

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





IRISH PRISON SERVICE | CREATING A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO: THE TÁNAISTE AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND
EQUALITY MS FRANCES FITZGERALD, T.D.



Michael Donnellan | **Director General**

Tánaiste,

I am pleased to transmit to you the Annual Report for the Irish Prison Service 2015. This year saw the conclusion of the Irish Prison Service 3-Year Strategic Plan 2012-2015. Significant progress was achieved by the Irish Prison Service over the lifetime of this ambitious Strategy and the progress report on the Strategic Plan is included in this report. I would like to thank my colleagues in the Irish Prison Service for their continued dedication and professionalism.

Prison Numbers

2015 saw an increase in total committals to prison with 17,206 committals which is an increase of 6.5% on the previous year total of 16,155.

The overall daily average number of prisoners in custody in 2015 was 3,722 compared to 3,915 in 2014. The average number of female offenders in custody was 131, a 12.7% decrease on the 2014 average of 150. There were 13,987 committed to prison under sentence in 2015 an 8.8% increase (1,134) in the numbers committed in 2014 (12,853).

When fines committals are excluded from these figures, the numbers committed under sentence increased by 230 or 6% from 3,874 in 2014 to 4,104 in 2015.

Community Return Programme and Community Support Scheme

The Irish Prison Service and Probation Service Community Return Programme won the Civil Service Award for Excellence and Innovation in December 2015. I congratulate the Community Return Team who have implemented this initiative since 2012. The staff of the

Irish Prison Service make a huge contribution to our communities and play an important role in making society safer and I am pleased that this contribution has been recognised at the highest level of Government.

2015 saw 712 people involved in the Community Return and Community Support Scheme.

Cost per Available, Staffed Prison Space

The average annual cost of an available, staffed prison space during the calendar year 2015 was €68,628, a decrease on the 2014 cost of €68,959.

Inspector of Prisons

During 2015 the Inspector of Prisons commissioned the “Culture and Organisation in the Irish Prison Service, A Road Map For the Future” by Professor Coyle. The report focused on cultural issues and in that context undertook an examination of the relationship of the Irish Prison Service with the Department of Justice and Equality, present structures and relationships within the Irish Prison Service, roles and responsibilities of those working in the Service and reviewed current service provision and objectives and stated vision. It also reviewed training and continuous development of prison staff at all levels.

While highlighting challenges, the Report acknowledges the many positive aspects of the Service, including the dedication of staff. The Report is an important contribution to the organisation and will help shape our future direction.

Funeral of Thomas Kent

2015 saw the exhumation of Thomas Kent from within the grounds of Cork prison and reinternment in his families’ grave with a full state funeral. The remains were formally removed from the grounds of Cork Prison on Friday 18 September 2015. A Guard of Honour comprising of almost 60 staff members from Cork and Limerick Prisons lined the route to and from the graveside. This was a proud day for the Prison Service on what was a very significant occasion for the family of Thomas Kent.

Modernisation of Prison Estate

Construction of a new prison in Cork commenced in January 2014, the prison is due to open in February 2016. Planning procedures in Limerick for a new cell block of 103 cells and a new female prison unit of 50 cells and eight transition units was advanced. When completed in late 2019 the new development will result in the first fully integrated Justice Sector facility in the State to include Courts Service, Prison Service and Probation Service. Plans commenced on the preparation of a business case for the construction of a new maximum security unit in Portlaoise prison to replace the existing “E” block used to house high security prisoners. In tandem with the Limerick development, this new development will result in the final elimination of the practice of “slopping out” across the entire Prison estate.

Prison Act

The Prisons Act 2015 was published in December 2015 to facilitate the complete closure of St Patrick’s Institution. The Act, when fully operational, will repeal statutory provisions that enable the courts to order the detention of offenders under the age of 21 in St Patricks Institution and will also delete references to St Patrick’s Institution from the statute book.



Michael Donnellan | **Director General**

OVERVIEW OF IRISH PRISON SERVICE





OUR MISSION

Providing safe and secure custody, dignity of care and rehabilitation to prisoners for safer communities.



OUR VISION

A safer community through excellence in a prison service built on respect for human dignity.



OUR VALUES



TEAM WORK | We achieve more by working together than we can as individuals working alone



INTEGRITY | We must always have the courage to do the right thing, the decent thing even when no one else is watching



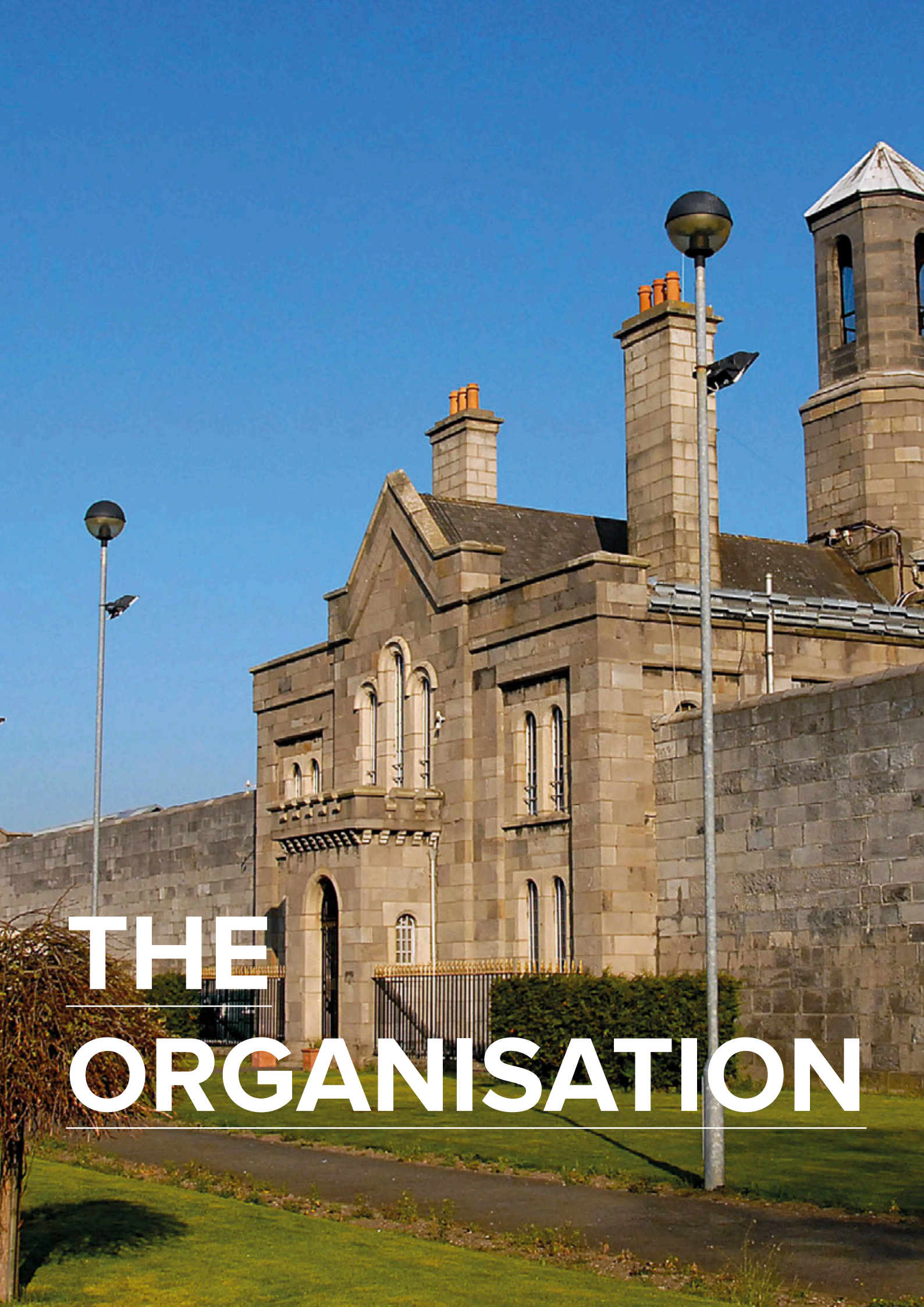
POTENTIAL | Everyone has the potential to be a better person and we actively seek to provide staff and those in custody with opportunities to realise and achieve this



SAFETY | We actively contribute to maintaining an environment in which staff and those in our custody feel emotionally and physically safe and ultimately, contribute to a safer community



SUPPORT | We actively seek to provide supports to staff and support rehabilitation of those in custody



THE ORGANISATION

THE ORGANISATION

Political responsibility for the prison system in Ireland is vested in the Minister for Justice and Equality. The Irish Prison Service operates as an executive agency within the Department of Justice and Equality. It is headed by a Director General supported by 5 Directors.

The Irish Prison Service deals with male offenders who are 17 years of age or over and female offenders who are 18 years of age or over.

The Irish Prison Service is administered centrally with its headquarters located in Longford Town.

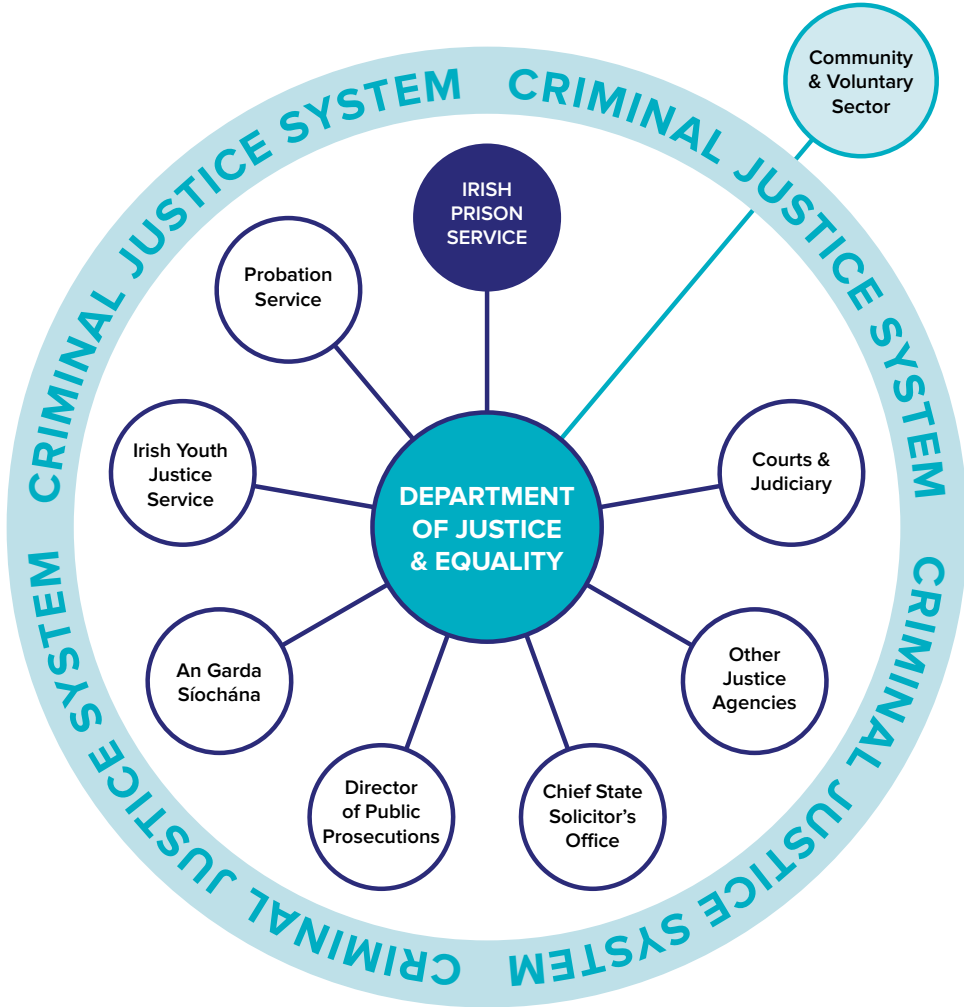


Fig 1. The Irish Criminal Justice System

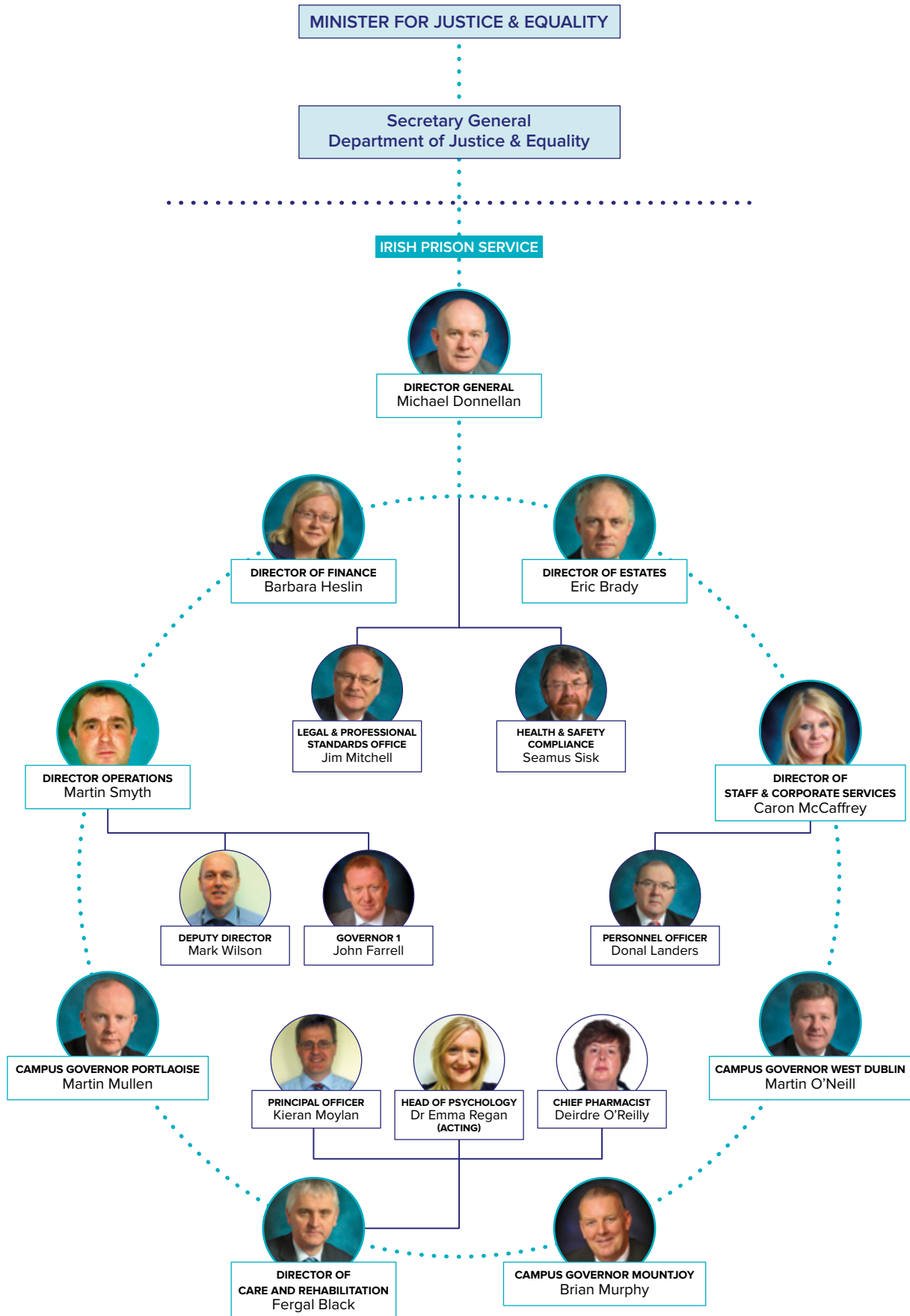


Fig 2. Irish Prison Service Headquarters and Directorates

Budget

The annual budget for the Irish Prison Service for 2015 was € 332.182 million.

Staff

At end 2015 there were 3,308 staff in the Irish Prison Service including civilian grades and headquarters staff.

Statutory Framework

The Prison Service operates within a statutory framework comprising:

- the Prisons Acts, including the Prisons Act, 2007;
- relevant provisions in other statutes such as the Prisons (Visiting Committees) Act, 1925, the Criminal Justice Act, 1960, the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997, the Criminal Justice Act, 2007, other criminal justice acts and the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Acts, 1995 and 1997;
- the Prison Rules, 2007, including the Prison Rules Amendment (2014); and.
- the European Convention on Human Rights Act 2003.

For persons held on immigration related matters the main legislative provisions are the Immigration Acts 1999, 2003 and 2004, their associated regulations, the Illegal Immigrants Trafficking Act 2000 and the Refugee Act 1996.

The Prison Service also takes due account of various international human rights treaties, declarations, standards and recommendations, including:

- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- the European Convention on Human Rights;
- the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;
- the European Prison Rules 2006;

- the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and
- the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Prison Service also takes due account of the Reports of the Inspector of Prisons and endeavours to implement the Inspector's recommendations.

Implementation of Programme for Government

As an executive agency of the Department of Justice and Equality, the Irish Prison Service supports the Department in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Government's Programme for National Recovery, 2011 – 2016 including commitments:

- to enhance safety in our communities;
- to balance the needs of the community and those of victims of crime and the rights of those accused;
- to deliver services in an economically viable manner/within budget;
- to drive cross organisational co-operation and goal sharing between all justice and equality organisations with other Departments and agencies;
- to contribute to effective cross-functional and joint agency collaboration, for example, in relation to social policy, children, substance misuse and other cross-Government issues;
- to contribute to the Government's "Open Government" reform initiative;
- to contribute to improved organisational efficiency and effectiveness, knowledge management and service delivery;
- to continuously update criminal and civil law.

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights & Equality Act, 2014

The Irish Prison Service is responsible for the safe secure custody of all those committed to it by the courts. While it is our duty to enhance public safety by holding securely those committed by the courts our role must be deeper than just a custodial function. We are committed to ensuring that those deprived of their liberty are treated with dignity and with humanity. Prisoner care and rehabilitation is a core aim of the Service and we strive to achieve a balanced approach in the effective performance of our care and custody functions.

As a responsible organisation of the State we operate within the parameters set out in Irish, European and international human rights law. We promote equality and human rights through our policies and practices. This promotion of human rights through our day to day operations forms part of our broader objective to be a values driven organisation.

This is equally applicable to how we interact with our staff and we are committed to creating a better work environment for staff that promotes positive engagement, open communication, fairness, equality and respect. Our approach is underlined by our core organisational values of Teamwork, Integrity, Potential, Safety and Support. We value and trust our staff and we treat them in a respectful manner. Equally, we expect our staff to behave in a fair and respectful manner to all who work, reside or visit our institutions. We support staff diversity and take appropriate action against discrimination, bullying and harassment. We ensure that our recruitment and promotions competitions are fair, equitable and open. We promote equality of opportunity for all.

We support our staff to maintain good physical and mental health through the provision of health programs such as health screening and wellness programs.

The concept of humane treatment and awareness of international human rights instruments are embedded through all elements of Irish Prison Service training programmes. Awareness of international instruments, as well as an appreciation of the ethical context within which

prisons must be administered form part of the training. All technical skills are underpinned by a belief in the dignity and humanity of everyone involved in prisons. All training programmes emphasise the need to treat prisoners as individuals with humanity and respect and to act within the law at all times. We have worked and will continue to work with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to develop bespoke human rights training for prison staff.

We strive to ensure that conditions of detention for all prisoners, either physical or regime, conform to international standards including those instruments set out by the United Nations as a minimum. Where possible, we strive to exceed these standards and become a global leader in penal practice. Where deficiencies are identified we ensure appropriate action is taken to address same. We are continuing to implement a comprehensive capital programme of works to modernise and improve the physical conditions of our prison estate including the elimination of “slopping out”. We continue to build on the many positive developments made in this regard in recent years.

We are aware that the deprivation of liberty is the sentence handed down by the courts as punishment for offending and that our role is to administer that sentence in a way which is no more restrictive than required. We ensure that prison regimes provide for appropriate out-of-cell time and sufficient constructive activities are provided during periods of unlock. When the restriction of a prisoner’s regime is necessary we ensure that it is done for no longer than is required and in a manner that upholds the prisoner’s right to access, where possible, prison services including education, training and healthcare.

We are committed to reducing the use of solitary confinement to only extreme cases and where absolutely necessary for security, safety or good order reasons and for the shortest possible time. We ensure that in such cases prison management has in place an individual management plan for each prisoner and access to appropriate services is provided as far as possible and that the mental health of the prisoner is regularly reviewed.

We ensure that we provide prisoners with access to the same quality and range of healthcare services as that available to those entitled to General Medical Scheme (GMS) health services in the community. Prison Service healthcare is committed to treating all prisoners with dignity accepting that, notwithstanding the limitations on personal autonomy imposed by imprisonment, they should be directly involved in their health care. The appropriate confidentiality of medical treatment and information will be maintained except where in the opinion of medical staff, and the advice of other prison staff, the prisoner requires an escort on grounds of security.

One of the core values of the Irish Prison Service is to endeavour to help prisoners, where possible and appropriate, to maintain and develop positive relationships with their families. Every effort is made to ensure that prisoners are located as close to their home as possible to facilitate visits from family and friends. We ensure that these visits take place in an environment which maximises the engagement between the prisoner and visitor and that conditions for visits, as well as decisions regarding the denial of visits, are sensitive to the needs of children. We ensure that staff are aware of the need to treat prison visitors with dignity and respect and we are committed to enhancing the prison visit taking account of all appropriate security considerations.

We are aware of and understand the special role we have on behalf of society in respecting the dignity of the prisoners in our care. Through strong leadership by our management teams we ensure that all our staff are mindful of this responsibility. We recognise that this standard is not always met and therefore prisoners have a right to make complaints/requests to prison management and to independent bodies. We know that prisoners are in a vulnerable position and they must have access to a credible and independent complaints system that deals with genuine complaints in an open, transparent and independent way and provides appropriate redress. If a prisoners complaint is against a person including staff members we will ensure that due process is afforded to all persons under investigation and uphold the rights of all.

We operate a fair and open prison discipline system in line with legislation set out in the Prison Rules 2007 and the Prisons Act 2007. We ensure that the imposition of disciplinary sanctions are imposed in a consistent and fair manner across all prisons. We have introduced guidelines for prison management in this regard. We ensure that sanctions imposed for breaches of prison discipline are proportionate to the incident and we ensure that contact with immediate family members is not removed as a form of punishment under any circumstances.

The safety and security of all persons working in, residing in or visiting any of our institutions is of utmost importance to the Irish Prison Service. As such, for safety reasons, we have introduced appropriate security measures in all our prisons. We ensure that all staff conducting searches within our prisons including the searching of persons or property does so in a manner that recognises the inherent dignity of the person and their property.

The Irish Prison Service is aware of its responsibility to uphold the human rights of all persons living, working or visiting our institutions. We are committed to working with the various national and international bodies involved in the inspection and monitoring of prisons and places of detention. We expect staff and management to keep accurate records, to secure all relevant evidence and to cooperate fully with national and international accountability bodies. This is an important process for us and such inspections are valuable and critically important mechanisms.

We are proud of our record of protecting and promoting human rights but we equally accept that we have challenges and problems that we need to face. We are committed to ongoing improvement in the protection and promotion of human rights and we will continue to enhance our Service.



THE PRISON ESTATE

IRELAND'S PRISONS

There are 14 institutions in the Irish prison system consisting of 11 traditional “closed” institutions, two open centres, which operate with minimal internal and perimeter security, and one “semi-open” facility with traditional perimeter security but minimal internal security (the Training Unit).

The majority of female prisoners are accommodated in the Dóchas Centre with the remainder accommodated in Limerick Prison.

Campus based governance has been introduced in three locations - West Dublin Campus (Wheatfield Place of Detention and Cloverhill Prison), Portlaoise Campus (Portlaoise and Midlands Prisons) and Mountjoy Campus (Mountjoy Prison, St Patrick’s Institution, Dóchas Centre and the Training Unit).

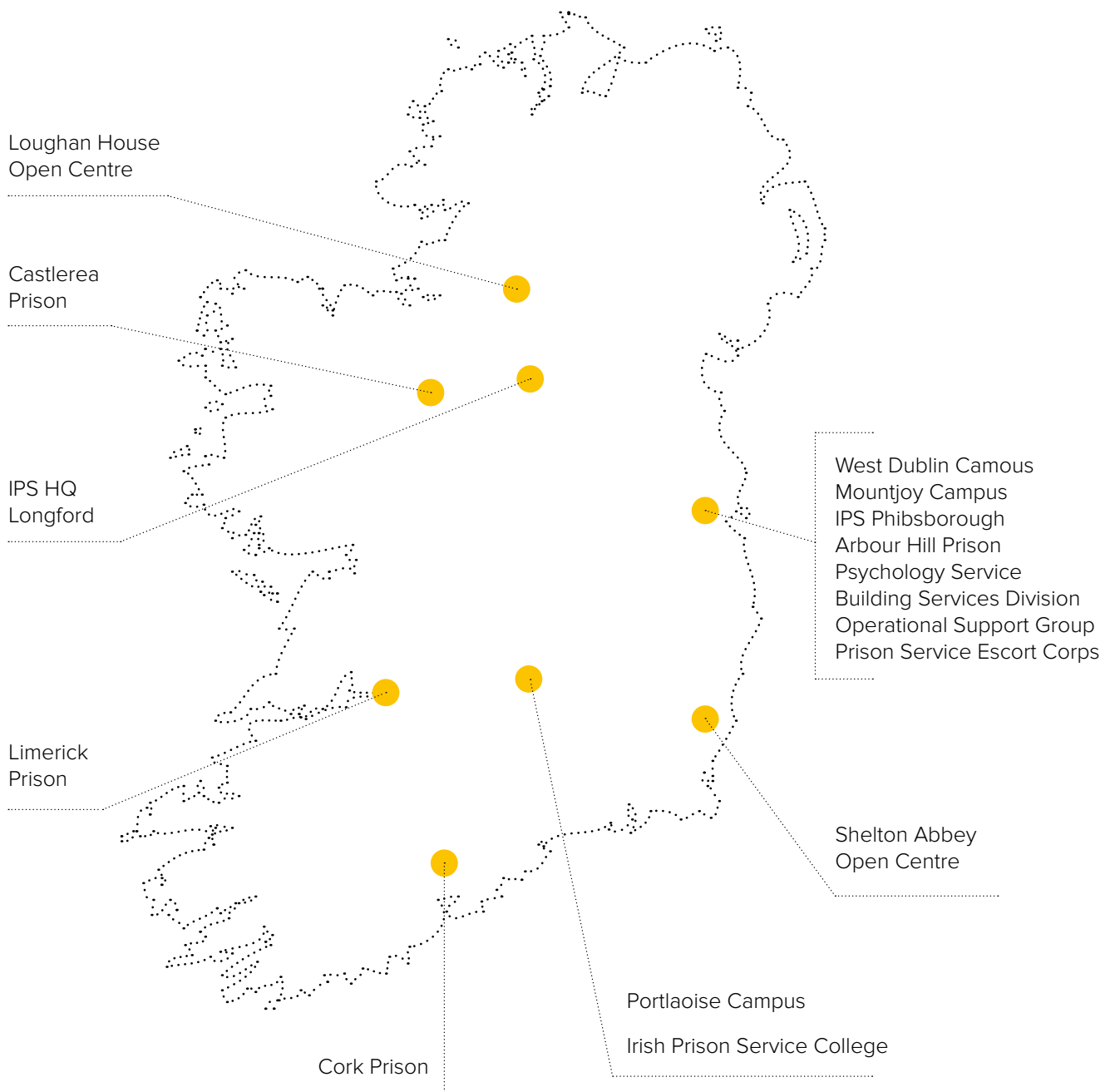


Fig 3. The Irish Prison Service Estate

WEST DUBLIN PRISON CAMPUS



Campus Governor
Martin O'Neill

Wheatfield Place of Detention

Cloverhill Road
Clondalkin
Dublin 22

Cloverhill Prison

Cloverhill Road
Clondalkin
Dublin 22



Governor II
John Farrell



Governor III
Patrick Kavanagh



Governor III
Ronan Maher

Operational Capacity: 550 at year end

Wheatfield Place of Detention is a closed, medium security place of detention for adult males and for sentenced 17 year old juveniles.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 472.

Operational Capacity: 431 at year end

Cloverhill Prison is a closed, medium security prison for adult males, which primarily caters for remand prisoners committed from the Leinster area.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 359.

PORTLAOISE PRISON CAMPUS



Campus Governor
Martin Mullen

Portlaoise Prison

Dublin Road
Portlaoise
Co. Laois

Midlands Prison

Dublin Road
Portlaoise
Co. Laois



Governor II
Ethel Gavin



Governor III
Daniel Robbins



Governor III
Ultan Moran

Operational Capacity: 870 at year end

Portlaoise Prison is a closed, medium security prison for adult males. It is the committal prison for counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Meath, Monaghan Offaly Westmeath Wexford and Wicklow.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 805.

Operational Capacity: 870 at year end

Midlands Prison is a closed, medium security prison for adult males. It is the committal prison for counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Meath, Monaghan Offaly Westmeath Wexford and Wicklow.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 805.

MOUNTJOY



Campus Governor
Brian Murphy



Governor II
Michael Lawton



Governor III
Greg Garland

Mountjoy Prison

North Circular Road
Dublin 7

Operational Capacity: 554 at year end

Mountjoy Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 18 years and over. It is the main committal prison for Dublin city.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 537

St. Patrick's Institution

North Circular Road
Dublin 7

Operational Capacity:
34 at year end.

St. Patrick's Institution is a closed, medium security place of detention for males aged 17 to 21 years and accommodates both remand and sentenced prisoners.

Since 17 December 2013 all 18-20 year old prisoners and 17 year old sentenced prisoners are accommodated in Wheatfield Place of Detention.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 3.



Governor III
John Kavanagh



Governor III
Mary O'Connor

Training Unit

Glengariff Parade, NCR,
Dublin 7

Operational Capacity: 96 at year end

The Training Unit: is a semi-open, low security prison for males aged 18 years and over, with a strong emphasis on Work and Training.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 92.

Dochás Centre

North Circular Road
Dublin 7

Operational Capacity:
105 at year end

The Dochas Centre is a closed medium security prison for females aged 18 years and over. It is the committal prison for females committed on remand or sentenced from all Courts outside the Minster area.

Prison Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 107.

ARBOUR HILL PRISON

Arbour Hill
Dublin 7

Operational Capacity: 142 at year end

Arbour Hill Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 18 years and over. Its prisoner profile is largely made up of a long term sentenced prisoners.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 138.



Governor
Liam Dowling

CASTLEREA PRISON

Harristown
Castlerea
Co. Roscommon

Operational Capacity: 340 at year end

Castlerea Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 18 years and over. It is the committal prison for remand and sentenced prisoners in Connaught and also takes committal from counties Cavan, Donegal and Longford.

Prison Population: the daily average number in custody in 2015 was 308.



Governor
Martin Reilly

CORK PRISON

Rathmore Road
Cork City

Operational Capacity: 200 at year end

Cork Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 18 years and over. It is the committal prison for counties Cork, Kerry and Waterford.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 218



Governor
James Collins

LIMERICK PRISON

Mulgrave Street
Limerick

Operational Capacity: 220 (males) and 28 (females) at year end

Limerick prion is a closed, medium security prison for males and females aged 18 years and over.

It is the committal prison for males for counties Clare, Limerick and Tipperary and for females for all six Munster counties

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 224 males and 24 females



Governor
Mark Kennedy

LOUGHAN HOUSE

Blacklion
Co Cavan

Operational Capacity: 140 at year end

Loughan House is an open, low security prison for males aged 18 years and over who are regarded as requiring low levels of security.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 116.



Governor
Edward Mullins

SHELTON ABBEY

Arklow
Co Wicklow

Operational Capacity: 115 at year end

Shelton Abbey is an open, low security prison for males aged 19 years and over who are regarded as requiring lower levels of security.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2015 was 101.



Governor
Conal Healy

IPS SUPPORT UNITS

The Operational Support Group(OSG) supports Prison Governors in preventing contraband entering prisons, to prevent the direction of crime from prisons and to detect prohibited articles within prisons and are in operation in all closed prisons with the exception of Arbour Hill and Training Unit. Operational Support Group, Árd na Gaoithe, Arbour Hill, Dublin 7 DO7YV40.

The Prison Service Escorts Corps (PSEC) provides the prisoner escorting service. PSEC is sub divided into three regional areas, Munster, Connaught and Leinster. Ulster is incorporated into Connaught and Leinster. Prison Service Escort Corps, Cloverhill Prison, Cloverhill Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 D22WC84.

The Irish Prison Service College (IPSC) provides all training within the Irish Prison Service. Irish Prison Service Training College, Stack House, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois R32NX53.

Building Services Division (BSD), provides a technical / advisory support service in relation to the maintenance of prison facilities and prison capital projects. It also provides the specialist prison's locking service. Building Service Division (BSD), Unit 2, Airways Industrial Estate, Santry Dublin 17 D17HW53.



Prison Service College

Governor: - David Clarke

Building Services Division

Governor: - George Victory



Operational Support Group

Governor: - Frances Daly

Prison Service Escort Corps

Governor: -Michael Cosgrove





STATISTICAL REPORT

OVERVIEW – 2015 STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

There were 17,206 committals to prison in 2015 which is an increase of 6.5% on the 2014 total of 16,155. 14,182 persons were sent to prison in 2015 compared to 13,408 in 2014, which represents an increase of 5.8%. Of those, 79.4% were male and 20.6% were female.

Committals during 2015

- There was an overall increase of 1,134 or 8.8% in the numbers committed to prison under sentence in 2015 (13,987) over 2014 (12,853).
- Committals under sentence of less than 3 months increased by 9.3% on the 2014 figure, i.e., from 9,361 to 10,229.
- The number of prisoners committed serving sentences of less than 12 months increased by 8% on the 2014 figure (11,596 in 2014 to 12,530 in 2015). This cohort represented 89.6% of all committals to prison under sentence in 2015.
- There were 9,883 committals for the non-payment of a court ordered fine which was a 10% increase on the previous year, i.e. from 8,979 in 2014 to 9,883 in 2015. Of this 73% were male and 27% were female.

When fines committals are excluded from these figures:

- numbers committed under sentence has increased by 230 or 5.9% from 3,874 in 2014 to 4,104 in 2015.
- numbers committed under sentence of less than 3 months has decreased by 56 or 10% from 540 in 2014 to 484 in 2015.
- numbers committed on sentences of less than 12 months has increased by 1.2% on the 2014 figure. The numbers being committed on sentences of less than 12 months has decreased by 28% in the last 5 years. (See appendix VI)
- numbers committed on sentences of 1 to less than 2 years has increased by 20.9% from 350 in 2014 to 423 in 2015.
- numbers committed on sentences of 2 to less than 3 years has increased by 25.9% from 343 in 2014 to 432 in 2015.
- numbers committed on sentences of 3 to less than 5 years has increased by 4.6% from 346 in 2014 to 362 in 2015.
- numbers committed on sentences of 5 to less than 10 years has increased by 12.1% from 165 in 2014 to 185 in 2015.
- numbers committed on sentences of 10 years plus has increased by 28.6% from 28 in 2014 to 36 in 2015.
- numbers committed on a Life sentence has decreased by 24% from 25 in 2014 to 19 in 2015.

Persons detained under Immigration Laws

In 2015 there were 342 committals in respect of immigration issues involving 335 detainees. This represents a decrease on the previous year (407 committals involving 390 detainees). The average daily number of persons in custody under this category was 4.

Snapshot of prison population on 30th November 2015

- The total number of persons in custody on that date decreased by 0.58% (3,777 on 28th November 2014 to 3,755 on 30th November 2015).
- Of the 3,150 sentenced prisoners, 345 prisoners (10.9%) were serving life sentences and another 254 (8.1%) were serving determinate sentences of 10 years or more.
- 15 offenders were serving sentences of less than 3 months representing 0.4% of the total number of prisoners in custody. There were 7 persons in prison for non-payment of fines which represents 0.19% of the total number of prisoners in custody on that date.
- There were 411 prisoners on temporary release of which 160 were serving less than 3 months for fines, 100 were on the Community Return Programme, 47 were on temporary release to the Community Support Scheme, 4 were on structured temporary release for open centres, 22 were on temporary release serving less than 6 months for non-Fine offences and 78 were on other temporary release including under the supervision of the Probation Service.

Snapshot of prison population on 30th November 2015

On 30th November, the number of persons in custody totalled 3,755 and included:

- 594 Remand/trial prisoners
- 7 Fines prisoners
- 11 Immigration detainees
- 34 Subversives prisoners

PRISONER POPULATION OVERVIEW

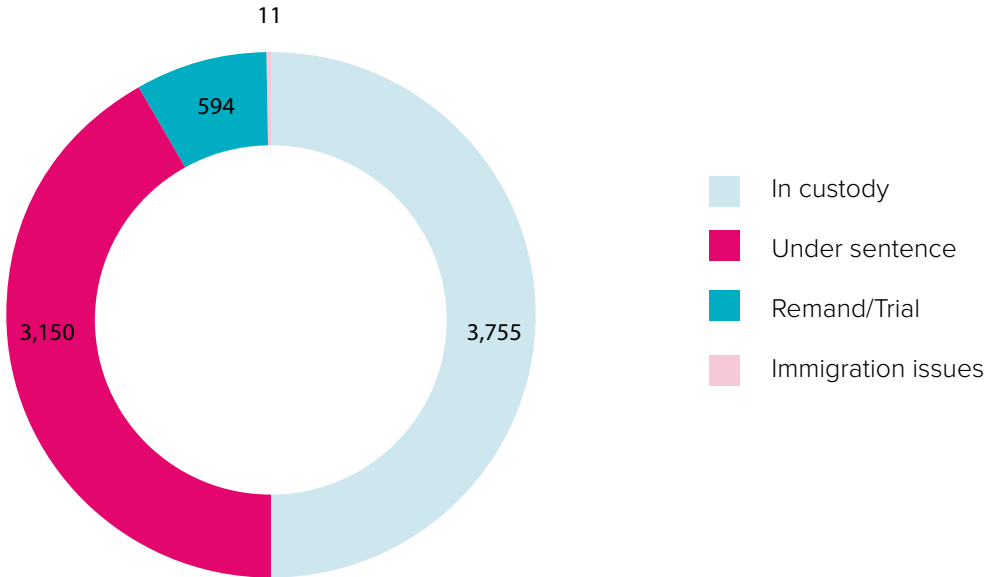


Fig. 4 Prisoner population overview snapshot 30th November 2015

PRISONER POPULATION SENTENCE SNAPSHOT

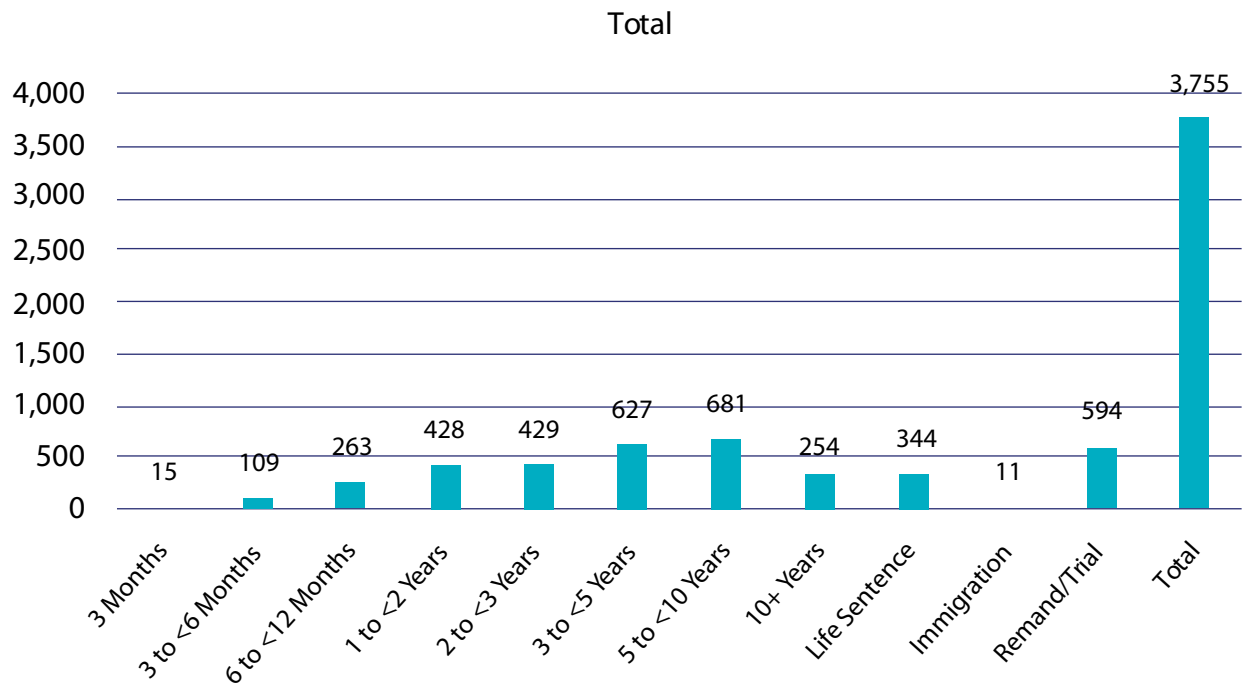


Fig. 5 Prisoner population sentence snapshot 30th November 2015

DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN CUSTODY

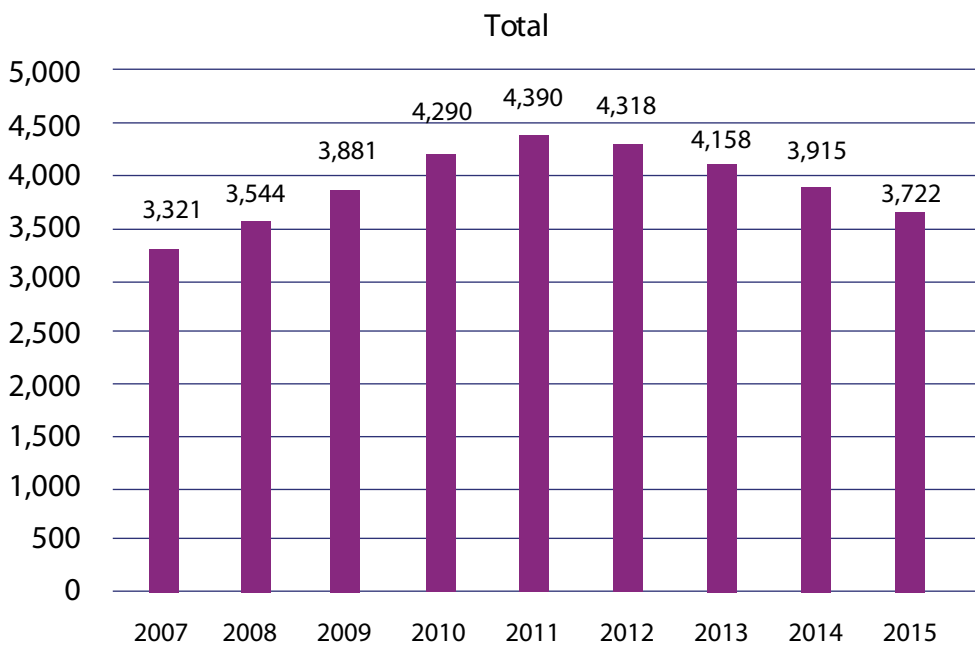


Fig 6. Daily Average 2007 - 2015

The overall daily average number of prisoners in custody in 2015 was 3,722 compared to 3,915 in 2014 a decrease of 5%. The average number of female offenders in custody was 131, a 12.7% decrease on the 2014 average of 150.

FEMALES UNDER SENTENCE = TOTAL 115

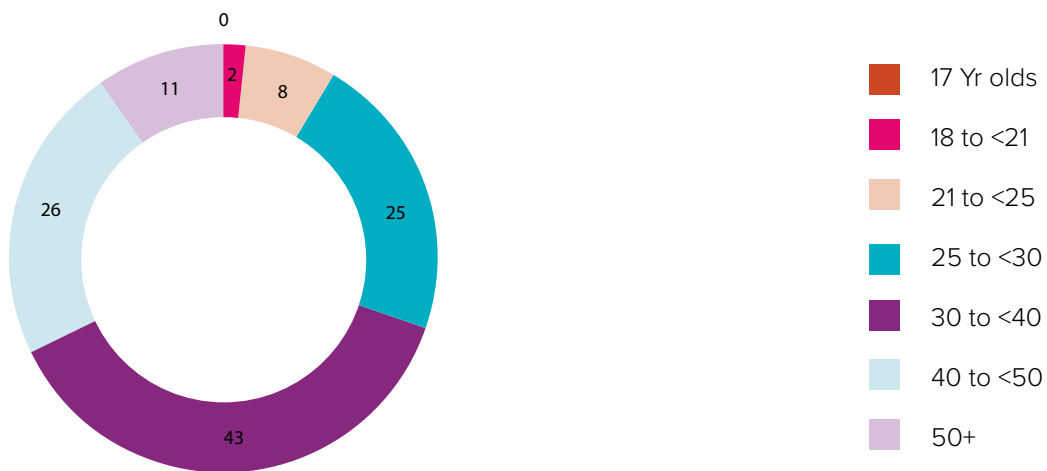


Fig 7. Females under sentence

MALES UNDER SENTENCE = TOTAL 3,035

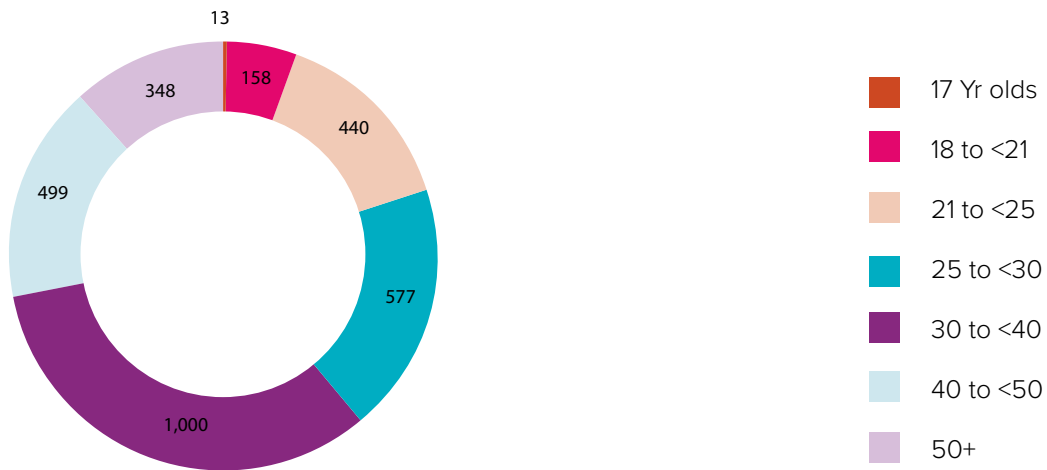


Fig 8. Males under sentence

SENTENCE LENGTH = TOTAL 3,150

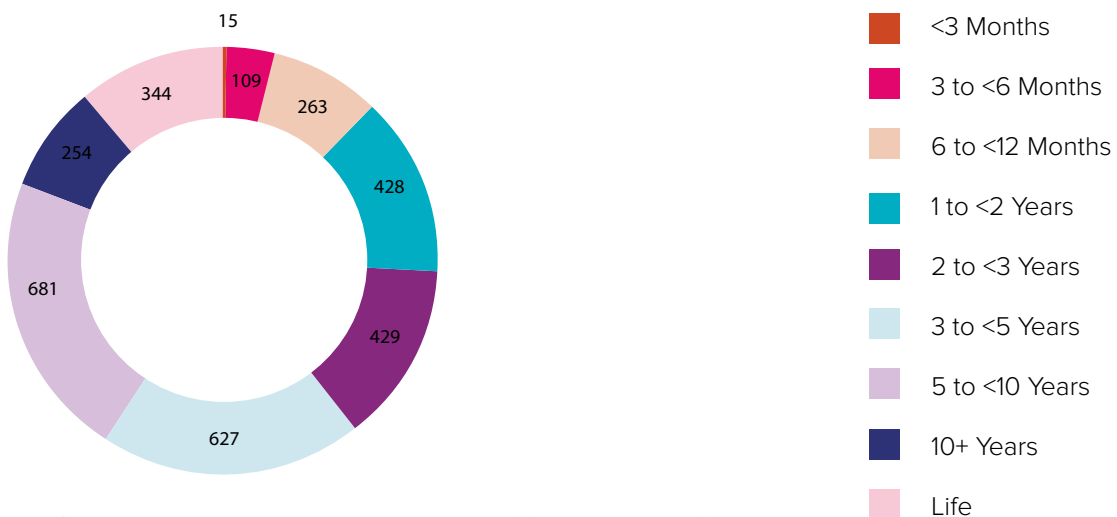


Fig 9. Prisoner population sentence length 30th November 2015

OFFENCE GROUP CLASSIFIED BY SENTENCE = TOTAL 3,150

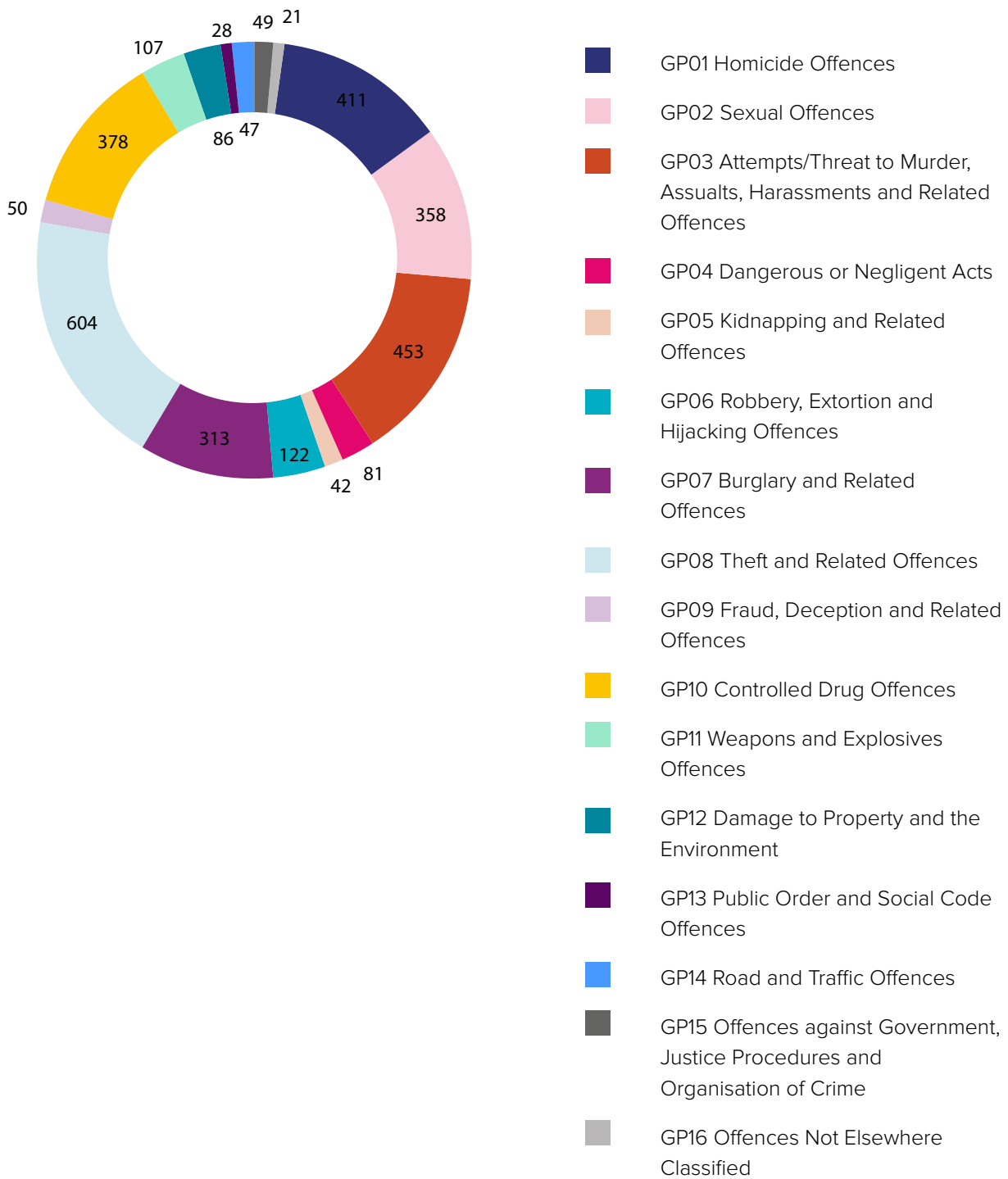


Fig 10. Prisoner population offence category snapshot 30th November 2015

COMMITTALS

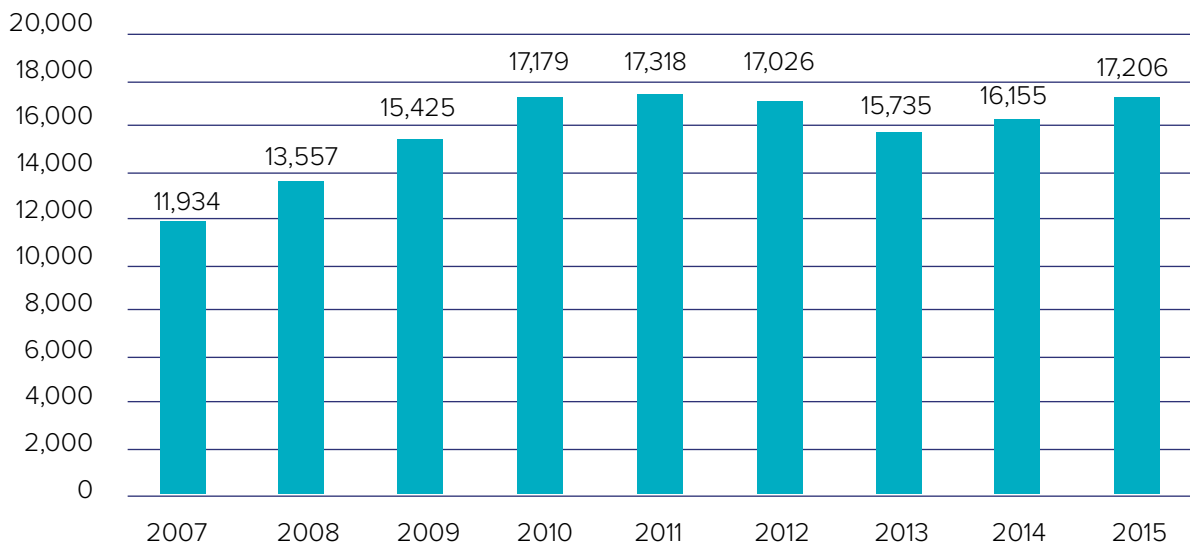


Fig 11. Committals 2007 - 2015

Number of persons committed to prison in 2015

A total of 14,182 persons accounted for the 17,206 committals. This figure relates to persons newly committed to prison (i.e. not already on remand or serving another sentence). This represents an increase of 5.8% on the 2014 total of 13,408 persons.

Of the 14,182 committed in 2015, 79% were male and 21% were female. When the committals for non-payment of a court ordered fine are removed then 92% of persons committed are male and 8% are female.

The total of 17,206 committals to prison compared to 16,155 in 2014 represents an increase of 6.5%.

The total of 17,206 committals comprised of:

- 13,503 under sentence, 3,294 on remand,
- 61 for European Arrest Warrant extradition, 342 under immigration law and
- 6 for contempt of court.

AGE OF MALE PERSONS COMMITTED, TOTAL = 11,264

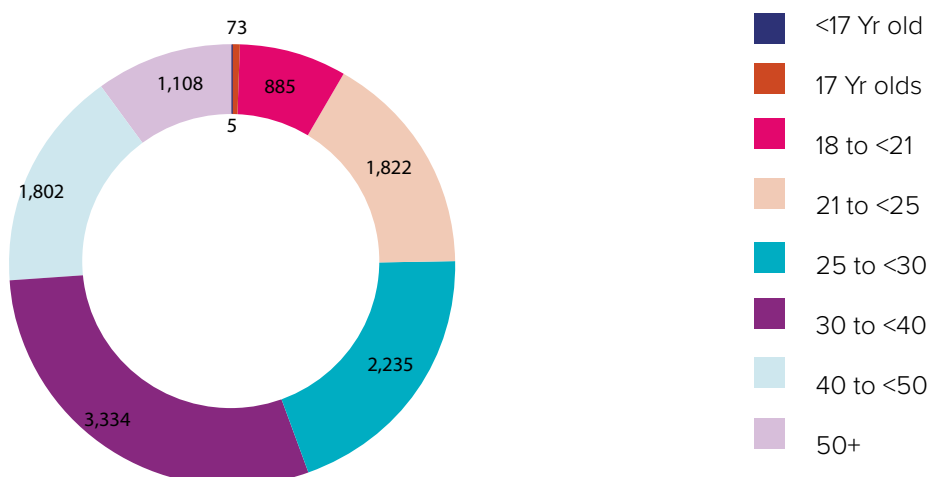


Fig 12. Age of males committed to prison in 2015

AGE OF FEMALE PERSONS COMMITTED TOTAL = 2918

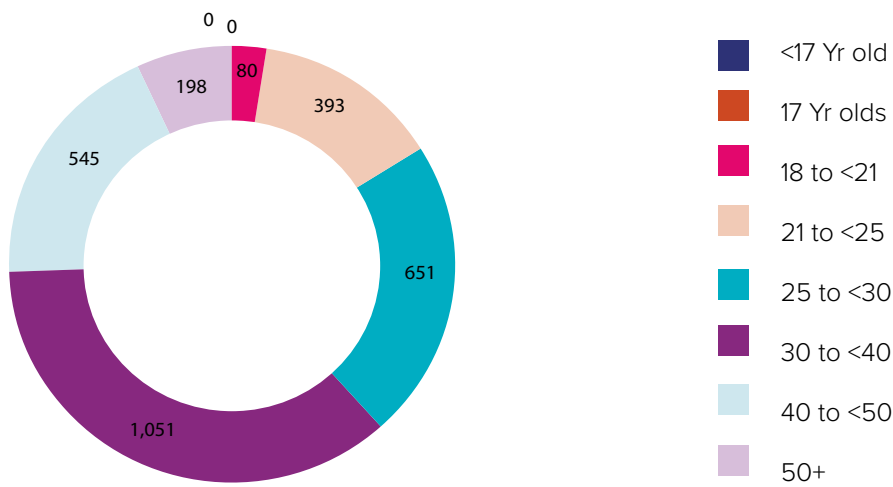
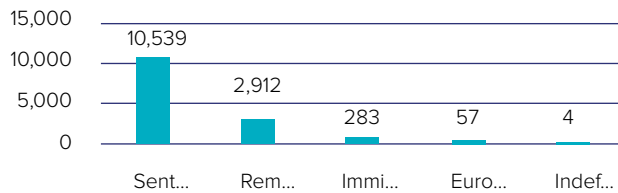


Fig 13. Age of females committed to prison in 2015

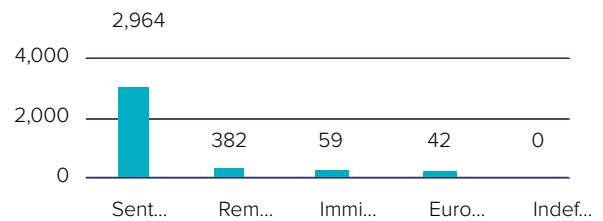
TYPE OF COMMITTAL AND GENDER

Male



Total Number: 13,795

Female



Total Number: 3,411

Fig 14. Committals during 2015 classified by type of committal and gender

County and Country of origin of persons committed to prison

Over a quarter (26.1%) of all persons committed declared Dublin as their county of residence. Cork with 14.0%, Limerick with 8.2% and Tipperary with 4.2% were the next largest counties of residence indicated.

Of the 14,182 persons committed, 11,979 were Irish Nationals (84.5%), which is an increase of 855 or 7.7% on the corresponding 2014 figure of 11,124.

Other EU nationals (excluding Irish) accounted for 1,526 (10.8%) of persons committed. Other European nationals accounted for 149 (1.1%), African nationals for 268 (1.9%), Asian nationals for 170 (1.2%) and Central/South American nationals accounted for 46 (0.3%).

A full breakdown by county of residence and country of origin is available on our website:

www.irishprisons.ie

Committals under sentence

There were 13,503 committals directly under sentence in 2015. When an additional 484 prisoners, who were already in custody at the start of the year on remand/awaiting trial and who were subsequently convicted are included, the total number of prisoners received on conviction in 2015 was 13,987.

Sentence length

There was an 8.8% increase (1,134) in the numbers committed to prison under sentence in 2015 (total of 13,987) over 2014 (12,853). When fines committals are excluded from these figures, the numbers committed under sentence increased by 230 or 6% from 3,874 in 2014 to 4,104 in 2015.

COMMITTALS OVERVIEW



Fig 15. Committals during 2015 overview

OFFENCE GROUP TOTAL = 13,987

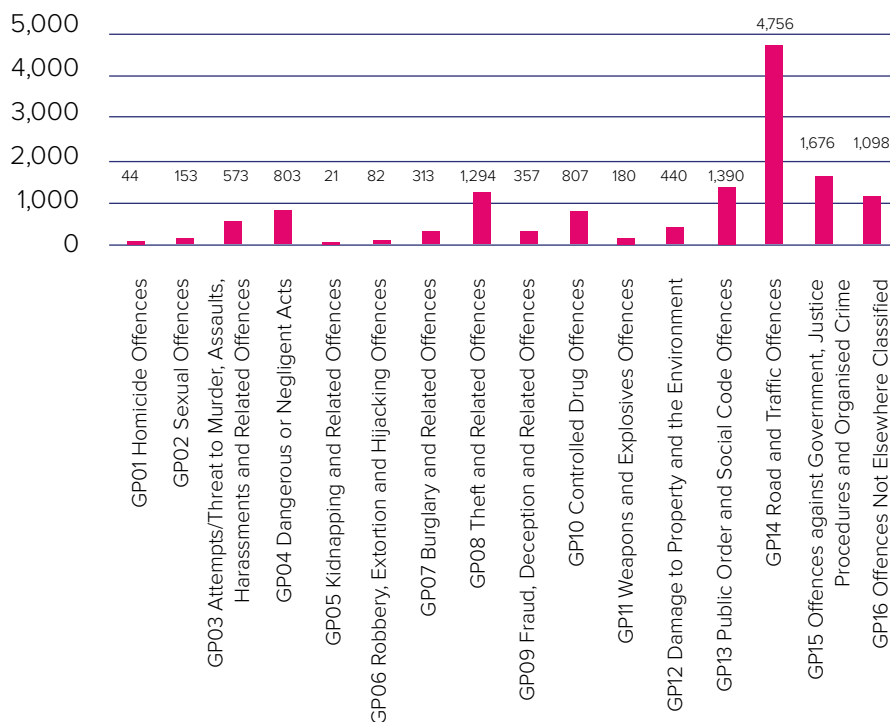


Fig 16. Sentenced committals during 2015 by offence groups

SENTENCE LENGTH TOTAL = 13,987

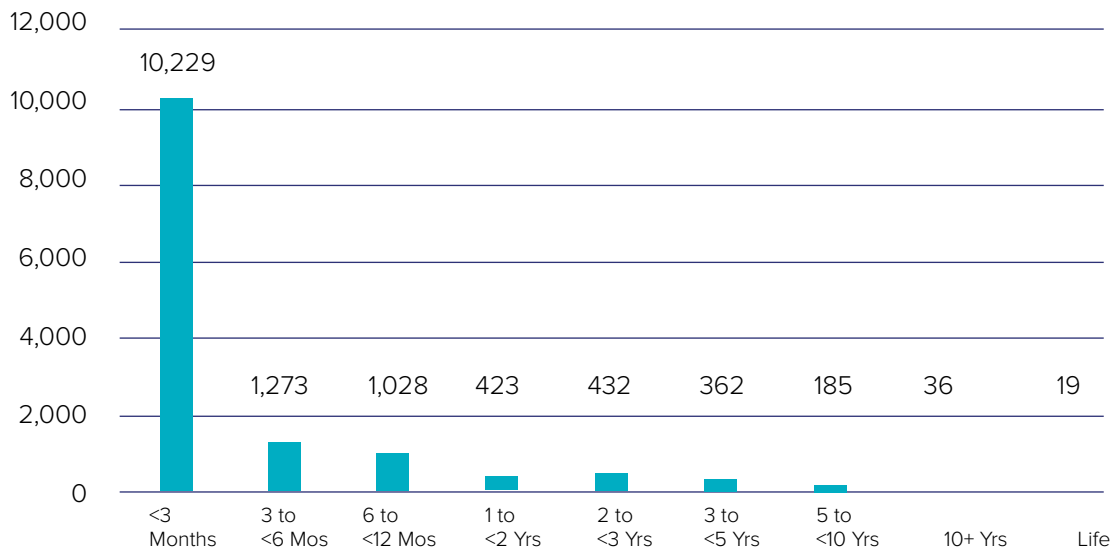


Fig 17. Sentenced committals during 2015 by sentence length

AGE GROUP

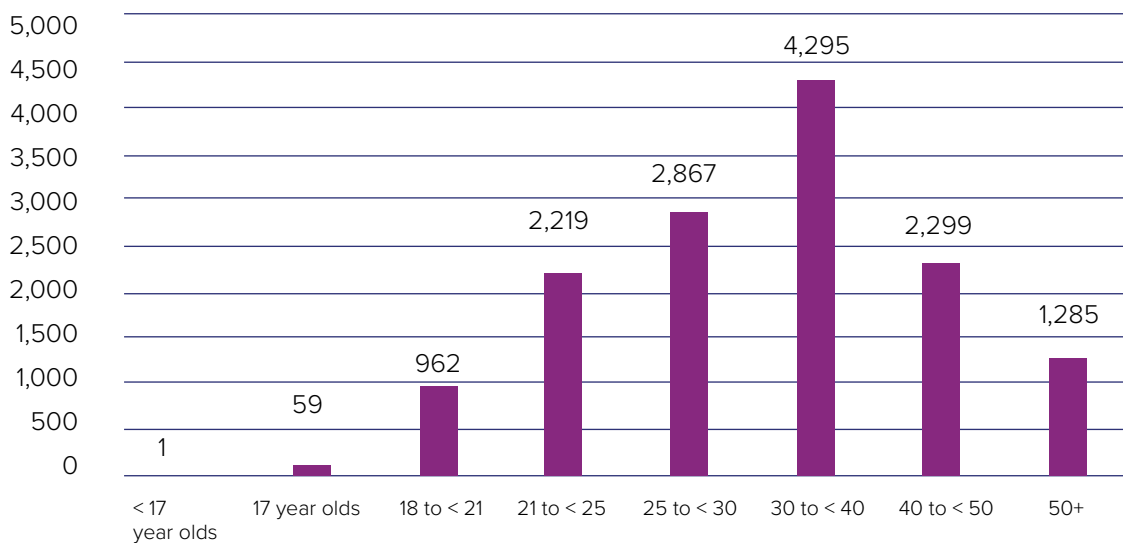


Fig 18. Committals under sentence during 2015 by age group

Committals for Fines or Debt

The number of committals to prison as a consequence of the non-payment of a court ordered fine during 2015 increased by 10.1% on the 2014 figure, i.e., from 8,979 in 2014 to 9,883 in 2015.

Of this, 2,667 were female while 7,216 were male. A total of 22 debtors (21 male, 1 female) were committed during the year.

Further statistical information on this section is available on www.irishprisons.ie

A close-up photograph of a person's hands painting a light blue flower on a canvas. The person has several tattoos on their arms, including a large one on the upper arm. They are wearing a white shirt with red and blue stripes. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the person and the painting area.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In April 2012 the Irish Prison Service launched a Three Year Strategic Plan for the Irish Prison Service covering the period 2012 -2015.

The Strategy Statement was developed in consultation with our staff at headquarters, those based in prisons and elsewhere. A wide ranging consultation process was also undertaken with all relevant stakeholders in the criminal justice system and beyond.

The overarching high level objectives which underpin our strategic actions were:

- Increasing public safety by maintaining safe and secure custody for all those committed by the Courts and by reducing reoffending and improving prisoner rehabilitation through the development of a multi-agency approach to offending.
- Ensuring Ireland's compliance with domestic and international human rights obligations and best practice.
- Delivering reform and implementing change in accordance with the Public Service Agreement and the Integrated Reform Plan for the Justice and Equality Sector.

The role of the Irish Prison Service is to provide safe care and secure custody of all of those committed to it by the courts. The role of the Service is also to engage with convicted prisoners in a realistic and meaningful way in order to reduce their reoffending and enhance their reintegration back into society, thus contributing to public safety and a reduction in recidivism while at the same time ensuring that convicted persons properly serve sentences imposed on them and that decisions made relating to prisoners in its care do not result in any unnecessary danger/risk to the wider community.

The 6 strategic actions contained in the Strategy were centred on:

- Prison numbers
- Prisoner progression
- Prisoner programmes
- Management and staffing
- the Prison Estate, and
- Consolidation of Prison legislation

And their implementation sought to ensure that the Service delivered on its fundamental responsibilities as a key element of the criminal justice system.

On a practical level, over the lifetime of the Strategic Plan the Prison Service has made significant strides in improving our organisation at every level.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

This section of the Annual Report gives details of the progress to the end of 2015 on the Three-Year Strategic Plan.

1. PRISON NUMBERS

We will align the capacity of our prisons in line with the guidelines laid down by the inspector of Prisons. We will ensure that prisoners released early from custody are placed on appropriate, structured programmes of temporary release.

2. PRISONER PROGRESSION

We will re-engineer our prison system to give effect to the principles of normalisation, progression and reintegration. In conjunction with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and other relevant stakeholders, we will end the detention of children in St. Patrick's Institution.

3. PRISONER PROGRAMMES

Through engaging with other statutory agencies, including the Probation Service, and the community and voluntary sector we will work to develop a system of joined up care from pre to post imprisonment in order to improve outcomes for prisoners. We will devise specific strategies for younger prisoners, women, older prisoners, sex offenders, protection prisoners, violent offenders and those suffering from mental illness. We will build on and enhance current programmes and services, including accredited education and vocational training.

4. MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

We will implement the provisions of the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 and the Integrated Plan for the Justice and Equality Sector in order to sustain the delivery of excellent public services while delivering the necessary cost reductions and efficiencies. We will review our management and staffing structures to ensure greater efficiency and strengthen accountability and communication across the Service.

5. PRISON ESTATE

We will implement a 40 month capital plan to provide in cell sanitation in all cells and radically improve prison conditions in the older parts of the prison estate.

6. CONSOLIDATION OF PRISON LEGISLATION

We will work with the Department of Justice and Equality in relation to the consolidation of prison law and its restatement in clear accessible modern terms.

2015 PROGRESS REPORT

STRATEGIC ACTION 1: PRISONER NUMBERS

Action 1.1	Progress to end December 2015
Reduction of chronic overcrowding in Mountjoy, Cork, Limerick and the Dóchas Centre	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The bed capacities of 9 prisons have been aligned with the Inspector of Prisons’ recommended figures. These prisons are:</p> <p>Mountjoy Male, St Patrick’s, Portlaoise, Midlands, Loughan House, Training Unit, Cloverhill, Wheatfield Place of Detention and Shelton Abbey.</p> <p>On 31 December 2015 3,647 prisoners were in custody. This represents an occupancy level of 89% of the IPS bed capacity of 4,116 and 92% of the 3,977 Inspector of Prisons recommended bed capacity.</p>
Action 1.2	Progress to end December 2015
National roll out of the Community Return Programme	Implemented
Action 1.3	Progress to end December 2015
Joint funding and staffing arrangements to maximize the availability of structured programmes in the community	Implemented
Action 1.4	Progress to end December 2015
Increased number of long term prisoners engaging in the Parole Board process	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A number of initiatives have been introduced in conjunction with the Parole Board to promote engagement in the Parole Board process. Information leaflets on the Parole Board process were circulated to eligible prisoners and information meetings with the Parole Board have been facilitated with lifers groups in a number of prisons.</p>

STRATEGIC ACTION 2: PRISONER PROGRESSION

Action 2.1	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Designate the security level and regime status of our 14 prisons and ensure that prisoners sentences are managed to ensure appropriate progression through the system with a view to enhancing normalisation, progression and reintegration</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The National Flow Plan for sentence management and prisoner progression is being progressed. To be completed 2016.</p> <p>Funding was agreed for six Assistant Psychologists to support implementation of sentence management based on strengths, risk and needs assessments.</p>
Action 2.2	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Fundamental review of prison campus structures/individual prisons in terms of their function and internal prisoner progression programmes</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Campus management structures introduced in Mountjoy, West Dublin and Portlaoise. There will be an ongoing review in light of the Coyle Report recommendations and any future outcomes of the National Flow Plan.</p>
Action 2.3	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Review of the committal status of prisons</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
Action 2.4	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Introduction of appropriate assessment procedures on committal</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
Action 2.5	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Introduction of dedicated committal areas in all committal prisons</p>	<p>Implemented</p>

STRATEGIC ACTION 3: PRISONER PROGRAMMES

Action 3.1	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Enhance sentence planning including Integrated Sentence Management</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A total of 24 dedicated ISM Coordinators are operational in all prisons and open centres since March 2015. The allocation of dedicated staff in each establishment greatly enhances the effectiveness of the sentence management system and facilitates the growing numbers of prisoners participating in the process. A review of the ISM process is currently underway.</p> <p>The Irish Prison Service is rolling out a new Integrated Planning Screen as part of the Prisoner Information Management System (PIMS) which allows for central recording of prisoner interaction with services. This system also provides a platform for certain pre-release alerts to be recorded for consideration in the context of prisoner sentence management.</p>
Action 3.2	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Roll out of national Incentivised Regimes Policy and introduction of individual incentivised regime policies in each prison</p> <p>Development of Specific Strategies:</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
Action 3.3	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Strategy for Younger prisoners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Irish Prison Service engaged extensively with the Irish Youth Justice Service regarding the transfer of responsibility for 17 year olds to Oberstown Campus in line with the Government decision to close St. Patrick's Institution and transferred sentenced young offenders to more appropriate accommodation at Wheatfield Place of Detention. The Prisons Act 2015 was passed by the Oireachtas in December 2015 and is a significant step toward the closing of St. Patrick's Institution.</p>

Action 3.4		Progress to end December 2015
Strategy for Women prisoners		Implemented
Action 3.5		Progress to end December 2015
Strategy for Older prisoners		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Having cognisance of the particular needs of older people in custody all prisoners over 55 years of age have an active nursing care plan, in which their specific needs have been identified. This care planning process assists healthcare staff in identifying patient specific issues and arranging effective through-care on release.</p> <p>Survey of older prisoners completed. Review of survey results under consideration. Policy on Management of Older Prisoners at draft stage.</p>
Action 3.6		Progress to end December 2015
Strategy for Sex Offenders		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A joint Irish Prison Psychology Service /Probation Service National Programme of Excellence is in operation between the Midlands and Arbour Hill prisons, targeting treatment efforts at moderate to high risk offenders convicted of sexual violence. This is managed by a multi-disciplinary oversight group between both prisons, chaired by the Director of Care and Rehabilitation.</p>
Action 3.7		Progress to end December 2015
Strategy for Prisoners requiring protection		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Regular meetings of the Solitary Confinement Group, chaired by the Director General were held to reduce number of prisoners on 23 hour lock up and to introduce measures to reduce the number of prisoners held on restricted regime. Since the introduction of the IPS Solitary Confinement Group the number of prisoners on 22/23 hour lock up has decreased by 133 or from 211 to 78 in Oct 2015. An internal committee has been established to examine the area of protection in a wider context, aiming to reduce the number of prisoners seeking protection and to increase access to regimes.</p>

Action 3.8		Progress to end December 2015
Strategy for violent offenders	Implemented	
Action 3.9		Progress to end December 2015
Strategy for prisoners suffering from mental illness	Ongoing	Progress continued in relation to provision of appropriate mental health services. In January 2015, a new Consultant Adult Psychiatrist (with special interest in Forensic Psychiatry) was appointed on a permanent basis to the HSE Mid West, and provides an inreach service to Limerick Prison on a sessional basis. A new Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, working with the NFMHS, was appointed in March 2015, to provide additional Consultant led multi-disciplinary in-reach services to the Portlaoise Campus and sessional input to Castlerea Prison. Work continues with the HSE/NFMHS to finalise an agreed Memorandum of Understanding, to ensure the appropriate provision of Psychiatric services to those in custody with mental health needs in all closed prisons. During 2015, a mental health training programme for all staff was developed, to be delivered to all staff over a three year period.
Action 3.10		Progress to end December 2015
Pilot restorative justice practices		Pilot Programmes were undertaken in Wheatfield Place of Detention and the Dóchas Centre.
Action 3.11		Progress to end December 2015
Social Impact Investment	Ongoing	Interagency group convened from Justice sectors with a view to providing employment opportunities in custody and post release to prisoners. Proposal to develop work integrated Social Enterprise scheme. Draft terms of reference for development team circulated.

Action 3.12 Operations**Progress to end December 2015**

Interagency case management plans for all prisoners subject to post custody supervision

Ongoing

The joint IPS/Probation Service Strategy sets out an interagency plan for how the two organisations will continue to develop and co-ordinate our joint working, in conjunction with our statutory and community and voluntary sector partners, to further improve outcomes for prisoners. Please see appendix 1 for progress on the joint strategy.

Action 3.13**Progress to end December 2015**

Develop prison based offender programmes and through-care arrangements

Ongoing

The Joint IPS/Probation Service Strategy sets out an interagency plan regarding prisoner based offender programmes and through-care arrangements.

Please see appendix 1 for progress on the joint strategy.

Action 3.14**Progress to end December 2015**

Continued development and enhancement of drug services including review of the Irish Prison Service Clinical Drug Treatment Policy

Ongoing

Opiate Substitution Treatment was extended to Cork in 2015 and Enhancement of Drug Treatment Services continued in the Mountjoy Campus. IPS and Probation Service lead Review of Drug & Alcohol Treatment Services for Offenders Report due in early 2016, which will inform future decision making in this area.

Action 3.15**Progress to end December 2015**

Introduction of Drug Free Units in all closed prisons, continued development of drug treatment services and enhanced supply reduction measures

Ongoing

In 2015 the Irish Prison Service introduced a confidential anti trafficking telephone line to provide both members of the public and prisoners a means to provide the Irish Prison Service with information about any matter relating to smuggling or attempted smuggling of prohibited articles such as drugs, weapons or mobile phones.

Additionally, the Operation Support Group continued to invest in/modernise technologies to reduce the volume of drugs entering prisons and to carry out a large number of cell searches across the Prison Estate.

Action 3.16**Progress to end December 2015**

Standard audit tools to measure healthcare equivalence

Ongoing

Audits completed for Limerick, Cork, Dóchas, Midlands, Wheatfield and Arbour Hill. Those undertaken so far have shown that compliance with healthcare standards has risen significantly.

Action 3.17**Progress to end December 2015**

Strengthen family supports

Ongoing

The Family & Imprisonment (FIG) Implementation Group progressed recommendations of the FIG Working Group on pilot basis in Limerick Prison. A bespoke, Families and Imprisonment Parenting Programme, was developed in cooperation with Community Partners (Childhood Development Initiative, Parents Plus and Bedford Row Project) and delivered to a pilot group of prisoners and their partners in 2015. Family Liaison Officer training was delivered to 20 staff in Limerick Prison.

STRATEGIC ACTION 4: MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

Action 4.1	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Implementation of Public Service Agreement</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Task reviews are completed in the 14 prisons, the Irish Prison Service College and the Operational Support Group. The Prison Service Escort Corp and administration task reviews are pending. The Trades task review is agreed and under implementation the rationalisation and consolidation of grades has commenced. Alignment of Additional Hours to HRA 3:10/70 are complete. The automatic key disbursement facility has been installed at one site.</p> <p>Open recruitment for prison chaplains was introduced. The Prison Administration Support Officer (PASO) grade has been fully introduced and appointments continue to be made. 115 PASO's were working for the IPS at the end of 2015.</p> <p>Efforts continued in 2015 to increase compliance by staff and managers with their obligations under the Attendance Management Policy 2014 in order to address the increase in non-attendance. The number of days lost to sick leave in 2015 increased by 13.5% on the 2014 figure – from 11.4 days lost per officer in 2014 to 13.2 days lost per officer in 2015.</p> <p>The HRA reduced payscales remained in place for earners over €65,000 in 2015. HRA deferrals of increments/reduction of annual leave allowances/cash deductions/working of rest days continued in 2015. The Landsdowne Road Agreement for pay restoration was centrally agreed in 2015 and will be implemented accordingly. Circular 1/2015 regarding overpayment of wages was implemented from March 2015.</p>
Action 4.2	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Management and staffing restructuring</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Campus based governance is now in operation in three locations - West Dublin Campus (Wheatfield Place of Detention and Cloverhill Prison), Portlaoise Campus (Portlaoise and Midlands Prisons) and Mountjoy Campus (Mountjoy Prison, St Patrick's Institution, Dóchas Centre and the Training Unit).</p>

Action 4.3**Progress to end December 2015**

Establishment of Professional Standards and Legal Unit

Implemented

Action 4.4**Progress to end December 2015**

Obtain and maintain accreditation to the IPS Occupational Health & Safety Management System.

Ongoing

The Compliance Executive (CE) Group, chaired by the Director General and comprising senior managers at head office and prison management level, met on three occasions during 2015. The CE Group continued to monitor the progress of various subgroups in meeting their objectives for the year. In addition to the work of these subgroups, local Safety Committees met regularly across the prison system to address health and safety matters. Portlaoise Campus/IPSC retained external NSAI accreditation for their 18001 Health and Safety management system. Fire Safety and Health and Safety matters are an ongoing high priority for the IPS.

Action 4.5**Progress to end December 2015**

Review of training structures

Ongoing

Significant achievements were made in relation to training regarding mental health awareness, human rights, equality and diversity, professional conduct, ethics, communication and interpersonal skills, families of prisoners, child protection, leadership, management and administration.

The Irish Prison Service College commenced implementing the recommendations included in the Report on Culture and Organisation in the Irish Prison Service and at the end of 2015 had agreed a new staffing structure. It is intended that when this structure is implemented in 2016 it will facilitate the delivery of training and education which is effective, relevant, practical and grounded in contemporary theory and best international practice, and tailored to individual grades and roles.

Action 4.6**Progress to end December 2015**

Dignity at Work Charter and launch of prison wide dignity and respect campaign

Ongoing

Five behaviours were identified by staff to ensure a dignified work environment – Respectful, Supportive, Openness, Competence, Fair and Inclusive. A number of policies have been drafted including Acceptable Behaviour Standard, Anti Graffiti Policy, Competency Framework, Well-Being at Work Policy, creating the foundations to the embedding of these behaviours in the organisation. Support and development of staff to promote these behaviours will be a key Strategic Action in our next strategic plan

STRATEGIC ACTION 5 : PRISON ESTATE**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN 2012-2016****Action 5.1****Progress to end December 2015**

Provide in-cell sanitation in all remaining areas of the prison estate

Ongoing

Modernisation of accommodation blocks was completed in 2015. Construction stage of the new prison in Cork was completed. A business case for the redevelopment of Limerick Prison received approval for the project to move to tender development stage. Exploratory work was undertaken on the options for the elimination of slopping out in Portlaoise E block.

The number of prisoners slopping out reduced to 231 at the end of 2015. This is a reduction of 77% since the beginning of 2012. 94% of all prisoners now have 24 hour access to toilet facilities.

Action 5.2**Progress to end December 2015**

	Ongoing
Undertake capital projects in order to replace outdated accommodation and facilities in:	
Cork prison;	Cork - Work is completed on the construction of a new prison for Cork with construction and fit-out near completion.
Limerick prison (replacement of A & B wings);	Limerick - A business case for a substantial redevelopment of Limerick prison including the provision of a stand-alone women's prison received approval to move to tender development stage.
Mountjoy prison (A, B & D wings);	Mountjoy – Modernisation of accommodation blocks is complete.
Portlaoise E Block.	Portlaoise – project is capital dependent. Consideration of works required at Portlaoise Prison is ongoing.

STRATEGIC ACTION 6: LEGISLATIVE CONSOLIDATION

Action 6.1	Progress to end December 2015
<p>In conjunction with the Criminal Law Reform Division we will:</p> <p>Review prison law to identify areas of law for repeal, reform or restatement in modern terms;</p> <p>Identify areas that require to be regulated by legislation in the light of international developments;</p> <p>Assess how amendments to existing law could better facilitate the more efficient day to day operation of the Service;</p> <p>Recommend new statutory provisions to reflect the most appropriate corporate governance structure for the organisation;</p> <p>Identify any legislative amendments necessary to give effect to Programme for Government commitments in relation to remission.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Statutory Instruments prepared and enacted to give effect to changes in St. Patrick’s Institution and Wheatfield Prison.</p> <p>Consolidated Committal Order revised and operational.</p> <p>Amendments drafted regarding Rule 57 Prisoner Complaints</p> <p>An administrative consolidation of the Prison Rules 2007 – 2014 compiled and published.</p> <p>Amendments made to the Prison Rules regarding remission of sentence (rule 59)</p>
Action 6.2	Progress to end December 2015
<p>Provide expertise and advice to Criminal Law Reform Division to assist in the drawing up of a draft General Scheme of a Prison Bill</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Observations provided to the Department of Justice and Equality which was enacted in 2015.</p>

Action 6.3

Progress to end December 2015

Provide support and advice to Criminal Law Reform Division to assist in the publication and passage of the Bill through the Oireachtas and to enactment

Ongoing

A photograph of a modern garden courtyard. In the foreground, a curved wooden deck made of horizontal planks leads towards the center. To the left of the deck is a lush garden bed with various plants, including large green ferns and hostas. In the middle ground, there is a dark stone structure with a small arched opening. To the right, a wooden pergola with a flat roof extends over a path. The background features a tall, textured wall and a young tree. The sky is overcast.

APPENDICES



WHEATFIELD PRISON

THIS GARDEN IS DEDICATED TO ALL

1989



APPENDIX 1

Update on Year 1 of the Joint Probation Service/Irish Prison Service Strategy

1

REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

IN FACILITATING THE REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION OF SENTENCED PRISONERS, WE HAVE:

- Commissioned a joint review of funded addiction services to the prisons and community. We plan to publish this review in mid-2016.
- Reviewed existing funding arrangements for CBOs to ensure appropriate oversight, governance, financial management and output. This includes the establishment of a Joint Service Financial Oversight Group.
- Identified a schedule of offender programmes to be delivered in prison in order to reduce reoffending.
- Scheduled, in autumn 2016, an independent external review of the application of Incentivised Regimes Policy to ensure a transparent and open application of the Policy
- Commenced the examination of the potential for a prison based Drug Therapeutic Community to facilitate better outcomes for prisoners post release.
- Enhanced collaborative working on the sentence management of sex offenders between the Irish Prison Service Psychology Service, Probation Service and Integrated Sentence Manager Officers.

2

COMMUNITY RETURN

FOLLOWING ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY RETURN, WE HAVE:

- Commenced the implementation of the recommendations of the report in the areas of assessment, engagement with DSP and in reach services.
- Delivered on an integrated approach to Community Return having developed rehabilitative initiatives, including work training, education and addiction recovery.
- Developed an accredited horticultural initiative in Thornton Hall in collaboration with the CDETB.
- Continued to review the assessment processes for the Community Return Programme to ensure robust arrangements are in place.
- Revised the target to 370 participants per annum in reparative and restorative structured releases, in view of the decreased pool of prisoners in custody and the consequent challenges in identifying suitable candidates.

3

SUPPORTS FOR SHORT TERM PRISONERS

IN THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR SHORT SENTENCED PRISONERS, WE HAVE:

- Examined possibilities and advanced plans to establish Community Support Schemes in the Midlands Campus and Castlerea Prison. These will become operational in 2016.
- Authorised 389 structured releases to the Community Support Scheme in 2015.
- Scoped a formal evaluation of Community Support Scheme.
- Ensured consistent assessment and release procedures based on learning of scheme to date.

4

REDUCE RISK OF RE-OFFENDING

IN ENGAGING WITH SERVICE USERS TO REDUCE THEIR RISK OF RE-OFFENDING, WE HAVE:

- Piloted initiatives in collaboration with CBOs to engage ex-offenders as peer mentors with offenders under temporary supervised release.
- Piloted a post release community based programme in Dublin, building on the work of the Red Cross organisation across the prison estate. Further programmes will also be held in Limerick and Cork in 2016.
- Captured feedback from ex-offenders through surveys and focus groups, further developing and enhancing our practice.
- Explored funding possibilities for ex-offender employment in the Community Return Project.

5

PRE-RELEASE PLANNING

IN ENHANCING PRE-RELEASE PLANNING FOR PRISONERS, WE HAVE:

- Committed to forging improved collaborative arrangements with statutory and voluntary providers to respond to the re-integration needs of released prisoners.
- Significantly advanced stage of the development of a Prisoner Release Policy to ensure the effective transition of offenders into the community. We plan to formally commence this Policy in mid-2016.
- Begun the process of developing collaborative agreements, underpinned by protocols, with providers in accommodation, education, financial support, healthcare and training /employment.
- Established a central point of contact, in keeping with Children First Guidelines, notifying Tusla (Child and Family Agency), of all pending releases of sex offenders into the community.

6

PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION

TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION, WE HAVE:

- Building on the Irish Prison Service/Probation Service Women's Strategy we are responding to the needs of women prisoners and pursuing a dedicated approach to working with women offenders in the community.
- Established a 'Travellers in Prison Initiative', in partnership with the St. Stephens Green Trust, to identify and respond to the particular needs of this group.
- Identified specific interventions with prisoners aged 18-21 years with a focus on reintegration that takes into account individual developmental needs.

7

JOINT INTEGRATED RESPONSES TO CRIME

TO PROMOTE JOINT INTEGRATED RESPONSES TO CRIME, WE HAVE:

- Conducted initial SORAM meetings in the prison with identified medium to high risk sex offenders, who will enter the Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management arrangements on release,.
- Piloted "Joint Agency Response to Crime" initiatives providing for co-ordinated and enhanced levels of co-operation and co-ordination between An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service: -
 - The Ballymun Strive initiative which concentrates on those causing a high level of harm or disruption to the local area. We are motivating them to desist from crime and to have their needs supported by local agencies or face an appropriate level of intervention necessary to disrupt their criminal lifestyle.
 - The Bridge Project - Change Works Programme which concentrates on violent offenders in the Dublin area who have been assessed as likely to cause serious harm, aligning Garda Case management, Probation Case Management, Integrated Sentence Management and Community Return (Irish Prison Service).
 - Acer3 - which concentrates on the management of identified offenders who have been convicted or charged with burglary offences from the Dublin 8 and Dublin 24 areas.
- Committed to evaluate each of the above initiatives which will measure their effectiveness.
- Delivered joint training initiatives in J-ARC across the agencies.

8

RESPONDING TO VICTIMS

IN RESPONDING TO VICTIMS, WE HAVE:

- Worked in collaboration, and in line with legislation to give effect to the European Directive (2012/29/EU), to provide an appropriate, timely and effective response to all victim requests/ concerns.
- Explored the feasibility of developing a joint information leaflet on the services available to victims.
- Continued to contribute and represent our respective services on the work of the Victims of Crime Office, Department of Justice.

IPS CONTACT INFORMATION

Arbour Hill Prison

Arbour Hill,
Dublin 7 DO7YV40

Tel: 01 4724000
Fax: 01 4724082

Castlerea Prison

Harristown,
Castlerea,
Co. Roscommon F45X330

Tel: 094 96 25213
Fax: 094 96 25226

Cloverhill Prison

Cloverhill Road,
Clondalkin,
Dublin 22 D22WC84

Tel: 01 6304530 /
01 6304531
Fax: 01 6304580

Cork Prison

Rathmore Road,
Cork City,
Cork T23Y642

Tel: 021 4518800
Fax: 021 4518860

Dóchas Centre

North Circular Road,
Dublin 7 DO7YC97

Tel: 01 8858987
Fax: 01 8858910

Limerick Prison

Mulgrave Street,
Limerick V94P8N1

Tel: 061 204700
Fax: 061 415116

Loughan House Open Centre

Blacklion,
Co. Cavan F91NY76

Tel: 071 9836021
Fax: 071 9853234

Midlands Prison

Dublin Road,
Portlaoise, Co. Laois
R32F796

Tel: 05786 72110 /
05786 72100
Fax: 05786 72199

Mountjoy Prison

North Circular Road,
Dublin 7 DO7YC97

Tel: 01 8062800
Fax: 01 8062824

Portlaoise Prison

Dublin Road,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois R32KN97

Tel: 05786 21318
Fax: 05786
20997

Shelton Abbey Open Centre

Arklow,
Co. Wicklow Y14T638

Tel: 0402 42300
Fax: 0402 42350

St. Patrick's Institution

North Circular Road,
Dublin 7 DO7VR94

Tel: 01 8062896
Fax: 01 8307705

Training Unit

Glengarriff Parade,
North Circular Road,
Dublin 7 D07YN30

Tel: 01 8062890
Fax: 01 8307460

Wheatfield Place of Detention

Cloverhill Road,
Clondalkin, Dublin 22
D22Y2V5

Tel: 01 7789400
Fax: 01 7789430

PRISON SUPPORT UNITS

Building Services Division

Unit 2, Airways
Industrial Estate,
Santry, Dublin 17
D17HW53

Operational Support
Group

Árd na Gaoithe,
Arbour Hill, Dublin
7 D07YV40

Prison Service College

Stack House, Dublin
Road, Portlaoise,
Co. Laois R32NX53

Prison Service Escort
Corps

Cloverhill Prison,
Cloverhill Road,
Dublin 22
D22WC84

Irish Prison Service Headquarters, IDA Business Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford N39A308

Tel: 043 333 5100 Fax: 043 333 5371 E-mail: info@irishprisons.ie Web: www.irishprisons.ie

Irish Prison Service Phibsborough Office, 397e North Circular Road, Dublin 7 D07TAC9



IRISH PRISON SERVICE

CREATING A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Irish Prison Service, IDA Business Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford, Co. Longford

T | 043 333 5100 F | 043 333 5371 E | info@irishprisons.ie