Prison Service Headquarters to Longford. This process of up-skilling has enhanced the transfer of corporate information and procurement knowledge in the Directorate arising from the decentralisation process.

The CPU has expanded its role and is overseeing the implementation of reorganisation of the Prison Stores as outlined in the Proposal for Organisational Change in the Irish Prison Service.

Payroll Functions

The Irish Prison Service payroll includes payment of basic pay, allowances and extra attendance. The Financial Shared Services Centre of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform based in Killarney is responsible for the payment functions. The Time and Attendance system is integrated with the payroll system in the Financial Shared Services in Killarney. This allows for automated electronic pay details transfer between the two systems.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The following information is provided in accordance with the Act within the guidelines issued by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

The Irish Prisons Service has procedures in place to ensure that all invoices are paid within the statutory time limit. While the procedures

have been designed to ensure compliance with the Act, they only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material non compliance with the Act.

These procedures operate in the financial period under review and, in the case of late payments, the relevant suppliers were notified and the interest due was paid to them.

In accordance with the Prompt Payment of Account Act 1997, the following information is provided in respect of the financial period ending December 31st, 2007:

(a) Payment Practices

The Irish Prison Service makes payment to suppliers in accordance with the terms specified in the respective invoices or conditions specified in individual contracts, if appropriate. Since 2002 the standard terms are 30 days.

(b) Late Payments

Invoice Amount	No. of Invoices	Amount of Interest Paid €
Under €317	22	218.83
Over €317	577	25,109.15
Total	599	25,327.98

(c) Overall percentage of late payments to total payments and total interest paid.

The overall percentage of late payments to total payments was 1.7%. The total amount of interest paid with respect to late payments was €25,327.98. Arrangements are being made to ensure that invoices are paid on time and where there are queries on invoices, suppliers are notified as soon as possible.

Payments to members of the Prisons Authority Interim Board

The Chairman received gross remuneration of €12,000 in 2007 in respect of his chairmanship of the Prisons Authority Interim Board. Other Board members received gross remuneration of €7,000 in 2007 in respect of their membership of the Interim Board. As full-time, salaried public servants, three members of the Interim Board were not remunerated in respect of their membership of the Interim Board.

Compensation Awards and Criminal Injuries

The total expenditure on compensation payments was €1.6m in 2007 including the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal Scheme and civil compensation cases and associated costs.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal operates independently of the Irish Prison Service. However, the Irish Prison Service funds any award made by the Tribunal to prison officers as a result of criminal injuries incurred in the course of their duty. The total expenditure in respect of Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal cases in 2007 was €741,644 (€1,083,000 in 2006).

The State Claims Agency (SCA) has taken responsibility for the management and disposal of the majority of claims initiated after 1

January 2001. The Irish Prison Service Claims Unit continues to manage cases initiated before 1 January 2001 and a small number of specific types of claims. The Irish Prison Service Claims Unit also liaises with the SCA in relation to the management of cases handled by the SCA.

The total expenditure in respect of Civil Compensation Claims cases managed by the Irish Prison Service and the SCA in 2007 was €850,000 (€862,000 in 2006). The proactive approach taken by the Irish Prison Service Claims Unit, together with considerable assistance from local management and the active involvement of the SCA ensured that the level of expenditure was kept to a minimum.

Information Technology

The Irish Prison Service has made significant investment in IT to provide the key operational systems required to run a modern Prison Service and almost all areas of prison administration have been addressed. The Prison Service has become a substantial IT operation with up to 3,500 users and more than 1,500 PCs in 19 locations around the country. All parts of the Prison Service are now connected by a wide area network which allows the key systems to be deployed and has also greatly enhanced the capacity of the organisation to share information.

Among the systems developed has been the Prisoner Records Information System (PRIS). This system is operational in all prisons since 2001 and provides a comprehensive means of recording and sharing information about the prison population. It is intended that this system will, over the coming years, provide a valuable source of statistical information in relation to trends in the composition of the prison population and will act as an aid to policy making in this area. During 2007 this system was significantly enhanced with a new sentence calculation routine being developed. The system is now well established and has realised significant business benefits to the organisation over its life to date.

The Time & Attendance system which was linked to the payroll system in Killarney during 2005, was significantly upgraded in 2007. The changes made are working well and allow for the full range of amended attendance arrangements and payments under the Proposal for Organisational Change.

A computerised Prisoner Medical Records System has been developed for doctors, nurses and other medical staff working within the Irish Prison Service. Roll-out of the system is complete and this system is in place in all prisons for utilisation by prisons medical staff. During 2007 the system was further enhanced which provides enriched functionality to the Irish Prison Service medical staff.

An IT Support contract is in place to ensure business continuity and quality service through a partially outsourced IT System support team. This service provides high quality user support to all prison sites using a combination of the contracted IT support team and Prison Service in-house IT staff.

Significant progress was also achieved in 2007 in the following areas:

- A significant number of new IT document management systems were put in place;
- A substantial amount of new IT equipment and infrastructure were deployed;
- The Irish Prison Service IT service was successfully redeployed to the new headquarters site in Longford;
- The redesign of the IT Network is now complete and a new modern fully robust network is being deployed;
- A large voice over internet protocol (VOIP) project commenced with the new headquarters site and a number of other sites;

06 THE INSTITUTIONS



Arbour Hill Prison
Arbour Hill, Dublin 7

Governor: Liam Dowling

Previous Governor: Seán Quigley (January – April)

Profile

Arbour Hill is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 18 years and over, serving sentences of more than two years. It has a bed capacity of 139.

Prisoner Population

The daily average number in custody was 138.



Castlerea Prison,
Harristown, Castlerea,
Co.Roscommon.

Governor: Daniel Scannell

Profile

Castlerea Prison is designated as a committal prison for prisoners aged 17 years and upwards for the geographical region of Connacht and counties Longford, Cavan and Donegal. It has a bed capacity of 228 cells.

Prisoner Population

The daily average in custody was 230 prisoners. There were 1,137 prisoners committed to this prison during the year plus a significant number of transfers from other prisons.



Cloverhill Prison
Cloverhill Road, Clondalkin,
Dublin 22.

Governor: Tom Somers

Profile

Cloverhill Prison is a medium security prison mainly for male pre-trial adults. The prison has accommodation for 432 prisoners in a combination of single, double and triple cells.

Prisoner Population

There were a total of 4,258 persons committed to Cloverhill Prison during the year. The average daily prisoner population was 418.



Cork Prison
Rathmore Road, Cork City, Cork.

Governor: Jim Collins

Profile

Cork Prison is a closed, medium security committal prison for Cork, Kerry and Waterford, for males aged seventeen and upwards, serving sentences up to life. The prison has a bed capacity of 268.

Prisoner Population

During the year a total of 1,492 prisoners were committed, or transferred, to Cork Prison. They included some difficult and disruptive prisoners who had been deprived privileges in other prisons. The average daily prisoner population was 264.



Dóchas Centre
North Circular Road, Dublin 7.

Governor: Kathleen McMahon

Profile

The Dóchas Centre is a closed, medium security prison for women. It is a purpose-built, modern prison with accommodation designed for 81 women in seven separate houses within the complex. With some alterations to rooms capacity has increased to 86.

Prisoner Profile

There were 1,113 committals and transfers to the Dóchas Centre during the course of the year. The average daily prisoner population was 92.



Loughan House
Blacklion, Co. Cavan.

Governor: Catherine Comerford

Profile

Loughan House is an open centre for convicted male offenders aged 18 years and over, who are transferred from other institutions. The bed capacity is 105 and sleeping accommodation is mainly single and double bedrooms.

Committals for 2006

A total of 559 persons were committed to Loughan House in 2007. The average daily prisoner population was 87.



Limerick Prison
Mulgrave Street, Limerick.

Governor: Tadhg O'Riordan

Profile

The prison is a closed, medium security committal prison for male and female prisoners from age 17 and upwards. The bed capacity is 274 for males and 20 for females. Male prisoners can be committed from courts in counties Limerick, Tipperary and Clare only. Female prisoners can be committed from courts in all six Munster counties.

Prisoner Profile

There were 1,269 committals during the course of the year. The average daily prisoner population was 296.



Midlands Prison
Dublin Road, Portlaoise,
Co Laois.

Governor: John O'Sullivan

Profile

Midlands Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 18 years and over, serving sentences up to life. It is a committal prison for sentenced adult prisoners from counties Kildare, Carlow, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly and Westmeath. The Prison has a bed capacity of 465 places, mainly in single cell accommodation, with a small number of triple cells.

Prisoner Population

Three hundred and thirty-four prisoners were committed to Midlands Prison in 2007. The average daily prisoner population was 442.



Mountjoy Prison
North Circular Road, Dublin 7.

Governor: John Loneragan

Profile

Mountjoy Prison is a closed, medium security prison. It is the main committal prison for Dublin County for males aged 18 years and over serving sentences up to life. It is a purpose-built prison with a bed capacity which increased from 480 at the start of the year to 540 by mid-2007. Mountjoy prison is the largest penal institution in the State and has the highest numbers of prisoners in custody.

Prisoner Population

There were 1,251 committals to Mountjoy Prison in 2006. The average daily prisoner population was 518.



Shelton Abbey
Arklow, Co Wicklow.

Governor: Seamus Cramer

Profile

Shelton Abbey is an open detention centre for male offenders from 19 years of age upwards.

Shelton Abbey receives prisoners from closed prisons to finish their sentences. Long-term prisoners are sent to Shelton Abbey to prepare them for release. Sleeping accommodation is mainly in dormitories. The bed capacity is 60.

Prisoner population

The daily average number of prisoners in custody was 55.



Portlaoise Prison
Dublin Road, Portlaoise,
Co. Laois.

Governor: Edward Whelan

Previous Governor: John Dooley (retired March 2007)

Profile

Portlaoise Prison is a high security, closed prison for males aged 18 years and over. The Prison has a bed capacity of 198 but operates below capacity for security and operational reasons.

Prisoner Population

In 2007, the average number of prisoners in Portlaoise Prison was 117, with 22 committals to the prison in the year.

Some prisoners were committed for subversive type offences. The prison also accommodates prisoners convicted of offences relating to organised crime who have been committed directly to the prison, or have been committed elsewhere but due to security considerations have been transferred to Portlaoise Prison.



St. Patrick's Institution
North Circular Road, Dublin 7.

Governor: Seán Quigley

Previous Governor: Seán Lennon (January – April)

Profile

St. Patrick's Institution is a closed, medium security place of detention for males aged 16 to 21 years of age. It has a bed capacity of 216.

Prisoner Profile

There were 756 persons committed to the Institution during the course of the year. The average daily prisoner population was 197.



Training Unit
Glengariff Parade, Dublin 7.

Governor: John O'Brien

Profile

The Training Unit is a semi-open, low security prison for males aged 18 years and over, serving sentences up to life. Long sentence prisoners are normally nearing the end of their sentence. The prison has accommodation for 96 prisoners in single rooms.

Prisoner Population

One hundred and seventy-seven prisoners were transferred to the Training Unit in 2007. The average daily prisoner population was 91.



Irish Prison Service Building Services Division (BSD)
Unit 2, Airways Industrial Estate, Cloghran, Dublin 17.

Governor: George Victory

Building Services Division is the technical support section of the Irish Prison Service. It assists all prisons to manage within their allocated budgets by careful preparation of specifications, energy management and compliance with all procurement procedures. It also provides technical advice on building projects including capital works to all stake-holders; enhances, researches and develops existing and new systems for the cost effective and reliant technical advancement of the Irish Prison Service; and through the High Security Locking Section provides the design, supply, installation and maintenance of all locking systems throughout the Irish Prison Service.



Wheatfield Prison
Cloverhill Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

Previous Governor: Seán Lennon

Previous Governor: Edward Whelan (January – April)

Profile

Closed medium security committal prison for male offenders aged 18 and over on remand and serving sentences up to life. It is the committal prison for Wicklow, Wexford, Louth, Meath and Monaghan court areas. The bed capacity is 374.

Prisoner Population

There were 292 committals to Wheatfield Prison in 2007. The average daily prisoner population was 376.



Irish Prison Service Training and Development Centre (IPSTDC)
Beladd House, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois.

Governor: Joe McDermott

The IPSTDC role is to support the achievement of corporate and business plan objectives by implementing training and development services and resources to meet the service's needs and training priorities and the agreed needs of staff. This includes developing and implementing training and development policy and strategy, setting the vision for training and development for the future and continually evaluating the standard and quality of training delivery and administration.

A total of 265 recruit prison officers (RPOs) and 9 nurse officers commenced training at the IPSTDC in 2007. Of the RPOs 119 completed the 9-week induction training programme, and from September 2007, 146 commenced semester 1 of the Higher Certificate in Custodial Care (HCCC) programme.



**Prison Service Escort Corps
(PSEC)**

Cloverhill Prison, Cloverhill Road,
Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

Governor: Sylvester Salley

PSEC is a co-ordinated prisoner escort system operated by prison officers within the Prison Service. The corps was set up towards the end of 2005. There is a staffing complement of 156 and a fleet of 52 specialised cellular and 19 non-cellular vehicles.

The main business of the service is providing escorts to and from all Dublin City courts, all country circuit courts and productions to district courts, but it also covers inter-prison and hospital escorts. The level of coverage provided by the PSEC for court escorts now stands at 93.8%.

Court Escorts Covered by PSEC from January 2007 to December 2007

2007	Court	PSEC Escorted	% PSEC Escorted
Total	21,230	19,908	93.8

07 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 : All Committals to prisons and places of detention in 2007

Table 20: Committals to Prison, 2000 - 2007

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number	11,626	12,127	11,860	11,775	10,657	10,658	12,157	11,934
Change	---	501	-267	-85	-1,118	1	1,499	-223
% change	---	4.3%	-2.2%	-0.7%	-9.5%	0.0%	14.1%	-1.8%

Note: Total committals during the year (not persons). Committals are new entries during the year or re-entries following a period out of prison. For any one year, committals on sentence are excluded if the person was already on remand in custody

Table 21: Committals to Prison 2007 classified by type of committal and gender

Committal Type	Female		Male		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sentenced	435	7.6	5,280	92.4	5,715	47.9
Remand	535	10.8	4,432	89.2	4,967	41.6
Immigration	386	30.9	863	69.1	1,249	10.5
Indefinite Contempt Of Court	0	0.0	3	100.0	3	0.0
Total	1,356	11.4	10,578	88.6	11,934	100.0

Table 22: Committals by month in 2007

January	1,059
February	975
March	1,116
April	912
May	1,011
June	1,104
July	1,120
August	675
September	885
October	1,120
November	1,073
December	884
Total	11,934
Average	995



Persons Committed to Prisons and Places of Detention

Table 23: Committals by month in 2007

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
NNumber	9,539	9,716	9,814	8,820	8,686	9,700	9,711
Change	---	177	98	-994	-134	1,014	11
% change	---	1.9%	1.0%	-10.1%	-1.5%	11.7%	0.1%

Figures relate to persons newly committed to prison (i.e. not already on remand or serving another sentence)

Table 24: Age and gender of persons committed in 2007

Age (years)	Female	Male	Total	%
15	0	1	1	0.0
16	0	100	100	1.0
17	5	141	146	1.5
18 - <21	142	1,164	1,306	13.4
21 - <25	216	1,831	2,047	21.1
25 - <30	265	1,835	2,100	21.6
30 - <40	355	2,171	2,526	26.0
40 - <50	133	949	1,082	11.1
50+	39	364	403	4.1
Total	1,155	8,556	9,711	100.0
%	11.9	88.1	100.0	-

Table 25: Debtor/Fine defaulters

Type	Female		Male		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Debtor	19	10.4	182	13.4	201	13.1
Fine Sentence	163	89.6	1,172	86.6	1,335	86.9
Total	182	100.0	1,354	100	1,536	100

Table 26: Numbers in Custody by month in 2007 (on 15th of each month or nearest working day)

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mean
Arbour Hill	139	139	138	139	138	139	138	139	139	139	139	139	139
Castlerea	224	232	230	231	235	241	227	228	207	222	233	244	230
Cloverhill	414	390	395	443	422	429	442	418	407	457	444	406	422
Cork	256	270	272	251	262	272	265	250	260	258	278	266	263
Limerick (f)	18	20	15	21	17	15	19	16	21	21	17	22	19
Limerick (m)	268	269	281	280	283	290	295	280	279	268	288	278	280
Loughan	66	101	97	83	96	99	94	96	85	70	77	86	88
Midlands	436	433	438	434	437	446	448	444	445	446	448	452	442
Mountjoy (f)	112	103	97	97	94	102	84	88	91	83	93	90	95
Mountjoy (m)	452	486	495	503	534	533	555	529	512	526	551	558	520
Portlaoise	118	116	117	117	116	113	116	124	121	119	114	118	117
Shelton Abbey	55	57	58	53	57	49	54	59	55	56	60	56	56
St Patrick's	193	203	189	186	193	203	196	199	202	196	208	183	196
Training Unit	88	92	95	91	91	92	96	83	80	82	94	90	90
Wheatfield	377	374	383	383	384	375	381	373	375	362	376	372	376
Totals	3,216	3,285	3,300	3,312	3,359	3,398	3,410	3,326	3,279	3,305	3,420	3,360	3,331

Appendix 2 : Statistics on prison population on 5 December 2007**Table 27: Persons in Custody under Sentence on 5 December 2007 - Offences classified by Age**

	16	17	18 - < 21	21 - < 25	25 - < 30	30 - < 40	40 - < 50	50+	Total
Murder	0	0	3	20	38	75	55	37	228
Manslaughter	0	0	7	18	13	30	9	7	84
Sexual Offences	0	0	8	13	35	33	63	85	237
Other Offences against the person	2	3	83	113	92	72	32	8	405
Offences against property with violence	0	0	7	14	14	36	12	3	86
Offences against property without violence	4	8	95	190	166	171	50	12	696
Drug Offences	1	0	29	71	127	166	55	23	472
Road Traffic Offences	3	5	35	50	48	34	10	5	190
Other Offences	0	5	30	61	79	76	28	19	298
Total	10	21	297	550	612	693	314	199	2696

Table 28: Offence Profile of Prisoners in custody under sentence on 5 December 2007

Group 1: Offences against the Person	Female	Male	Total
Murder	5	223	228
Manslaughter	4	80	84
Sexual Offences	0	237	237
Other Offences against the Person	8	397	405
Total Group 1	17	937	954
Group 2: Offences against Property with violence	0	86	86
Group 3: Offences against Property without violence	17	697	696
Group 4: Other Offences			
Drug Offences	23	449	472
Road Traffic Offences	1	189	190
Other Offences	8	290	298
Total Group 4	32	928	960
Total	66	2,630	2,696

Table 29: Persons in Custody under Sentence on 5 December 2007 - Offences classified by sentence length

	< 3 mths	3 - < 6 mths	6 - < 12 mths	1 - < 2 yrs	2 - < 3 yrs	3 - < 5 yrs	5 - < 10 yrs	10+ yrs	Life	Total
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4*	224	228
Manslaughter	0	0	0	1	1	5	49	26	2	84
Sexual Offences	0	0	2	18	14	38	97	59	9	237
Other Offences against the person	1	18	40	77	69	99	80	18	3	405
Offences against property with violence	0	1	1	0	9	20	30	25	0	86
Offences against property without violence	9	37	103	129	116	169	122	10	1	696
Drug Offences	6	2	28	38	47	103	188	60	0	472
Road Traffic Offences	6	39	42	47	24	24	8	0	0	190
Other Offences	35	29	59	42	13	58	57	5	0	298
Total	57	126	275	352	293	516	631	207	239	2,696

4* = 4 people received 40-year sentences for 'Capital Murder'.

Table 30: Debtors and Default of Fine in custody on 5 December 2007

Debtor/Fines	Female	Male	Total
Debtor	0	5	5
Fine Sentence	0	11	11
Total	0	16	16

Appendix 3: Counting rules and recording practice

The statistical tables in this annual report were compiled on the basis of the following counting rules and recording practices

Counting of committals

Where a person is committed on more than one separate occasion during the year, he/she is counted once for each reception. However, where an offender currently serving a sentence receives a further prison sentence, this is not counted as a separate reception.

Recording of offences

In the case of an individual committed under sentence for more than one offence, only the principal offence is recorded in the tables. The offence selected as the principal offence is that for which the heaviest sentence is imposed.

Age of offenders

The age of offender in the tables is recorded as the offender's age at date of committal.

Guide to table headings

In tables relating to age, the age range is indicated as 16, 17, 18 less than 21, 21 less than 25, etc. The convention used is that, for example, '18 less than 21' means aged from 18 years and no days up to and including 20 years and 364 days old.

In the case of tables referring to sentence length e.g., 3 months - <6 months, 1 year - <2 years, the convention used is that '3 months - < months' means a sentence 90 days up to and including a sentence of one day less than 6 calendar months, '1 year - <2 years' means a sentence from one calendar year up to and including a sentence of one day less than two calendar years.

Offence classifications

This report classifies 1,400 offences in four groups, i.e. offences against the person, offences against property with violence, offences against property without violence and other offences. Particulars of offences included in each group are available from the Corporate Services Directorate, Irish Prison Service, Ballinalee Road, Longford.
E-mail: info@irishprisons.ie.

