

Tuesday 17th February 2015
Statement by the Irish Prison Service - Escape from Custody

The Irish Prison Service can confirm that on Tuesday 17th February 2015 a prisoner, from Portlaoise Prison, escaped from the custody of prison staff while on escort to Tallaght Hospital. The Prisoner Derek Brockwell, date of birth 05/03/1961, was serving a total of 7 years in custody for robbery and possession of firearms. During the escape two prison officers were seriously injured and have undergone surgery for their injuries and are now recovering in Tallaght hospital.

A full investigation has commenced to establish the facts and circumstances leading to this very serious incident. All issues including the circumstances surrounding the decision to remove the armed escort will be examined in the course of this investigation and any additional security measures which may be identified as necessary once the investigation has been concluded will then be considered

The Director General has visited the officers this morning in Tallaght hospital and also spoken to some family members. The Director General of the Irish Prison Service Michael Donnellan has said that his thoughts are with our injured staff, their families and all the staff of the Irish Prison Service at this time.

Ends

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