

Wheatfield Prison Visiting Committee Annual Report

A Dhuine Uasail,

We the members of Wheatfield Prison Visiting Committee are pleased to present our Annual Report. The committee held 12 monthly meetings and members made themselves available for mid month visits when necessary.

The average number of prisoners requesting meetings with the committee was ten. We met the prisoners on an individual basis and their requests covered many areas but thankfully none of a serious nature.

Areas identified are as follows ;

1. Transfer to another prison.
2. Problems in relation to family visits and visiting conditions in general.
3. Medical treatment.
4. Temporary release applications.
5. Requests for single cell occupation especially by non smokers.

The prison authorities dealt with our requests as speedily as possible given the limited means at their disposal.

The committee met with Mr Brian Purcell, Director of Prisons in August 2009. He outlined the plans for Wheatfield into the future. It is now hoped that the new building will be completed in spring 2010. An extension to the kitchen is currently underway to facilitate the increase in numbers. Booked visits are up and running very sucessfully.

Since the introduction of the sniffer dogs the inflow of drugs to the prison has been significantly reduced.

The prison authorities have been very successful in their detection of mobile phones within the prison with 201 found in 2009.

The committee note the very high standard of all aspects of the catering department and the cleanliness and hygiene throughout the prison.

The committee are very happy with the numbers of inmates gainfully employed and using the educational facilities. Current enrolment in the education unit is 220. 5 candidates completed a total of 4 subjects in the Leaving Certificate. 19 candidates completed a total of 7 subjects in the Junior Certificate.

We compliment and thank the Governor, his assistants and all the staff. Their unfailing commitment, industry and cooperation is noteworthy. We look forward to working with them in the year ahead.

Is sinne,
Le dea mhein,

Pat Rohan
Chairman

Sadie Jordan Eddie Kirwan William Loughnane John O'Neill

Marty Rohan Paddy Summers Tom Lillis