

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

The Visiting Committee to Cloverhill Prison has pleasure in submitting our annual report for 2009 to Mr Dermot Ahern T.D, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

The Committee.

The Committee continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month. The committee numbers decreased from 8 to 7 during 2009 with the resignation in February of one of its members Mr Colin Campbell. The meetings were always well attended. Two members of the committee each month on a rota basis carried out unannounced visits to the prison to ensure that the prison continues to be run in a safe, humanitarian and efficient way. During the monthly visits we made a point of conducting detailed and comprehensive tours to the different areas of the prison, where we talked to both internal and external staff working in those areas and any prisoners in the vicinity. The Committee have remained conscious of the need to consider both security and prison sub cultural issues in the prison context.

Prisoners before the committee.

During the year we as a committee continued to see large numbers of prisoners. We saw 34 individual prisoners who had requested to see the visiting committee in 2009. Cloverhill Prison mainly accommodates remand prisoners and therefore the prison population can be somewhat transient in composition. This has the impact of ensuring a large daily turnover and discharge of the prison population, some of whom may not be recommitted. In order to ensure we see as many prisoners as possible when we visit, we endeavour to make ourselves readily available, so that there is little time delay in actually seeing the prisoners from the date of their actual request. On monthly meeting days any prisoner who wishes to see us was facilitated by two members meeting him before the meeting. In Cloverhill Prison the committee members actually go down to the division where the prisoner is accommodated and see him there.

The committee continued to monitor the progress of the individual prisoners who had come before them as a result of this a number of prisoners were seen by the committee on several occasions as part of this follow up procedure.

Aside from this, eight prisoners were seen more than once at their own request. Two were seen on four separate occasions, two were seen three times and four were seen twice. In total there were 50 meetings with prisoners in 2009. There were also 10 other prisoners who requested to see the VC during 2009 who were either released, transferred, at court or declined when we visited.

There were various issues raised by respective prisoners who came before us this year, requesting non-screen visits and transfers have continued to be the main issues. We are satisfied that representations which we have made on behalf of inmates are considered by the Governor and if possible and practical are being addressed by prison management.

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Overcrowding

This still remains a continuous cause for concern in 2009. The highest number in custody on any day was 487 prisoners in December, 7 less than the previous year high of 494 in 2008. Once again this year we have received complaints from Prisoners that committals have been put in their cell during the night on a mattress, in our opinion this causes tension and disruptions during the night to all prisoners in the cell. We have highlighted in previous reports our opinion that there is an apparent link between overcrowding and tensions in prisons, this is apart from the health and safety concerns for both staff and prisoners. We once again forcefully reiterate that opinion.

There has been a significant improvement on the situation with regards to late committals after 8pm at night. New staffing arrangements for the area, which includes more night guards, have resulted in the major problem in this area appearing to be resolved. We will continue to monitor this.

We were pleased to hear during the year that the Governor and the Garda National immigration Bureau have agreed a protocol with regards to the committing of prisoners for deportation. We reiterate our opinion expressed first in 2007 that these prisoners should be going to a secure holding centre, not Cloverhill prison. The prison should not have to deal with what are specifically immigration problems. The question has been mooted before if prison is the appropriate place for their detention. This whole area needs to be reviewed by the minister.

Hunger strikes

During the year there were 4 prisoners who went on hunger strike which was resolved by the prison Governor without intervention by anyone else. They all lasted a short time.

Foreign Nationals

There are more foreign nationals accommodated here than in any other prison in the country. The committee wishes to reiterate its comments made in the 2006 -2008 reports and call on the minister to review the area of communication which remains an increasing problem. The language barrier creates problems that need to be addressed. As mentioned in previous reports by the committee a large percentage of the foreign nationals are detained on immigration cases. These men speak little or no English.

The committee have repeatedly identified the need for the development of the role of the Prison Officer, by either specifically recruiting or training up serving prison officers in language skills. Their role would be to act as prison interpreters and they would be used to deal with prisoners on committal and as required when there is a need for an interpreter. The possibility of Prison Governor's who are interested in learning language skills should be explored. This would be particularly useful if a prisoner has a complaint.

The daily average of foreign nationals continues to be between 20- 25% of the prison population. The committee continues to hold the opinion that there are core languages commonly spoken by the prisoners that can be identified and these languages should be the priority languages in which training should be given or specific staff recruited

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

and or identify if there are serving staff with these language skills. Cloverhill has a Polish and Lithuanian officer and a Filipino nurse on staff.

Bullying and Racism

We have not had any reports made to us by Prisoners during 2009 of any incidents of bullying and racism from fellow prisoners. We reiterate that the majority of problems are caused by communication difficulties and are conscious of the potential for this given the high percentage of different nationalities here. We will continue to monitor this closely during the year.

Special Unit

We once again reiterate our opinion expressed first in 2007 that these prisoners should be accommodated in a purpose built facility. The actual opening of this unit resulted in a negative impact on prisoners who were accommodated there on protection as they were moved to a more restrictive regime and this regimes has still not improved.

Protection Prisoners

We have highlighted in previous reports what a significant percentage of the prison population the number of prisoners on protection can be on any given day. This continues to place a massive strain on the prison's resources and can be a logistical nightmare for Management and staff. All of these prisoners have to be segregated and within that segregation there can be further segregation. This leads to a restricted prison regime, including limited access to education.

We highlighted in 2008 that the alarming growth of protections is a consequential reflection of the gang culture present in society, nothing happened in 2009 to change our view on this. As we highlighted in previous reports and reiterate again external gang feuds and affiliations do not stop when people are committed to prison. Cloverhill was not designed nor was it ever envisaged that it would have to provide this level of segregation to protection prisoners. Difficulties that prison management have when prisoners request protection is that they often will not say or do not know who they need protection from, this creates obvious difficulties for prison management.

Security measures

The new security measures introduced in 2008 under the auspices of the Operational support unit are running smoothly here. All visitors to the prison and all staff are searched when they enter the prison. All belongings carried on the person are passed through an x- ray machine for checking similar to the ones in use at the airport. There have been a number of seizures which have been reported to the Gardaí. Initially there was an increase in detection rates but this appears to have either petered down which may be caused by an actual decrease in attempts to smuggle prohibited articles in. However, there are still attempts to smuggle contraband into the prison but it appears to be mainly via property being left in to the waiting room.

Mobile Phones

Attempts to smuggle in Mobile phones are a part of prison life worldwide. Mobile phones continue to be smuggled into prisons despite diligent detection by Prison staff and investigations by Gardaí. We reiterate our comments made first in our 2007 report

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

that the sentences being imposed at present are not a deterrent. We are disappointed to note that the proposed introduction of a mobile blocking system to Cloverhill has not been yet introduced and hope it will be introduced in 2010. We note that the numbers of phones being smuggled in appears to have decreased in 2009.

BOSS Chair

Cloverhill Prison continues to use a Body Orifice Security System chair known as the BOSS chair. The Chair is designed to detect objects secreted internally. We reiterate our view of 2008 that the BOSS chair and other increased security measures will continue to have a huge impact in reducing the amount of phones smuggled into prison and will cut down on the possibility of prisoners being intimidated to bring in articles as their chances of being caught are increased.

Drugs

The committee noted during the year that the passive drug detection dog is no longer been used during the week in conjunction with the search procedures. We would like to express the wish that Cloverhill receives a full time dog this year, we accept that the visits are closed but still we understand that there is some evidence to suggest that when the passive dog was deployed here there was a corresponding reduction in the number of visits.

During the year we received a number of complaints from prisoners who objected to their visitors being searched because there were screen visits here.

We the committee recognise screen visits as a proven effective method, together with the netting on the exercise yard, for reducing and stopping drugs being smuggled into prison. Screen visits restrict contact with family and friends and prisoners continue to complain about this. However, the smuggling in of drugs continues to remain a problem in prisons. We reiterate our comments from 2008 and again strongly recommend exploring the possibility of establishing a Drug Free unit within this prison and again suggest exploring the possibly of doing a feasibility study.

Merchant Quay Drug Counsellors

Drug counsellors from Merchants Quay are now fully operational here since December 2008. They provide an on site addiction counselling service in Cloverhill as part of the "Keeping Drugs out of Prison Strategy" (2005). A part time counsellor started here in Cloverhill in December 2008 and another counsellor also part time in July 2009.

The service provides one to one counselling and a range of interventions. The service focuses on brief interventions and exit strategies where appropriate. Prisoners are then referred on if they are sentenced and where they indicate that bail will be taken up they are given the information for services in their own locality.

Continuum of care is a vital part of recovery in addiction and the addiction counselling service works closely with all the disciplines in the prison, as is best practice. Statistic supplied by the counselling service for 2009 state that they made 432 client contacts. There were 325 counselling interventions and there were 117 assessments. There were a total of 251 referrals and there was a constant list of

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

referrals waiting to be assessed. At the end of December there were 25 referrals waiting to be assessed. There were a total of 109 referrals that were not seen by the counselling service who had been transferred or had taken up bail, some of these would be the same person referred twice. There were never any extra officers assigned to the addiction counselling services in the prison staffing numbers and finding staff for collecting and escorting of prisoners wishing to see the counsellors has proved difficult for the prison detail.

The committee have received complaints during the year from prisoners who stated that they have put their name down but had to wait for weeks and or had not been seen by a drug counsellor despite repeatedly putting their names down. In each case we contacted the counsellors through the Governor and they were seen on the same day. We will continue to monitor this area during 2010.

Health Care

We continued our practice of regularly meeting with the health care professionals working in the Prison. Full time nursing care continues to be provided by qualified Nurse Officers and 2 Doctors, along with locums where necessary. We note that during the year that one of the prison doctors resigned.

There have been increased nurse care initiatives during 2009. There are Nurse Leaders in Diabetes, Wound care and Infection control. All the nurses are trained in Occupational First Aid. They continue to hold Phlebotomy clinics, Vaccinations including at risk prisoners for H1N1, Health Promotions and advice for HIV patients. One nurse is being trained as a Nurse Prescriber. Healthcare also includes Dental care provided by Dublin Dental hospital, a visiting optician and chiropodist as required.

In our 2008 report we hoped for further expansion of the nursing service in the coming year with a STI nurse to work with the STI Clinic which was established in 2007, but this post has not been sanctioned to date.

An addiction nurse joined the nursing team in 2009. There are on average daily around 100 prisoners on methadone treatment, this figure can rise to as high as 110 prisoners. This is approximately 25% of the prison population, the addiction clinics are held four times a week. There is also a Detox programme for prisoners and there is usually between 25 -30 on this at any one time.

There continues to be an in-reach service provided by the Central Mental Hospital in Cloverhill. Staff from the Central Mental Hospital are normally in the prison five days a week. They provide a valuable court diversion service, along with being on site to deal with mental health issues. This has had a significant impact on the Psychiatric services provided to prisoners. We feel that prisoner mental health issues are being positively addressed in Cloverhill. However, we feel that there may still be a number of prisoners in custody who should be in the CMH or other secure facilities. During 2009 the in-reach team won the top award in Irish Psychiatric services for best new project as part of the Irish Health care awards.

During the year we saw a number of prisoners that complained about the medical treatment they received from the Prison Doctor. On inquiring we found that most of

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

them related to the medicine given by the Doctor. We did not feel that any of the complaints we heard were legitimate complaints, however we are not medically qualified.

We have subsequently been informed that the same prisoner as in 2008 had again reported the Doctor to the medical council and we have been informed the Medical council again found the complaint was without substance.

Prison Psychologist

There has been no prison psychologist here since 2008. This is a major concern to the committee. We have had a number of complaints from prisoners who have not been able to avail of the services of a psychologist here. We urge the decision to take the prison Psychologist from here be reconsidered as a matter of priority.

Death in Custody

There were 2 deaths of prisoners who were in the custody of the Governor during 2009. One died of natural causes in hospital. There has been no coroner's court hearing yet on the other death which was a suicide.

Education

Education has a significant impact on the daily routine of Prisoners and is an important safety lever in alleviating boredom. Numbers attending the school increased greatly in 2009. This is due to the increase in the number of teaching staff and also the consolidation of teachers' timetables solely to Cloverhill. Extra classrooms and an extra teacher allocation are required to facilitate the number of students wishing to attend education in Cloverhill prison. The teachers' staff/tea room was used as a classroom during 2009 on occasion to facilitate the increased numbers in the school.

Classes are held in Art, Craft, ECDL, and ESOL. Fetac courses in Computer Literacy, Computer Applications, Data entry, IT skills, Word Processing, Communications, Maths, Personal Effectiveness, Personal Care and Presentation, Living in a Diverse Society, Information Technology, Interpersonal Skills and Health Related Fitness. Also music classes in Royal College of Music Theory Grade 1, Guitar and Keyboard, beginners and improvers. Students have taken and are pursuing Mous computer exams, Junior certificate, Leaving certificate subjects and Fetac levels 3-6. Classes are also held in improvers English, Literacy, Numeracy and Sound Engineering. Also 3 prisoners are enrolled in Open University courses. During the year the committee were very happy to attend an award presentation ceremony, including an Open University Graduation. This was the first ever student from Cloverhill to be conferred by the Open University.

The head teacher has informed us that her objectives for 2010 include:

- 1. To provide an individual learning plan for those students who are in the unit for longer than 2 months.*
- 2. To provide outreach education services to those prisoners denied access.*
- 3. To provide an increased range of FETAC modules.*
- 4. To commence work on the development of an integrated FETAC module for ESOL students.*
- 5. To improve the communication process with students.*

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Once again this year all the feedback from prisoners, the committee has spoken to who are attending the school is positive. However, because of segregation some prisoners do not have the same access to the school. We reiterate our comments of 2008 that all avenues be explored to find a system that gives all prisoners access to the school and that allows students who wish to study full time to be able to do so. We have been informed by the head teacher that 80 prisoners remain without access to education.

Previous committees have placed education as a primary priority, this committee wishes to reiterate that sentiment. It is of paramount importance to the committee that prisoners can maximise their educational opportunities. Further to this given that some prisoners are in prison for a short time, the feasibility of a one to one ethos of education should be explored where deemed appropriate by the head teacher. This would ensure that schooling in the prison can have maximum impact and benefit to prisoners.

Library

This is an attractive, spacious facility in the prison and it is a popular venue for offenders who use it for recreation and for borrowing. When open is utilized by a large proportion of the prison population.

In Cloverhill the library is timetabled to open seven days each week for the morning, afternoon and evening periods. Three prison officers are assigned to work and provide the service in the library for each period. A new library timetable was devised in 2008 to incorporate the new security landing and Protection landing. The timetable was devised to cater for every unit in the prison and the amount of library time allocated to each unit is determined by the numbers of offenders in each unit.

Library opening and visits in 2009 improved over the 2008 level however the high level of library closure which is due to the frequent redeployment of library officers to other posts in the prison and to escort duties continues to be a cause of concern. The Library continues to be one of the first areas closed if there are staff shortages.

The following annual statistics were obtained from the Librarian and illustrate the detrimental impact of the unplanned closures on the level of access to the library for prisoners since 2004. In 2003 there were 6,982 visits by prisoners to the Library this had fallen to 5,268 in 2009. The number of cancelled opening sessions 385 in 2008 and slightly improved to 372 in 2009.

During 2009, 430 offenders registered to borrow books from the library. This group includes 40 different nationalities excluding the Irish and is an increase of 4 nationalities on the 2008 figures. There were other visitors to the library who did not register to borrow books but were content to read the daily newspapers, magazines and books which are available for their use and benefit; watch documentary DVDs or listen to music.

The stock in the library was increased by 449 new books, 186 new foreign language books, 26 new documentary DVDs, 5 new law books, 38 new literacy items (each item comprises a book and CD for reading and simultaneous listening in the library),

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

27 new music CDs (for listening in the library), monthly magazines and periodicals, Foreign language magazines and newspapers. The completed number of book requests decreased from 209 in 2008 to 184 in 2009. It is not clear if this is due to closures or a natural decrease in requests.

To cater for the foreign nationals who use the library new books in Russian, Romanian, Polish, Chinese, Lithuanian, Romanian, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Czech were provided during 2009. This clearly reflects the diversity of the prison population. Dictionaries in various languages were provided following requests from library users. Information about the services available to library users is now available from the library in Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Portuguese, Spanish, Romanian, Polish and Russian.

The committee have received complaints during the year about the closures of the library, we consider the library a very important area in the prison. We reiterate our comments of 2008 that the vacancy for a librarian be filled in view of the requirement to provide adequate educational facilities for incarcerated people and rising prison populations.

Gymnasium

The Gymnasiums in the prison continues to be well run and are well equipped. It provides quality Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and much needed physical activity. The Gymnasium is available to all prisoners. There are 2 PE Teachers and a number of NECF trained prison officers who work together as a team to provide excellent professional programs and service. They have continued to train a number of inmates up to FETAC standard in fitness.

Kitchen

The Kitchen caters to and meets the dietary needs of an increasingly diverse prison population. It also caters for the dietary needs of prisoners from other prisons that are held in the courthouse at lunch time.

A 28 day rotating menu is used, including a vegetarian option which has been devised by dieticians. In Cloverhill rice is routinely offered as an alternative to potatoes. Good nutritious food continues to be prepared by the professionally qualified officers, and prisoners who work together as part of a team to achieve the highest standards. The Kitchen provides up to 1500 food covers a day more than comparable to any Hotel Kitchen. The quality of food provided and the hygiene standard is excellent. This has been recognised by the fact that the Kitchen has been awarded the National Quality and Excellence Award Q Mark EIQA, the Emerald award is its highest award and this is Cloverhill's 7th year to achieve this.

At present a number of prisoners are undertaking the elementary cooking training course under the auspices of Fáilte Ireland and Fetac. The kitchen generally employs 16 prisoners. The committee would again this year like to commend the staff on the standard maintained in the kitchen.

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Work and Training Work Shops

We first suggested in 2007 that the possibility of setting up a work shop in Cloverhill be explored and work and training opportunities such as short courses such as safe pass, practical cookery, library work shop, craft making etc, be explored for possibility of delivery. In Cloverhill the only work and training opportunities available for prisoners are the Kitchen and Laundry. We are disappointed to note that this has not been explored.

Pastoral Care

The Chaplain of Cloverhill prison is Fr. John O'Sullivan. Sister Carmel, Sister Margaret and Sister Anne continue to help him to provide pastoral care and to minister to the needs of the whole Prison, prisoners, prisoners families and Prison Officers. Other denominations are served by respective visiting chaplains and we are grateful for their services to the prison community.

Listeners Scheme

The Listeners scheme was set up in 2002 by the suicide awareness committee. If prisoners who are Listeners move after training, they may, subject to Prison authority permission and their own wish to, join a Listener scheme in the new prison they transfer to, if there is one. A large number of those who were trained in Cloverhill are Listeners in other prisons and one is part of the steering committee to set up the Listener Scheme in Mountjoy. One former Cloverhill Listener is now a Listener in the UK, following repatriation.

The committee were very disappointed in 2009 to learn that this scheme had floundered during 2009. We have been informed by the Governor that a new steering committee has been set up and hope this scheme can be resurrected. We wish to praise the Samaritans, prison staff and the prisoners who take part in this scheme, which we see as being very important in helping other prisoners with difficulties they may have.

Visit to Arbour Hill Prison.

During the year the committee visited Arbour Hill Prison. The Committee were very impressed with the work and training facilities available in this prison. We were impressed with the boat that the prisoners had rebuilt.

We were also very impressed with the range of the workshops in Arbour Hill which are of tradesman standards. In a particular the carpentry shop and the Electrical Recycling workshop. The skills that the prisoners learn in the workshops give them a viable chance of gaining employment on release. The value of such fact finding visits are very important in highlighting what is missing from this prison in terms of facilities for prisoners.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governor of Arbour Hill Mr Liam Dowling and all his staff for their courtesy which they displayed to us and the time they took to answer our questions.

Booked Visits.

On November 30th booked visits was introduced in Cloverhill Prison. All prisoners in Cloverhill can received up to 4 half hour ordinary visits a week between Mondays to

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Saturday. Their visitors can book by phone, in person or by e-mailing. To date we have not received any complaints about this and it appears to be working well.

Visitors centre

During the year we met with Ms Theresa Clarke Manager of the Prison Visitors centre. Which is jointly run by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul and The Society of Friends (Quakers), it is open 6 days a week with eight staff members and a number of volunteers. They provide a free tea/coffee/snack bar service, parenting advice and support, support for families, information service and a volunteer programme.

She informed us that given that the needs of the prisoners are seen as paramount and come first within the prison system this may result in the family tending to be forgotten which is why the work within the visitors centre focuses on the wellbeing of the family and the supports required. At present there are three visitor centres within the Irish prison system catering for our 15 prisons. This compares with 75 centres catering for 134 prisons in the United Kingdom.

Staff and volunteers within the visitors centre identify those who are new to the system and provide information and support such as discussing with visitors what to expect, when and how to book visits, support groups and services available to them, security measures in place, prisoners rights, solicitor contact and the court system to name but a few.

Ongoing support is then available to the visitors on a one to one basis. Support mainly involves providing the visitor with a listening ear and referring them to other services and/or agencies where appropriate. For many the visitors centre is the only place they can or will discuss the situation they have found themselves in because of feelings of shame, embarrassment, guilt etc. Supports in place also ensure that the visitor has had a chance to deal with their feelings so they are not as angry, upset, and stressed out etc, when meeting with the prisoner.

They also provide a childcare/play area for children going in on visits. The childcare area is fully equipped for children of all ages and two full-time childcare workers supervise same. The purpose of the childcare area is to entertain the children while waiting to go in on a visit thus ensuring that the child does not become bored and they get to spend quality time with the prisoner rather than misbehaving, wanting to go home etc. An advice and support service is also available to the parents/carers of children using the area and topics such as discussing with the children where “daddy really is and why”, behavioural problems associated with the arrest/disappearance of a family member and external supports and services available to the children.

Inspector of Prisons

The new inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly visited the prison on a few occasions in 2009. The committee did not meet him but hope to meet him in 2010.

Meeting with the Director General of the Irish Prison service Mr Brian Purcell.

The committee met with Mr Purcell in February and had a frank information meeting. We found that he had a very proactive outlook and wanted to work with the VC.

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Mr Purcell promised to provide a new members handbook which we hope to have for 2010. We view these meetings as a very proactive and positive development and a good opportunity for acquiring information, clarifying issues and exchanging opinions.

Video Conferencing

The committee welcomed this development which has remained as a pilot in Cloverhill since February 2007. We urged in 2008 the expansion of this service to other solicitor's practices, prisons and courts. We were informed during 2009 that the pilot was ending and that the service was being expanded, we are disappointed to note that to date it has only expanded by one solicitor.

We have been informed that the video conferences facilities for the courts are ready here for use by the courts. We hope it will be used by the new Criminal Court of Justice.

Chairman's Meetings

During the year Mr Coyle the Chairman attended a number of Chairman's meetings around the country in Cork Prison, Castlerea Prison, Portlaoise and St. Patrick's Institution. These meetings are an invaluable resource for the purpose of sharing information and acquiring prison based knowledge. It is also a way of identifying problems that affect all prisons.

Representatives from the chairman's group met Mr Purcell the Director General of the Prison service who has promised more co-operation in working together.

Conclusion

In June Governor Tom Somers retired with over 40 year's service. We had developed a relationship of mutual respect and found his judgement sound and fair during all our dealings with him. We enjoyed a good working relationship with him during his tenure as Governor here and wish him well in his retirement.

During the year the Director of Operations of the Irish Prison Service Mr William Connolly was here for a few months as the interim Governor whilst we waited for the replacement for Governor Somers to arrive. The committee were impressed with his enthusiasm he brought to the role and his optimism for Thornton Hall.

We would also like to thank Mr John O'Mahoney a member of the committee who finished his term in 2009 for all his help and contributions to the committee. We would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of all the different agencies who give their time and services on a daily/weekly basis to the benefit of the prison service. We commend them for what at times can be a delicate balancing act which they have to perform.

The committee has exercised its duties diligently and are committed to exercising them in full in 2010. We continue to enjoy an excellent relationship with the Governor and his staff. We would also thank Governor Ronan Maher who has now been promoted to PSEC for all his help.

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2009

We would like to thank Governor Quigley, Deputy Governor Gerry Bracken, the committee's secretary Ms Maria Connolly and all the staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

We the committee finally wish to thank you Minister and trust we have been of service during the year and can continue to be of service.

Michael Coyle Chairman

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Peggy Downey _____

Fintan Hudson _____

Eddie Martin _____

Christine Ryan _____

Mary O'Neill _____

Dated: _____