



A new Confidential anti-trafficking telephone line has been launched by the Operational Support Group.

The telephone line is being introduced to provide members of the general public and prisoners with a means to call the Prison Service with information about any matter relating to smuggling or attempts at smuggling of prohibited articles such as drugs, weapon and mobile phones .

Speaking about the new initiative the Director General stated **“Contraband, such as drugs, in the prison system is one of the biggest challenges facing the Service. It is my hope that the introduction of this dedicated phone line will help prevent contraband being smuggled into prisons. I also see this phone line as an important tool within the prisons, where prisoners can talk to us in confidence about contraband. But more than that, I hope that people in society who may be put under enormous pressure to smuggle drugs, weapons phones, etc., into prison can see this as a way out. We want to help these people, to let them know that they are not alone, that they can talk to us and that we will do everything in our power to help them”**

The phone line will be manned from 8am to 8pm and will be operated similar to the “Crimebusters” hotline which is run by An Garda Síochána. Calls outside this time period will be answered by answer machine and persons calling may choose to leave a message.

The phone line for the public is 1800 855 717. Prisoners can access the phone line via the NICE system by dialling 77.