

Irish Prison Service

Annual Report 2010



Mission Statement

The mission of the Irish Prison Service is to provide safe, secure and humane custody for people who are sent to prison. The service is committed to manage custodial sentences in a way which encourages and supports prisoners in their endeavouring to live law abiding and purposeful lives as valued members of society.

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Chairman's Report

The Prison Authority Interim Board (the Board) met on five occasions during 2010. In continuing to focus on progressing the essential programmes and infrastructural changes already underway the Board also prioritised objectives to ensure that the Irish Prison Service delivers safe, secure, rehabilitative and humane custody for people who are sent to prison and to assist in the management of custodial sentences in a way which encourages and supports prisoners in their endeavouring to live law abiding and purposeful lives as valued members of society, in keeping with the thrust of the Mission Statement.

In reviewing the events of 2010, the most pressing issue facing the Irish Prison Service and the Board was the ever-increasing number of prisoners in our institutions and the high number of prisoners on temporary release, due to lack of prison spaces. There was an increase of almost 15% or 1,622 in the numbers committed to prison under sentence in 2010. As noted in previous years, the increasing prisoner population places very considerable pressure on the Service to not only provide safe, secure and humane conditions for prisoners and staff alike, but also puts a strain on those committed staff and ancillary services involved in managing the prison regime.

The Board considers the Thornton Hall project at Kilsallaghan, Co. Dublin to be the strategic cornerstone for the future of the Irish Prison Service and by extension a very important component of the criminal justice system. The increasing numbers committed to prison, and the associated issues,

serve to underline the necessity for the project. Although the Thornton Hall project was initially a medium to long term strategic development, in recent years it has become a critical, immediate priority. The Board has for many years witnessed the unacceptable conditions and overcrowding in Mountjoy Prison, notwithstanding the excellent work being done by Prison Service staff led by the Director General and senior management.

A further cause for the Board's concern was the suspension of the Munster Regional Prison at Kilworth, Co. Cork and the cancellation of site transfer from the Department of Defence due to the non-availability of money previously sanctioned. Accepting that clarification of the capital funding position requires time, it is regrettable that we were not able to acquire the site and thus proceed with preliminary design and planning.

Capital Programme

Having outlined the need for Thornton Hall and Munster Regional Prisons, the Irish Prison Service must also continue with its prison building and refurbishment programme, even more so now in the context of making the most of what is available.

The Board notes the progression of capital projects such as the following during the year:

- A new block in Wheatfield provided 200 spaces. There is also a medical centre with dentistry and a prisoner reception centre. A new kitchen facility to cater for the entire prison was also completed.
- The refurbishment of the Separation Unit at Mountjoy Prison provided space for 56 prisoners.
- Fourteen disused cells in the female wing of Limerick Prison were completely refurbished.
- A contract was awarded in late 2010 for the provision of an additional 70 spaces for female prisoners at the Dóchas Centre within the Mountjoy Campus.
- Planning of a new cell block extension at Midlands Prison to potentially provide 300 spaces commenced.

- Work commenced in late 2010 on the construction of a new healthcare building at Cork Prison which will provide significantly enhanced healthcare facilities.

These projects go some way towards improving the conditions in the older institutions.

Health and Safety

Under the direction of the Health and Safety Executive Management Team, the internationally accredited safety management system, OHSAS 18001 Safety Management System was formally rolled out in all prison locations in 2010.

The Board commends Midlands and Portlaoise prisons and the Irish Prison Service Training and Development Centre for their success in achieving independent accreditation of the OHSAS 18001 system by the National Standards Authority of Ireland.

Another great achievement was the Taoiseach's Award under the Public Service Excellence Scheme for the Cell Snatch Rescue Equipment (CSRE). The new equipment delivers a significant time reduction of 50% in the use of cell snatch equipment in emergency situations. This improved response time is fundamental to a successful rescue. The Irish Prison Service has replaced a labour intensive, complex and costly system with the new system that delivers significant savings both in staff training and maintenance costs.

This accolade recognised the hard work undertaken developing the CSRE - a joint project between the Irish and UK Prison Services.

Environmental Matters

During 2010 the Environmental Office established a strategic partnership with Sustainability Energy Authority of Ireland which has resulted in the development of a training programme for key managers in the Irish Prison Service on energy awareness and monitoring across the service.

Energy Audits were completed in a number of areas in order that the Irish Prison Service meets its requirement to reduce energy and resource use.

Deaths in Service

Sadly, two serving members of staff died during 2010: Prison Officers Patrick John (PJ) Doran, Loughan House and James Forde, Cork Prison. I would like to extend my sympathy and that of the Board's to their families, friends and colleagues.

Recruitment

Over the course of 2010 sanction was received for the recruitment of 152 recruit prison officers, 7 nurse officers and 2 psychologists. These sanctions were partly in response to an accelerated level of retirements and resignations during 2010 (226 staff left the service - an increase of approximately 6% on the 2009 figure). New staff were also required to facilitate the opening of the new prisoner accommodation in the Wheatfield and Mountjoy prisons. The new entrants also helped accommodate the opening of extra accommodation for female prisoners in Limerick Prison.

Attendance Management

The Board notes a 5.6% increase in the number of days lost to illness when compared with the 2009 figures. Regrettably this reverses the four year downward trend in sick leave across the prison service.

Appreciation

I would like to thank former Minister Dermot Ahern, TD and Secretary-General Seán Aylward for their support over the last few years, and look forward to continuing the same relationship with Minister Alan Shatter, TD and the staff of his Department.

Thanks are due to the Director General, Brian Purcell, and staff in the institutions, headquarters and other support services, who continue to do a professional job in these times of greater expectations and lesser resources.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Board members who meet regularly with the Director General and Directors and to whom we offer advice and guidance in the management of the prison system.

Brian McCarthy

Chairman

Prisons Authority Interim Board



Director General's Report

To: The Minister for Justice,
Equality and Defence,
Mr Alan Shatter, T.D.

Minister,

I am pleased to transmit to you the Annual Report of the Irish Prison Service for 2010.

The safety and security of prisons, the management of prisoner numbers and the provision of appropriate accommodation and services to prisoners remained constant priority activities during 2010.

Prisoner Numbers

During 2010 there were a total of 17,179 committals to prison. This was a significant increase on the 2009 total of 15,425 and represents an 11.4% increase. A total of 13,758 persons accounted for these committals. In total there were 12,487 committals under sentence during the year, which was an increase of 1,622 or 14.9% on the 2009 figure of 10,865 committals. There was again a considerable increase in the numbers committed for non-payment of a court ordered fine during 2010. This category increased by 39% on the 2009 figure - from 4,806 in 2009 to 6,688 in 2010. This follows on from an increase of 90.7% in 2009 and an 88.7% increase in 2008.

It is anticipated that the Fines Act 2010 will result in a significant reduction in these numbers. The Act includes provision for the payment of fines by instalment. Section 15, when commenced, will allow a person on whom a fine has been imposed to make an application to the court to pay a fine in this way. It will be possible to pay a fine over a period of 12 months and exceptionally, over a 2 year period. These provisions will be commenced as soon as necessary enhancements have been made to the Courts Service ICT system.

Section 14 of the Act has, however, been commenced with effect from 4 January, 2011. This requires the court to take into account the person's financial circumstances before determining the amount of the fine, if any, to be imposed.

The daily average number of prisoners in custody in 2010 was 4,290 - an increase of 409 (or 10.5%) on the 2009 figure of 3,881. The average number of female offenders in custody was 157, an increase of 25 (or 19%) on the 2009 level of 132. Most prisons operated at or above full capacity in 2010.

Cost of Providing Prison Spaces

The average cost of an available, staffed prison space during the calendar year 2010 was €70,513 (€77,222 in 2009), a decrease on the 2009 cost of €6,709 or 8.7%. This decrease in average cost results from reduced expenditure and an increase in the provision of bed capacity.

Prison Building Programme

Significant progress was made during 2010 on the implementation of the prison building programme. The most ambitious project in this programme is, of course, the replacement of the four prisons on the Mountjoy Campus with a new prison at Thornton Hall in North County Dublin.

Thornton Hall Prison Review Group

The Minister for Justice and Equality has established a committee to review the Thornton Hall Project in line with the commitment in the Government Programme for National Recovery.

The Programme for Government states that "we will review the proposal to build a new prison at Thornton Hall and consider alternatives, if any, to avoid the costs yet to be incurred by the State in building such a new prison."

The four person committee has been tasked, inter alia, with examining the need for new prison accommodation and to advise by 1 July 2011 whether work on the site at Thornton should proceed.

This committee will take into account a wide number of factors, including current and future prisoner numbers; the need for an adequate stock of prison accommodation that meet required standards including in particular, in cell sanitation, adequate rehabilitation, educational and work training facilities for prisoners as well as facilitating contact with family members and other standards identified by the Inspector of Prisons and relevant international bodies; work already carried out in relation to Thornton and related expenditure; the views of interested parties including non governmental agencies; and the economic constraints facing the State.

Extra prison spaces

A new accommodation block opened in Wheatfield in mid 2010 which has provided 200 spaces. Each cell is fitted with a shower, full in-cell sanitation, sprinkler system, televisions and emergency call systems.

Construction is underway on the new accommodation block at Midlands prison. The works comprise the design and construction of a new prison wing to accommodate 179 cells, which will provide a potential 300 spaces. Construction began in December 2010 and it is planned to have the new block fully commissioned by mid 2012.

A contract was awarded in late 2010 for the provision of 70 dormitory style spaces for female prisoners at the Dóchas Centre within the Mountjoy Campus. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by end July 2011.

In addition, the Irish Prison Service has sought to identify disused cells within the prison estate which when re-commissioned provide additional prisoner spaces. All these re-commissioned cells include in-cell sanitation. To date, the project has resulted in 30 cells, providing space for 56 prisoners, being brought into use at Mountjoy Prison's Separation Unit and a further 14 cells at the female wing of Limerick Prison.

Currently, a refurbishment project is underway in the basement of the C-wing at Mountjoy prison that will result in an additional 36 cells formerly disused cells coming on stream by mid 2011. These cells will be used as a dedicated committal area. This project will also see the installation of flushing toilets and wash hand basins in all cells in the entire Mountjoy C-wing.

Inspector of prisons

During 2010 four reports from the Inspector of Prisons were published. These were "the Annual Report from the Inspector covering the period 15th March 2009 to 10th September 2010", "The Irish Prison Population - an examination of duties and obligations owed to prisoners", "Use of 'Special Cell' in Irish Prisons and "Guidance on Best Practice relating to prisoners complaints and prison discipline". The Inspector makes a number of recommendations in each report. These recommendations are taken into consideration when the Irish Prison Service is introducing new initiatives, amending standard operations procedures or implementing changes to the existing Prison Rules.

The Prison Rules are being amended in light of recommendations made by the Inspector. Firstly, to allow for an additional investigation in cases where there is an allegation of a serious assault or criminal offence, secondly, with regard to the use of special observation cells, and thirdly, where a death in custody has occurred. Following a recommendation from the Inspector it is also planned to introduce ID badges for prison staff.

While the Irish Prison Service is endeavouring to implement many of the Inspector's recommendations, there are some recommendations, such as, bringing an end to the practise of slopping out and the elimination

of overcrowding, which will take time to fully implement. However, to this end, the Irish Prison Service will continue to improve and modernise the prison estate subject to budgetary constraints.

High Level Strategic Objectives 2011 - 2013

Included in this report are the Priority Actions and Progress Indicators for the Prison Service for the years 2011 to 2013. Progress on these will form part of future Annual Reports. The delivery of these actions are, of course, subject to the availability of necessary resources.

Public Service Agreement 2010 - 2014

Following negotiations in the early part of 2010 agreement was reached between the Irish Prison Service and staff representatives on a transformation agenda for the prison service. This agreement was concluded as part of the overall Public Service Agreement 2010 - 2014.

The Agreement provides that the Irish Prison Service will deliver annual savings of €21 million on the prisons pay costs. The full savings will only be achievable on an annual basis when the required transformation programme is completed and fully implemented. While the transformation process will take a number of years to implement in full the initial savings made will in the first instance be applied to support the opening of new prisoner accommodation and thereafter to deliver savings to the Exchequer.

An Implementation Plan, which will be independently monitored, is to be published in early 2011 and a Task Review, which is the centerpiece of the Agreement, involves the management and union side jointly examining all aspects and operations of the prison system. This review will be completed during 2011 and I am encouraged by the level of engagement and commitment to the process shown by the Union side.

Conclusion

I would like to thank the Management and Staff of the Irish Prison Service for their continued dedication and professionalism.

I would also like to thank the Minister, the Secretary General of the Department and all his staff, in particular, the Prisons and Probation Policy Division, for their assistance and support.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Prisons Authority Interim Board for their support and commitment to the Prison Service.

Brian Purcell

Director General

Overview - 2010 statistics at a glance

There were 17,179 committals to prison in 2010 which is an increase of 11.4 % on the 2009 total of 15,425 and follows a 13.8% increase on the total in 2008.

13,758 persons were sent to prison in 2010 compared to 12,339 in 2009, which represents an increase of 11.5%. Of those 87.6% were male and 12.4% female.

Committals during 2010

- There was an increase of 1,622 or 14.9% in the numbers committed to prison under sentence in 2010 (12,487) over 2009 (10,865).
- The number of prisoners committed serving 10 years or more decreased by 37.1% from 70 offenders in 2009 to 44 in 2010.
- The number of prisoners committed serving sentences in the 3 to 5 years category decreased by 10.4% on the 2009 figure (469 in 2009 to 420 in 2010).
- Committals under sentence of less than 3 months increased by 27.9% on the 2009 figure, i.e., from 5,750 to 7,356.

Persons detained under Immigration Laws

In 2010 there were 479 committals in respect of immigration issues involving 459 detainees. This represents a decrease of 31.4% on the 669 persons detained in 2009. The average daily number of persons in custody under this category was 11.

Snapshot of prison population on 30th November 2010

- The total for the number of persons in custody (4,440) is an increase of almost 9.9% on the comparable 2009 figure (4,040).
- Some 286 prisoners (7.7%) were serving life sentences and another 285 (also 7.7%) were serving determinate sentences of 10 years or more.

- 38 offenders were serving sentences of less than 3 months representing 1% of the total number of prisoners in custody. There were 15 persons in prison for non-payment of fines which represents 0.3% of the total number of prisoners in custody.
- Irish nationals accounted for 89.3% of the total number of persons in custody under sentence on the 30 November 2010.

Cost of Providing Prison Spaces

The average cost of an available, staffed prison space during the calendar year 2010 was €70,513 (€77,222 in 2009), a decrease on the 2009 cost of €6,709 or 8.7%. This decrease in average cost results from reduced expenditure and an increase in the provision of bed capacity. The relevant figures are:

- a decrease in total expenditure over 2009 figures of €20.7 million; and
- an increase in bed capacity of 97 from 4,106 as at 31st December 2009 to an average bed capacity of 4,203 for 2010.

High Level Strategic Objectives 2011 - 2013

Actions:

- Implementation of the Public Service Agreement 2010-2014 achieving a saving of €21 million in the payroll costs of the Irish Prison Service over the period of the agreement.
- Continuation of the ongoing programme of investment in prisons infrastructure including the installation of in cell sanitation.
- Continued development and implementation of Integrated Sentence Management (ISM).
- Ongoing implementation of the Irish Prison Service Drugs Strategy - Keeping Drugs Out of Prisons - with continued focus on supply elimination and enhancement of currently available treatment options.

Chapter 1

Mission Statement

The mission of the Irish Prison Service is to provide safe, secure and humane custody for people who are sent to prison. The Service is committed to managing custodial sentences in a way which encourages and supports prisoners in their endeavouring to live law abiding and purposeful lives as valued members of society.

The Organisation

Political responsibility for the prison system in Ireland is vested in the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence. 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 7 Directors. A non-executive Prisons Authority Interim Board provides advice and guidance in the management of the prison system.

The Irish Prison Service deals with male offenders who are 16 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.

Budget and Staffing

The annual budget for the Irish Prison Service for 2010 was €352.115 million.

At end 2010 there were 3,522 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 most recent 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 and
- the Rules for the Government of Prisons, 2007.

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 the UN and European Conventions on Human Rights, UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Core Values

The Prison Service:

- Recognises its obligation to serve the community with full respect for the human dignity and rights of every person, both in custody and in the wider community
- Recognises that it is obliged to help every offender live as a law abiding person and that the Service can contribute to their realising their potential
- Believes in making available to each person in custody conditions and services appropriate to their well-being and personal development
- Commits itself to minimising the detrimental effects of imprisonment
- Endeavours to help prisoners, where possible and appropriate, to maintain relationships with their families
- Values the resources available to it, especially all staff working in the prison system who are the most important asset in fulfilling the Service's mission
- Commits itself to being courteous and fair in all its dealings
- Accepts that it is accountable for its actions and endeavours to demonstrate this accountability in public.

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.

<p>Mountjoy Prison North Circular Road Dublin 7 Tel: 01 8062800 Fax: 01 8062824</p> <p><i>Governor: Mr Edward Whelan</i></p>	<p>St. Patrick's Institution North Circular Road Dublin 7 Tel: 01 8062896 Fax: 01 8307705</p> <p><i>Governor: Mr Hector MacLennan</i></p>
<p>Operational Capacity: 630</p> <p>Mountjoy Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 17 years and over. It is the main committal prison for Dublin city and county.</p>	<p>Operational Capacity: 217</p> <p>Saint Patrick's Institution is a closed, medium security place of detention for males aged 16 to 21 years and accommodates both remand and sentenced prisoners.</p>
<p>Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 667.</p>	<p>Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 214.</p>
<p>Dóchas Centre North Circular Road Dublin 7 Tel: 01 8858987 Fax: 01 8858910</p> <p><i>Governor: Ms Mary O'Connor</i></p>	<p>Cork Prison Rathmore Road Cork City Tel: 021 4518800 Fax: 021 4518860</p> <p><i>Governor: Mr James Collins</i></p>
<p>Operational Capacity: 105</p> <p>The Dóchas 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 Munster area.</p>	<p>Operational Capacity: 272</p> <p>Cork Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 17 years and over. It is the committal prison for counties Cork, Kerry and Waterford.</p>
<p>Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 131.</p>	<p>Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 303.</p>



Limerick Prison
Mulgrave Street
Limerick
Tel: 061 204700
Fax: 061 415116

Governor: Mr Tadhg O'Riordan

Operational Capacity: 290 (males) and 34 (females)

Limerick Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males and females aged 17 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 2010 was 307 males and 26 females.

Wheatfield Prison
Cloverhill Road, Clondalkin
Dublin 22
Tel: 01 6209400
Fax: 01 6209430

Governor: Mr William Connolly

Operational Capacity: 650

Wheatfield Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 17 years and over. It is the committal prison for counties Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Wexford and Wicklow and the largest penal institution in the State.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 495.

Castlerea Prison
Harristown
Castlerea
Co Roscommon
Tel: 094 96 25213
Fax: 094 96 26226

Governor: Mr Martin Reilly

Operational Capacity: 351

Castlerea Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 17 years and over. It is the committal prison for remand and sentenced prisoners in Connaught and also takes committals from counties Cavan, Donegal and Longford.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 378.

Portlaoise Prison
Dublin Road
Portlaoise
Co Laois
Tel: 057 86 21318
Fax: 057 86 20997

Governor: Mr William Connolly

Operational Capacity: 359

Portlaoise Prison is a closed, high security prison for males aged 17 years and over. It is the committal prison for those sent to custody from the Special Criminal Court and prisoners accommodated here include those linked with subversive crime.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 263.

Cloverhill Prison
Cloverhill Road
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
Tel: 01 6304530 / 01 6304531
Fax: 01 6304580

Governor: Mr Sean Quigley

Operational Capacity: 431

Cloverhill Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 17 years and over which primarily caters for remand prisoners committed from the Leinster area.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 465.

Arbour Hill Prison
Arbour Hill
Dublin 7
Tel: 01 6719333
Fax: 01 6799518

Governor: Mr Liam Dowling

Capacity: 148

Arbour Hill is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 17 years and over. Its prisoner profile is largely made up of long term sentenced prisoners.

Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 153.

<p>Training Unit Glengarriff Parade North Circular Road Dublin 7 Tel: 01 8062890 Fax: 01 8307460</p> <p><i>Governor: Mr Declan Murphy</i></p>
<p>Operational Capacity: 107</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 113.</p>

<p>Loughan House Loughan House Open Centre Blacklion Co Cavan Tel: 071 9853059 Fax: 071 9853234</p> <p><i>Governor: Mr Patrick Kavanagh</i></p>
<p>Operational Capacity: 160</p> <p>Loughan House is an open, low security prison for males aged 18 years and over who are regarded as requiring lower levels of security.</p>
<p>Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 134.</p>

<p>Midlands Prison Dublin Road Portlaoise Co Laois Tel: 057 86 72110 / 72100 Fax: 057 86 72219</p> <p><i>Governor: Mr Colm Barclay</i></p>
<p>Operational Capacity: 566</p> <p>The Midlands Prison is a closed, medium security prison for males aged 17 years and over. It is the committal prison for counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly and Westmeath.</p>
<p>Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 542.</p>

<p>Shelton Abbey Arklow Co Wicklow Tel: 0402 32140 Fax: 0402 39924</p> <p><i>Governor: Mr Michael Lawton</i></p>
<p>Operational Capacity: 110</p> <p>Shelton Abbey is an open, low security prison for males aged 19 years and over who are regarded as requiring lower levels of security.</p>
<p>Prisoner Population: The daily average number in custody in 2010 was 99.</p>

Chapter 2

Custody of Prisoners

Snapshot of Prison Population

The profile of the prison population on any one day is perhaps the most reliable indicator of the profile of prisoners we have within the system.

On 30th November 2010, the number of prisoners in custody totalled 4,440 which was comprised of:

- Sentenced3,721
- Remand/Awaiting Trial/Others ... 709
- Immigration 10

The total for the number of persons in custody (4,440) is an increase of almost 9.9% on the comparable 2009 figure (4,040).

This total included 368 offenders serving sentences for Homicide Offences made up of 273 for murder, 69 for manslaughter and 26 for dangerous driving causing death. Drug offences accounted for 852 offenders and road traffic offences 71.

Some 286 prisoners (7.7%) were serving life sentences and another 285 (also 7.7%) were serving determinate sentences of 10 years or more.

With regard to prisoners serving shorter sentences, 38 offenders were serving sentences of less than 3 months representing 1% of the total number of prisoners in custody. There were 15 persons in prison for non-payment of fines which represents 0.3% of the total number of prisoners in custody.

As regards nationality, Irish nationals accounted for 89.3% of the total number of persons in custody under sentence on the 30 November 2010.

Table 2.1: Sentence Profile of prisoners in custody under sentence on 30th November 2010:

	Female	Male	Total
<3 Mths	4	34	38
3 to <6 Mths	17	142	159
6 to <12 Mths	24	349	373
1 to <2 Yrs	20	432	452
2 to <3 Yrs	12	391	403
3 to <5 Yrs	32	784	816
5 to <10 Yrs	20	889	909
10+ Yrs	4	281	285
Life Sentence	5	281	286
Total	138	3,583	3,721

In 2010 the Irish Prison Service re categorised the offence groups under which prisoners' convictions are recorded. The Irish Prison Service statistics are now compiled using the same offence groupings as those used by An Garda Síochána, the Central Statistics Office, the Courts Service and the Probation Service.

Table 2.2: Offence Profile of prisoners in custody under sentence on 30th November 2010

	Female	Male	Total
01 Homicide Offences	9	359	368
02 Sexual Offences	1	309	310
03 Attempts/Threat to Murder, Assaults, Harassments & Related Offences	21	434	455
04 Dangerous or Negligent Acts	4	106	110
05 Kidnapping and Related Offences		34	34
06 Robbery, Extortion & Hijacking Offences	1	88	89
07 Burglary and Related Offences	9	326	335
08 Theft and Related Offences	46	605	651
09 Fraud, Deception & Related Offences	1	36	37
10 Controlled Drug Offences	32	820	852
11 Weapons & Explosives Offences	1	208	209
12 Damage to Property & to the Environment Offences	2	94	96
13 Public Order & Other Social Code Offences	1	48	49
14 Road and Traffic Offences	3	68	71
15 Government, Justice Procedures & Organised Crime Offences	6	41	47
16 Offences Not Elsewhere Classified	1	7	8
Total	138	3,583	3,721

Table 2.3: Persons in custody on 30th November 2010 - Offences classified by sentence length

	<3 Mths	3 to <6 Mths	6 to <12 Mths	1 to <2 Years	2 to <3 Years	3 to <5 Years	5 to <10 Years	10+ Years	Life	Total
01 Homicide Offences	-	-	-	7	3	9	57	22	270	368
02 Sexual Offences	-	4	5	10	28	56	120	75	12	310
03 Attempts/Threat to Murder, Assaults, Harassments and Related Offences	2	18	42	87	84	135	71	13	3	455
04 Dangerous or Negligent Acts	5	9	25	29	10	25	5	2	-	110
05 Kidnapping and Related Offences	-	-	-	1	3	6	15	9	-	34
06 Robbery, Extortion & Hijacking Offences	-	1	4	13	15	24	22	11	-	90
07 Burglary and Related Offences	1	11	48	78	53	82	52	9	-	334
08 Theft and Related Offences	2	39	117	116	88	164	121	3	1	651
09 Fraud, Deception & Related Offences	1	2	11	8	6	3	4	2	-	37
10 Controlled Drug Offences	-	16	33	32	78	232	345	116	-	852
11 Weapons & Explosives Offences	1	3	22	18	17	47	81	20	-	209
12 Damage to Property & to the Environment Offences	1	7	20	24	11	20	11	2	-	96
13 Public Order & Other Social Code Offences	11	14	14	6	2	2	-	-	-	49
14 Road and Traffic Offences	7	23	25	12	2	2	-	-	-	71
15 Government, Justice Procedures & Organised Crime Offences	5	11	7	10	2	7	4	1	-	47
16 Offences Not Elsewhere Classified	2	1	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	8
Total	38	159	373	452	403	816	909	285	286	3,721

Table 2.4: Age Profile of prisoners in custody under sentence on 30th November 2010:

	Female	Male	Total
16	-	2	2
17	-	21	21
18 to < 21	5	289	294
21 to < 25	38	699	737
25 to < 30	30	785	815
30 to < 40	41	1,053	1,094
40 to < 50	19	475	494
50+	5	259	264
Total	138	3,583	3,721

Table 2.5: Nationality of persons in custody under sentence on 30th November 2010

	Female	Male	Total
Irish	116	3,208	3,324
UK	4	73	77
EU	8	190	198
Other European	-	20	20
African	6	55	61
Australasian	-	1	1
Asian	2	22	24
Central/South American	2	8	10
North American	-	6	6
Total	138	3,583	3,721

Table 2.6: Persons in custody for debt and default of fine offences on 30th November 2010

	Female	Male	Total
Debtor	0	0	0
Fine Sentence	1	14	15
Total	1	14	

Daily number of prisoners in custody

Most prisons operated at or above capacity in 2010. The average number of prisoners in custody on a daily basis was 4,290.

Table 2.7: Daily average number of prisoners per institution in 2010:

Institution	Average Bed Capacity	Average number in Custody	% Bed Capacity	On Temporary Release	On Remand /Trial
Arbour Hill	148	153	103	1	1
Castlerea	351	378	108	40	51
Cloverhill	431	465	108	13	391
Cork	272	303	111	124	39
Limerick (f)	22	26	118	25	5
Limerick (m)	290	307	106	61	49
Loughan	155	134	86	40	0
Midlands	541	542	100	42	11
Dóchas	95	131	138	73	30
Mountjoy	610	667	109	193	7
Portlaoise	370	263	71	10	10
Shelton Abbey	105	99	94	17	0
St. Patricks	217	214	99	16	37
Training Unit	107	113	106	19	0
Wheatfield	489	495	101	58	16
Total	4,203	4,290	102	732	647

- The overall daily average number of prisoners in custody in 2010 was 4,290 compared to 3,881 in 2009.
- The average number of female offenders in custody was 157, compared to 132 in 2009.

Table 2.8: Daily average totals 2005 to 2010

	Bed Capacity	Average number in Custody	% Bed Capacity	On Temporary Release
2005	3,356	3,151	94	164
2006	3,356	3,191	95	140
2007	3,501	3,321	95	153
2008	3,581	3,544	99	273
2009	4,106	3,881	95	535
2010	4,203	4,290	102	732

Committals

Number of committals to prison in 2010

There were 17,179 committals to prison in 2010. The 17,179 committals were in relation to 13,758 persons. A person could be included more than once if committed more than once in the year.

The total of 17,179 committals to prison compared to 15,425 in 2009 represents an increase of 11.4%.

The total of 17,179 comprised:

- 11,861 committals under sentence,
- 4,836 committals on remand,
- 479 committals under immigration law and
- 3 committals for contempt of court.

Table 2.9: Committals to prison 2001 to 2010

Year	Total	Change from previous year %	Persons	Change from previous year %	Male	Female
2001	12,127		9,539		8,616	923
2002	11,860	-2.2	9,716	+1.9	8,673	1,043
2003	11,775	-0.7	9,814	+1	8,669	1,145
2004	10,657	-9.5	8,820	-10.1	7,914	906
2005	10,658	0	8,686	-1.5	7,780	906
2006	12,157	14.1	9,700	+11.7	8,740	960
2007	11,934	-1.8	9,711	+0.1	8,556	1,155
2008	13,557	13.6	10,928	+12.5	9,703	1,225
2009	15,425	13.8	12,339	+12.9	10,880	1,459
2010	17,179	11.4	13,758	+11.5	12,057	1,701

Number of persons committed to prison in 2010

A total of 13,758 persons accounted for the 17,179 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 11.5% on the 2009 total of 12,339 persons.

The breakdown by gender of persons committed in 2010 was 87.6% male and 12.4% female - the 2009 figures were 88.2% male and 11.8% female.

Table 2.10: Age and gender of persons committed to prison in 2010

Age (Years)	Female	Male	Total	%
16	-	74	74	0.5
17	2	145	147	1.1
18 to < 21	151	1,430	1,581	11.5
21 to < 25	344	2,446	2,790	20.3
25 to < 30	387	2,592	2,979	21.7
30 to < 40	519	3,288	3,807	27.7
40 to < 50	228	1,434	1,662	12.1
50+	70	648	718	5.2
Total	1,701	12,057	13,758	
%	12.4	87.6		

County and Country of Origin

Over a third (35%) of all persons committed declared Dublin as their county of residence. Cork with 11.4%, Limerick with 7.2% and Galway with 3.9% were the next largest counties of residence indicated.

Of those committed 10,702 were Irish Nationals (77.8%) of the total (13,758) which is an increase of 1,372 or 14.7% on the corresponding 2009 figure of 9,330.

Other EU nationals (excluding Irish) accounted for 1,777 (12.9%) of persons committed. Other European nationals accounted for 200 (1.5%), African nationals for 527 (3.8%), Asian nationals for 419 (3%) and Central / South American nationals accounted for 97 (0.7%). See Table below for further details.

Table 2.11: Nationality as given by persons committed in 2009 & 2010

Nationality Group	2009		2010	
	Total	%	Total	%
Irish	9,330	75.6	10,702	77.8
UK	251	2.0	284	2.1
EU	1,384	11.2	1,493	10.9
Other European	218	1.8	200	1.5
African	587	4.8	527	3.8
Asian	390	3.2	419	3.0
Australasian	6	0.0	3	0.0
Central/South American	121	1.0	97	0.7
North American	20	0.2	18	0.1
Not Recorded	32	0.3	15	0.1
Total	12,339	100.0	13,758	100.0
Total EU (including Irl)	10,965	88.9	12,479	90.7
Other EU (including UK)	1,635	13.3	1,777	12.9

- a breakdown by county of residence is available on our website: www.irishprisons.ie

Committals under sentence

There were 11,861 committals directly under sentence in 2010. When an additional 626 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 2010 is 12,487.

Sentence length

There was a 14.9% increase (1,622) in the numbers committed to prison under sentence in 2010 (total of 12,487) over 2009 (10,865).

Notable trends include:

- The number of prisoners committed serving 10 years or more decreased by 37.1% from 70 offenders in 2009 to 44 in 2010.
- Committals under sentence of less than 3 months increased by 27.9% on the 2009 figure, i.e., from 5,750 to 7,356
- The number committed for drugs offences increased by 6.4% on the 2009 figure, i.e. from 902 to 960

Table 2.12: Committals under sentence by age group in 2010

AGE (Years)	Total	%
16	31	0.2
17	74	0.6
18 to < 21	1,519	12.2
21 to < 25	2,727	21.8
25 to < 30	2,700	21.6
30 to < 40	3,290	26.3
40 to < 50	1,499	12.0
50+	647	5.2
Total	12,487	100.0

Committals by Offence Group

In 2010 the Irish Prison Service recategorised the offence groups under which prisoners' convictions are recorded. The Irish Prison Service statistics are now compiled using the same offence groupings as those used by An Garda Síochána, the Central Statistics Office, the Courts Service and the Probation Service.

Table 2.13: Offence profile of committals under sentence in 2010

	Female	Male	Total
01 Homicide Offences	2	51	53
02 Sexual Offences	-	123	123
03 Attempts/Threat to Murder, Assaults, Harassments & Related Offences	57	687	744
04 Dangerous or Negligent Acts	98	1,127	1,225
05 Kidnapping and Related Offences	-	15	15
06 Robbery, Extortion & Hijacking Offences	2	63	65
07 Burglary and Related Offences	17	463	480
08 Theft and Related Offences	257	1,193	1,450
09 Fraud, Deception & Related Offences	22	343	365
10 Controlled Drug Offences	56	904	960
11 Weapons & Explosives Offences	6	284	290
12 Damage to Property & to the Environment Offences	48	423	471
13 Public Order & Other Social Code Offences	117	1,493	1,610
14 Road and Traffic Offences	523	2,749	3,272
15 Government, Justice Procedures & Organised Crime Offences	149	768	917
16 Offences Not Elsewhere Classified	143	304	447
Total	1,497	10,990	12,487

Table 2.14: Offence group by sentence length of offender in 2010

	< 3 Mths	3to<6 Mths	6to<12 Mths	1to<2 Years	2to<3 Years	3to<5 Years	5to<10 Years	10+ Years	Life	Total
01 Homicide Offences	-	-	1	10	4	3	17	2	16	53
02 Sexual Offences	1	9	10	16	18	23	34	10	2	123
03 Attempts/Threat to Murder, Assaults, Harassments and Related Offences	129	210	154	89	69	65	26	2	-	744
04 Dangerous or Negligent Acts	854	241	74	28	11	11	6	-	-	1,225
05 Kidnapping and Related Offences	-	-	1	-	3	4	6	1	-	15
06 Robbery, Extortion & Hijacking Offences	5	5	12	17	14	11	1	-	-	65
07 Burglary and Related Offences	40	71	215	51	44	37	18	4	-	480
08 Theft and Related Offences	338	345	442	119	85	89	31	1	-	1,450
09 Fraud, Deception & Related Offences	198	70	76	12	4	2	3	-	-	365
10 Controlled Drug Offences	372	112	116	50	67	129	92	22	-	960
11 Weapons & Explosives Offences	53	61	88	12	16	23	35	2	-	290
12 Damage to Property & to the Environment Offences	201	110	110	18	13	14	5	-	-	471
13 Public Order & Other Social Code Offences	1,345	198	55	10	-	1	1	-	-	1,610
14 Road and Traffic Offences	2,679	481	99	11	-	1	1	-	-	3,272
15 Government, Justice Procedures & Organised Crime Offences	765	82	47	8	3	6	6	-	-	917
16 Offences Not Elsewhere Classified	376	54	14	2	-	1	-	-	-	447
Total	7,356	2,049	1,514	453	351	420	282	44	18	12,487
2009	5,750	1,905	1,561	440	408	469	240	70	22	10,865
Difference	1,606	144	-47	13	-57	-49	42	-26	-4	1,622
%	27.9	7.6	-3.0	3.0	-14.0	-10.4	17.5	-37.1	-18.2	14.9

➤ Further statistical information is available on our website (www.irishprisons.ie)

Committals for fines or debts

The number of committals to prison as a consequence of the non-payment of a court ordered fine during 2010 increased by 39% on the 2009 figure, i.e., 4,806 in 2009 to 6,683 in 2010 (1,877 committals), this follows on from an increase of 90.7% in 2009.

Table 2.15: Debtor/Fine defaulters

Type	Female	Male	Total
Debtor	0	5	5
Fine Sentence	1,054	5,629	6,683
Total	1,054	5,634	6,688

Persons detained under Immigration Laws

In 2010 there were 479 committals in respect of immigration issues involving 459 detainees. This represents a decrease of 31.4% on the 669 persons detained in 2009. The average daily number of persons in custody under this category was 11.

Life Sentence Prisoners

In 2010 there were 18 persons committed serving sentences of Life Imprisonment.

Persons who have received life sentences continue to serve their life sentence even when provided with extended periods of temporary release into the community. Any person afforded temporary release will be returned to prison if they breach the conditions of their release or if they pose a threat to the public.

There were 62 life sentence prisoners under supervision in the community at year end, some of whom were released from custody over 30 years ago. Of those, 16 had been granted temporary release during the time period 2004 to 31 December 2010. The average time spent in custody by these persons was 17 years. This compares to an average of just over 7½ years for releases between 1975 and 1984, just under 12 years for releases between 1985 and 1994 and just under 14 years for releases between 1995 and 2004.

Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons

There were no prisoners transferred into the Irish prison system from prisons in other jurisdictions in 2010. 15 prisoners were transferred out of this jurisdiction:

- 12 to the United Kingdom
- 2 to the Netherlands
- 1 to Northern Ireland

In total, 141 prisoners have transferred into the Irish prison system from abroad and 131 prisoners have transferred out since the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Act, 1995 came into operation on 1 November, 1995.

Parole Board

The Parole Board was established to review the cases of prisoners with longer term sentences and to provide advice in relation to the administration of those sentences. The cases of 66 prisoners were referred to the Board for review during 2010. In addition to dealing with new referrals, 195 cases, at various stages of the review process, were carried over from 2009.

During 2010 the Board made recommendations to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in 79 cases. The Minister accepted in full the recommendations of the Board in the majority of the cases.

Outcome of recommendations made by the Parole Board to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform:

Recommendations made	79
Outcomes:	
Recommendations accepted in full	72
Recommendations accepted in part	4
Recommendations noted	1
Recommendations not accepted	1
Ministerial decisions pending	0
Prisoner released on remission prior to decision	1

Chapter 3

Safe and Secure Custody

In order to enhance the safety and security of our prisons, the Irish Prison Service established the Operational Support Group (OSG) in 2008. The OSG target the routes whereby contraband such as drugs, weapons and mobile phones are trafficked into our prisons, one of the major challenges facing prisons worldwide.

The Operational Support Group is comprised of three elements:

1. Operational Support Unit

Operational Support Units are in operation in all closed prisons (excluding Training Unit and Arbour Hill). These Units act as dedicated search teams, the first responders to any alarm or incident, the designated control and restraint team for cell removals and relocations and the on call fire pickets.

These Units have the additional responsibilities of gathering and collating all intelligence information in the prison, carrying out high profile escorts, assisting the security chief officer in the continuing assessment and improvement of security within the prison.

2. Security Screening Unit

Airport style walk through detectors are installed in each closed prison and all visitor and member of staff are required to pass through the detector before being granted access to the prison. In addition, x-ray scanners are also provided to each closed prison and all hand bags, briefcases, packages, coats, etc. are subject to screening.

3. Canine Unit

A Drug Detection Dog Unit (Canine Unit) has been established on a national basis and became operational in all prisons in 2009.

In addition, security measures introduced to prevent the flow of contraband include:

- The introduction of Body Orifice Security Scanner (BOSS) chairs for the searching of prisoners on entering/leaving the prison.
- The erecting of netting over exercise yards in closed prisons to counteract drugs being thrown over perimeter walls.

Other preventative measures include cell and area searches for contraband such as drugs which take place in all prisons on a daily basis. These include random, targeted and intelligence led searches. These new measures have been particularly effective and local intelligence indicates that the availability of contraband has significantly decreased across the prison system.

The table below gives the numbers screened by the Security Screening Unit during 2010. The Gardaí arrested 240 people for attempting to traffic contraband into prisons who were detected by the Unit.

Table 3.1: Number of persons screened by Security Screening Unit in 2010:

	Visitors to prisoners	Other persons screened including staff	TOTAL
Mountjoy	46,384	389,444	435,828
St. Pats	12,930	92,155	105,085
Wheatfield	34,016	239,125	273,141
Cloverhill	33,159	178,520	211,679
Portlaoise	10,015	276,823	286,838
Midlands	39,394	163,028	202,422
Cork	17,214	130,388	147,602
Limerick	26,729	138,988	165,717
Castlerea	19,694	67,478	87,172
Dóchas	7,455	135,464	142,919
			2,058,403

A number of other measures have been introduced / progressed during 2010 including:

Mandatory Drug Testing

Mandatory Drug Testing was rolled out to all prisons in the prison estate during 2010. It is testing to detect drug use and contributes to the overall objective of reducing drug misuse when used as part of a wider and more comprehensive drug strategy. It provides information on trends in drug misuse, enables the identification and referral of drug abusers to treatment programmes, enables enhanced focusing of resources, acts as a deterrent to drug misuse and provides important information to prison management that contributes to decision-making in relation to the management of individual prison sentences.

Mandatory Drug Testing is carried out under the terms of Section 35(2)(j) of the Prisons Act 2007 and Prison Rule 26(5)(a). Saliva testing is the matrix used and all prisoners are liable to be tested through either Random or Reasonable Suspicion Mandatory Drug Testing. Prisoners are selected for random testing through an IT generated programme and 10% of the prison population are tested monthly. Reasonable suspicion testing of a prisoner occurs when there is reason to believe that he / she may have recently engaged in substance abuse.

Refusal by a prisoner to provide a sample under Prison Rule 26(5)(a) shall be regarded as a breach of prison discipline under Prison Rule 26(5)(b) and disciplinary action may result. A prisoner may also be guilty of a breach of prison discipline if he/she tests positive on a mandatory drug test and disciplinary action may result.

Mobile Phone Seizures

All seizures of mobile phones are reported to the Garda authorities. During 2010, 1,718 mobile phones were seized across the institutions (see table 3.2). Cell and area searches for contraband such as mobile phones take place in all prisons on a daily basis. These include random, targeted and intelligence led searches. These searches have been particularly effective and local intelligence indicates that the availability of mobile phones has decreased across the prison system. This is as a direct consequence of newly introduced security measures including airport style scanners and x-ray machines, which are in

operation at the entrances of all the relevant closed prisons. Details of mobile seizures are set out in the table below.

Table 3.2: Mobile Phone seizures in prisons:

Prison/ Place of Detention	2008	2009	2010
Arbour Hill	3	2	1
Castlerea	106	70	43
Cloverhill	128	41	16
Cork	64	27	13
Dóchas Centre	55	40	12
Limerick	292	309	133
Loughan House	58	78	155
Midlands	136	87	92
Mountjoy (Male)	580	904	742
Portlaoise	41	48	18
Shelton Abbey	72	103	88
St. Patrick's	160	121	138
Training Unit	120	116	191
Wheatfield	232	228	76
Total	2,047	2,174	1,718

Booked Visits

New visiting arrangements have been put in place in all prisons, with visitors required to book visits in advance and provide identification on each visit. This is one of a number of security measures introduced to target the routes whereby contraband such as drugs, weapons and mobile phones are trafficked into prisons.

An electronic Booked Visits Database was developed to provide an automated solution for the administration of the booked visits panel system. This has standardised the system across the prison estate and provided an improved mechanism for visits.

Anyone wishing to visit a prisoner has to make an appointment in advance providing specific personal details in order to gain admittance to the prison. These include the visitor name, address, date of birth, prisoner being visited, relationship of visitor to prisoner and date of visit. Photographic identification is required from the visitor on arrival and is used to confirm the date of birth given when booking their visit. The date of birth is used as the visitor identifier. All details are recorded on the electronic system. This procedure also applies to professional visitors.

Violence in Prisons

No level of inter prisoner violence is acceptable. Every effort is made by prison staff and management to limit the scope of acts of violence. However, no regime can completely eliminate the possibility of violent incidents happening in a prison setting where a large number of dangerous and violent offenders are being held.

When it is considered that in 2010 the Irish Prison Service provided over 1.5million (4,290 x 365) bed nights to predominantly young males, the number of assaults on prisoners, particularly those using a weapon, was comparatively low. There were a total of 1014 incidents of violence among prisoners during the year and this includes very minor incidents. This amounts to an average of 2.5 incidents a day among a population of almost 4,300.

Moreover, attacks by prisoners on prisoners are not usually random acts of violence - they are related to matters on the outside such as drug debts, gang rivalry, etc.

Protection Prisoners

On 31 December, 2010 there were 841 prisoners on protection throughout the prison system. This represents 17% of the entire prisoner population on that date.

Efforts are made on a continuous basis to reduce the numbers of protection prisoners and regular transfers take place to other institutions where a prisoner will not require protection. A number of prisons have significant numbers of protection prisoners accommodated on separate landings where they have access to a wide regime of activities including school, workshops, gym facilities, probation service and chaplaincy service. On 31 December, 2010 there were 502 prisoners falling into this category.

In some cases, it may be necessary to accommodate a prisoner on a restricted regime. On 31 December, 2010 there were 339 prisoners falling into this category. This represents just under 7% of the prisoner population on that date. In extreme cases these persons may be under such threat that they can have absolutely no contact with other prisoners.

The majority of prisoners who seek to go on protection do so not because they fear random

acts of violence in prison but rather because of issues which occurred on the outside (drug debts, gang rivalry and perceived cooperation with Gardaí). This is evidenced by the fact that it is at committal stage that the majority of prisoners who seek protection express their wish.

In relation to the number of prisoners on protection, this is regarded by the Irish Prison Service as an indicator of the steps taken in individual prisons to ensure the safety of prisoners.

Temporary Release

The Criminal Justice (Temporary Release) Act, 2003 and the Prisoners (Temporary Release) Rules 2004 provide the legislative basis for the power of the Minister to grant temporary release by setting down the principles which apply to the exercise of this power. The Act also provides a clear and transparent basis, as well as the necessary safeguards required, for the operation of the system of temporary release.

The average daily number of persons who were on temporary release during 2010 was 732. This amounts to 14.5% of the average daily total number of prisoners in the system.

Electronic Monitoring

In April 2010, the then Minister for Justice and Law Reform requested that the Irish Prison Service explore, on a pilot basis, the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) Satellite Tracking monitoring technology on a small number of volunteer prisoners. Following a public tender competition, a pilot programme commenced in late August 2010 and finished at the end of December 2010. A total of 31 prisoners were included.

Suitable prisoners were identified by the Irish Prison Service and granted temporary release subject to being monitored for varying periods. Their release was subject to the usual conditions that apply to all temporary releases plus conditions relating to monitoring, notably compliance with curfew times and exclusion zones. Breaches of any of the conditions could result in the prisoner having the privilege of temporary release withdrawn. All prisoner movements were monitored by the contractor appointed for that purpose and breaches were communicated directly to the Irish Prison Service.

Prisoner compliance was high and only one prisoner was recalled due to a curfew violation. The equipment tested included one-piece and two-piece tracking units. The pilot also included a prisoner in long-term hospital care who was monitored with a combination of a satellite tag fitted to his person and a radio frequency monitoring unit in the ward. A comprehensive review and cost benefit analysis of the pilot will be completed in 2011.

Escapes and Absconds from custody

There were no escapes from within the confines of a closed prison during 2010.

Two prisoners absconded from the custody of prison officers while on escort from a closed institution. A further 110 prisoners absconded from an open centre. Some 83 of those who absconded during 2010 were back in custody by year-end.

Table 3.3: Escapes and Absconds from custody in 2010:

Prison	Escapes	Absconds	Total	Returned to custody by year end	Still at large at year end
Arbour Hill	0	0	0	0	0
Castlerea	0	2	2	2	0
Cloverhill	0	0	0	0	0
Cork	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	0	0	0	0	0
Loughan Hse	0	45	45	34	11
Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
Mountjoy (f)	0	0	0	0	0
Mountjoy (m)	0	0	0	0	0
Portlaoise	0	0	0	0	0
Shelton Abbey	0	65	65	47	18
St. Patrick's	0	0	0	0	0
Training Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatfield	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	112	112	83	29

Victims of Crime

The Irish Prison Service is conscious of the plight of victims and their families and the harmful, potentially devastating, consequences of offences. The Irish Prison Service Victim Liaison Officer, when requested by a victim or a victim's family, will make every attempt to inform them of significant developments in the management of the perpetrator's sentence as well as any impending release. Such significant developments could include temporary releases, parole board hearings, court appearances, prison transfers or expected release dates. This contact may be made in writing, by telephone, by e-mail or in person.

It is important to note that this is a voluntary service and only those who choose to will receive the relevant information.

Any individual or family who wishes to avail of the Irish Prison Service's Victim Liaison Service can do so by contacting the Victim Liaison Officer.

Victim Liaison Officer
 Irish Prison Service Headquarters
 IDA Business Park
 Ballinalee Road
 Longford

Telephone: 043 33 35100

Email: vlo@irishprisons.ie

Chapter 4

Care and Rehabilitation of Prisoners

Introduction

Prisoner care and rehabilitation is a core aim of the Irish Prison Service. In keeping with its mission statement, the Service endeavours to achieve a balanced approach in the effective performance of its care and custody functions. It seeks to manage sentences in a way which encourages and supports prisoners in their efforts to live law abiding and purposeful lives on release.

Prisoner care and rehabilitation involves significant multi-dimensional input by a diverse range of general and specialist services provided both by the Irish Prison Service and in-reaching statutory and non-statutory services.

Among the various services that are provided by the Irish Prison Service are the education, library, work and training, psychology and spiritual services. These services are important in addressing missed educational and vocational opportunities, offending behaviour, drug and alcohol addiction and poor self management so that prisoners can achieve positive personal development in prison and successful re-integration and resettlement in the community. The care function also involves provision of satisfactory living conditions as regards accommodation, catering, laundry, hygiene and daily regime as well as maintenance of links with the community and measures to facilitate reintegration.

Integrated Sentence Management

The Irish Prison Service continued to develop and roll out an Integrated Sentence Management (ISM) system to ensure co-ordination of interactions with prisoners based on agreed sentence plans.

ISM involves a new orientation in the delivery of services to prisoners and a new emphasis on prisoners taking greater personal responsibility for their own development through active engagement with both specialist and non-specialist services in the prisons. The end result will be a prisoner-centred, multidisciplinary approach to working with prisoners with provision for initial assessment, goal setting and periodic review to measure progress.

During 2010, ISM was mainstreamed in Arbour Hill, Wheatfield and Midlands prisons and the Training Unit. ISM commenced in the following prisons/institutions during the year; St. Patrick's Institution, Portlaoise, Cork, Castlerea and Mountjoy prisons and the Dóchas Centre. Preparatory work took place later in the year in Limerick Prison to allow an early roll-out in 2011. Parallel work on a range of necessary system supports such as assessment tools, the roll-out of a dedicated database in active sites, staff training and offender programmes continued during the year. Since the commencement of the pilot in the summer of 2008, approximately 1,290 prisoners have been offered participation in ISM and approximately 1,000 were participating at the end of 2010. ISM will be rolled out to the remaining sites in 2011.

Work began during the year on drafting an incentivised regimes policy designed to encourage participation in structured activities and in integrated sentence management.

Education

Education is delivered in the prisons in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills, which provided an allocation of 220 whole-time teacher equivalents in the academic years 2009/10 and 2010/11. The teaching personnel are employees of the Vocational Education Committees in whose areas the prisons are located. Other agencies also contribute significantly to prison education including the Open University and the Arts Council.

The aim of the Education Service is to deliver a high quality, broad, flexible programme of education that helps prisoners cope with their sentence, achieve personal development, prepare for life after release and establish an appetite and capacity for life-long learning. The Service seeks to deliver relevant programmes that cater for holistic needs, ensure broad access and high participation, and prioritise those with basic education needs. It promotes the principles of adult and community education and supports a multidisciplinary approach within the prison system.

Programmes are adapted to take account of the diversity of the prisoner population and the complex nature of prison life, including segregation requirements and high levels of prisoner turnover. Educational courses and curricula, which are

based on individuals participating in one or more subject areas for an academic year and then sitting examinations, are only appropriate for a small number of prisoners. The Junior and Leaving Certificate courses are available but increasing numbers of prisoners require a more flexible curriculum which has multiple entry and exit points that take account of prior educational attainment. FETAC accreditation is therefore widely used with assessment by portfolio compilation. All prison Education Units meet the quality assurance standards demanded by FETAC. Considerable attention is paid to co-ordinating courses with the Work and Training programme.

Course and programmes can be broadly categorised as follows:

- Basic Education, including literacy, numeracy, English as a second language and communications;
- Creative Arts, notably music, sound recording and production, drama, art, craft, stone work, creative writing, film production and photography.
- Technology, including woodwork, woodcarving, metalwork, computer-aided design, information technology and horticulture;
- General Subjects, incorporating history, languages, geography, home economics and English literature;
- Life Skills: personal development, interpersonal skills, anger management, parenting, child care, addiction studies, driver theory, food hygiene, etc.
- Healthy Living, notably physical education, sports, fitness and recreational activities, health education, diet and nutrition.

Every effort is made to engage prisoners in educational activities within prisons. Each prisoner is assessed to identify particular educational strengths and areas where supports may be required. An individual educational plan is agreed with the prisoner who then attends agreed courses/programmes.

During 2010 approximately 35% of the prison population attended classes. This figure is based

on weekly returns from the Education Centres and excludes normal school holidays, when a reduced service is available. The returns measure actual attendance at classes each week over the academic year and give the number of unique prisoners who attend (counting each prisoner once only, regardless of the intensity or frequency of attendance). Participation in education varies with factors such as access, facilities, population turnover and segregation.

The pattern of attendance for each prison is presented in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Rates of Participation in Education in 2010

Institution	%
Arbour Hill	55
Castlerea	26
Cloverhill	18
Cork	45
Dóchas	50
Limerick	41
Loughan House	69
Midlands	41
Mountjoy	14
Portlaoise	53
Shelton Abbey	62
St Patrick's Institution	40
Training Unit	36
Wheatfield	25
Average all prisons	35

A Prison Education Steering Group was established in May 2010, consisting of representatives of the Irish Prison Service, the Department of Education and Skills and the Vocational Education Committees. The partners have agreed to establish structures to oversee prison education development including content, validation and quality assurance of curriculum, inspection, and appropriate teaching and assessment methodologies.

The Inspector of Prisons recommended in his 2010 Report that an independent education audit be commissioned by the IPS on the adequacy, efficiency and relevance of the prison education system. This recommendation was accepted by the Director General and the audit will be carried out during the academic year 2010-2011.

Work and Vocational Training in Prisons

The Irish Prison Service places a strong emphasis on the provision of vocational training activities for prisoners. Training activities are chosen to give as much employment as possible in prison and to give opportunities to acquire skills which help secure employment on release. A wide range of training workshops operate within the institutions, e.g. printing, computers, Braille, woodwork, metalwork, construction, industrial contract cleaning, craft, horticulture and electronics. In addition, the work and training function comprehends such essential services as catering and laundry services.

During 2010, two new workshops and activities were developed in Shelton Abbey and two new workshops were added to the female wing in Limerick. A refurbishment and equipment replacement programme continued in other prisons focussing mainly on kitchen and laundry facilities and computer and carpentry workshops. A new and enhanced kitchen facility became operational in Wheatfield to cater for the increased prisoner population following the opening of a new accommodation wing.

Over 800 prisoners participated in work training activities on a daily sessional basis during the year. The moratorium on public service recruitment and promotions did, however, impact on the operation of work training services and facilities.

External accreditation of certified training is available for a number of courses run within the institutions. The Irish Prison Service is developing and implementing enhanced partnership arrangements with both City & Guilds and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). The new arrangements provide for more centralised and coordinated management of the accreditation process and an expansion in the number of certified courses and activities for prisoners. The skills areas where additional certified courses will be delivered in the coming years include painting and decorating, storage and ware-housing, fork-lift driving, catering, metal/welding, construction, horticulture, and laundry operations.

During 2010, Work Training officers were approved by City and Guilds to assess and certify trainees for a suite of Information Technology, Carpentry, Catering and Horticulture awards. SQA authorised the same direct claim status for Tiling and Digital Literacy awards. Catering

instructors were also trained during the year to deliver a Food Safety Authority of Ireland course to prisoners. There was a significant increase in the number of prisoners who participated in accredited vocational training courses in 2010 when compared to the numbers recorded for 2009 - 874 prisoners attended such courses last year, up from 376 who participated in 2009, an increase of 132%.

Another significant initiative in the employability skills area was progressed in 2010. The Troika Soft Skills Programme is a multi-disciplinary initiative involving Education Units, the Work Training Service and Business in the Community (BITC) personnel, which focuses on the delivery of an agreed suite of interpersonal skills courses with FETAC accreditation. A range of soft skills have been selected for delivery: preparation for work; interpersonal skills; personal effectiveness; communications and self-advocacy. These modules were developed and delivered on a pilot basis in the Mountjoy complex and in Wheatfield Prison during the academic year 2009/2010. Over 270 FETAC Level 3 awards were made to participants in that period. The programme is being rolled out, on a phased basis, to other prisons and it is expected that nine prisons will run the programme during the current 2010/2011 academic cycle.

Partnership working with BITC continued in 2010. The Irish Prison Service funds the costs of the BITC GATE Service which provides a training, education and employment placement service to prisoners in the Mountjoy and Midlands campuses. An additional Training and Employment Officer (TEO) commenced working in the Midlands campus during 2010 which brought the total complement of TEOs to four. During 2010, 613 referrals were made to the service. 264 participants remained engaged post-release, 90 of whom were placed in employment and 93 in further training.

The Business in the Community mentoring service, which is a jointly funded initiative by Dormant Accounts Funding (DAF) and by the Irish Prison Service, continued in 2010. Mentoring has been shown internationally to have a positive impact on the resettlement and desistance of ex-prisoners. The mentoring initiative continued in Cork and Castlerea prisons and during 2010 an additional mentor was introduced in the Training Unit. From the commencement of the Mentoring Service in 2009, over 170 referrals have been made to the project.

Several prisons provide a wide range of material and products for charitable organisations and raised funds. In 2010, the rearing of a herd of 27 heifers by prisoners at Shelton Abbey continued on behalf of Bóthar. The animals were donated by farmers and in October were distributed by Bóthar to families in Rwanda.

Psychology Service

The primary functions of the Psychology Service are to provide mental health services to prisoners and to help offenders address factors that put them at risk of re-offending. The Service comprises 21 staff - 1 Head of Service, 6 Senior Psychologists and 14 Psychologists.

Overall, 1,307 referrals were made to the Psychology Service for therapeutic interventions with individual prisoners in 2010. This represents a reduction compared to 2009 and reflects the increasing emphasis being placed on group work. A total of 929 individuals were seen by the Service in 2010, 1,416 intake assessments were completed and 6,574 intervention sessions took place. The duration of individual interventions varied significantly by prisoner, ranging from single sessions to twenty or more sessions. Individual work typically focuses on two key areas - mental health issues (coping with imprisonment, depression, anxiety, etc.) and offence-related issues (e.g. motivation to change, anger, substance misuse, sexual and violent offending).

Group programmes focus on offence-related issues (e.g. anger management, enhanced thinking skills, risk factors for violent and sexual re-offending), substance misuse (e.g. motivational enhancement, relapse prevention) and personal coping and development (e.g. managing distress, managing relationships, sleep management, etc.) a summary is presented in Table 4.2.

For sex offenders, the Building Better Lives Programme, established in Arbour Hill in 2009, was developed and consolidated during 2010. This programme uses a strengths-based psychology approach and comprises three components:

- the Exploring Better Lives programme, which aims to develop motivation and confidence about positive change
- the Practising Better Lives programme, which focuses on obtaining a more detailed understanding of past offending and developing positive offence-free self management plans for the future, and

- the Maintaining Better Lives programme, which aims to support ongoing progress and development for men who are serving longer sentences in prison and to ensure a through-care plan from prison to community-based supports.

In addition to the Building Better Lives Programme, the Irish Prison Service is currently engaged in a partnership with two community-based groups (supported by Dormant Accounts funding), to enhance services for those serving sentences for sexual offences. In Arbour Hill, the Granada Institute is involved in the provision of additional services, particularly targeted at those who have recently been transferred to the national centre. In St. Patrick's Institution, the Northside Inter-Agency Project (NIAP) is involved in the provision of services to young people who have exhibited sexually harmful behaviours and to their carers. These initiatives allow for in-reach services and potential linkage to community-based therapeutic support post-release.

Group-based programmes to address violent offending among medium and high risk violent offenders, introduced in Wheatfield Prison 2009, were expanded in 2010 with the introduction in March 2010 of a Practising Better Lives group. This complemented the existing Exploring Better Lives Group and the Enhanced Thinking Skills Group.

Substance misuse is a major presenting problem in prisons and given its well established relationship with re-offending, it represents a significant criminogenic factor. The Psychology Service in Mountjoy Prison has adapted a manualised motivational programme for drug users to a prison context. This programme is based on the trans-theoretical model of behaviour change and principles of motivational and cognitive behavioural psychology. The aim of the programme is to raise prisoners' motivation to change their drug using behaviour. Four such programmes, involving a total of 29 prisoners and jointly facilitated by Merchants Quay Ireland, were delivered in 2010.

The Psychology Service also ran a wide variety of group interventions across the prison estate aimed at addressing the mental health and psychological wellbeing of prisoners. These programmes included the following: Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction, Mental Health Workshops, Anger Management, etc.

Table 4.2 - Group Programmes run by Psychology Service 2010

	Programme Name	Number of Sessions	Number of Participants
Arbour Hill	Exploring Better Lives	107	56
	Practicing Better Lives	131	39
	Maintaining Better Lives	12	5
Cork Prison	Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction	9	11
Dochas Centre	Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction	21	15
	Managing Relationships	1	4
	Managing Sleep	1	2
	Managing Depression	1	9
	Stress Management	1	11
Mountjoy	Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET)	26	29
	Anger Management	12	10
	Stress Management	12	13
St Patrick's Institution	Personal Development Group	2	12
	Baseline - Anger Management	6	16
	Baseline - Substance Misuse	6	15
	Baseline Project - Empathy	7	16
	Baseline - Relationships	6	10
	Baseline - Healthy Sexuality	6	17
	Baseline Project - Offending	6	12
Training Unit	Anger Management	12	10
	Preparing for Release	3	9
Wheatfield	Enhanced Thinking Skills	23	22
	Exploring Better Lives	46	24
	Practising Better Lives	67	10
	Stress Management	1	9
Total		525	386

The Psychology Service Case Tracking System (PCTS) introduced in 2009 continued to operate efficiently. This system allows for the organisation and monitoring of offenders from waitlists through assessment to intervention and case closure. It acts as a considerable aid to service management and development, as well as providing a considerable database for research purposes.

Prevention of Self-Harm

The Irish Prison Service Steering Group on Prevention of Self-harm and Death in the Prisoner Population met on four occasions in 2010. The Group promotes best practice in preventing and, where necessary, responding to self-harm and death in the prisoner population. The circumstances of

every death in custody are also examined by a multi-disciplinary group in each institution and the Steering Group provides a forum for collating their reports and disseminating significant findings throughout the prison system.

There were 11 deaths in custody in 2010. At the end of the year, an inquest had been held in 1 case where a verdict of death by misadventure was returned. Inquests were pending in the remaining cases. Verdicts were reached in 5 inquests held in 2010 in relation to deaths in previous years. Verdicts of death due to suicide were recorded at 2 inquests and the remaining 3 were attributed to natural causes, misadventure and a narrative verdict.

Reintegration - Homelessness

Appropriate and accessible accommodation is a vital factor in successful rehabilitation. It is crucial to sustaining employment, treatment, family support and finances. The issue of homelessness among ex-prisoners is an ongoing problem. The Irish Prison Service continued its representation on the Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness, the National Homeless Consultative Committee, the Board of the Homeless Agency and a range of other fora to advance the case of prisoners. During 2010, the Irish Prison Service was also represented on seven Regional Homeless Consultative Fora established under the provisions of the Housing (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 2009

The Homeless Persons' Unit of the Health Service Executive continued its in-reach community welfare service to 10 prisons. This service, delivered in partnership with the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service, ensures that prisoners at risk of homelessness on release have direct access to accommodation and income support. Figures for 2010 indicate that 939 prisoners accessed this service.

Focus Ireland's pilot homeless service in Cloverhill Prison continued to operate in 2010, providing a case management and pre-settlement service for homeless remand prisoners. The service supports participants in accessing appropriate services and accommodation and on the pathway to independent living. The project is supported by Irish Prison Service, the Probation Service and by the HSE. By the end of the year, 121 prisoners had benefited from the service since its establishment in September 2007. Focus Ireland also provides homelessness support services to prisoners in Cork and Limerick prisons. By the end of 2010, 90 referrals had been made to the service and the two project workers engaged with 59 clients during the year.

Library Services

A library is available in each prison. Library services are generally provided in partnership with the relevant local authorities. Currently 6 full-time and 3 part-time librarians, employed under the auspices of the respective local authorities, are deployed in prison libraries. Prison officers are also deployed as library officers in each prison and have a key role in facilitating the availability of services in the evening and at weekends.

Concerted efforts continued to be made to increase the number of books available in languages other than English so as to serve the increasing number of non-Irish persons in custody. Resources were also deployed to increase the number of audio books and easy reader materials. In these respects, the library service is keeping pace with developments in the wider community. The support of the county branch libraries is appreciated in this regard.

Chaplains

There are 20 full-time and 9 part-time chaplains from the Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland and Methodist denominations. The chaplains are responsible for the pastoral and spiritual care of the entire prison community, regardless of denomination, and they carry out their brief in a holistic way. Chaplains of other churches can also attend the prisons on a visiting basis. Local Muslim religious leaders meet the needs of Muslim prisoners.

While conscious of their independent role, the chaplains work within the multi-disciplinary framework of the prison and attend meetings and case conferences organised within the prisons. The confidential nature of their role is respected at all times and this contributes to the unique nature of their work. On a day-to-day basis, the chaplains visit prisoners in all parts of the prison. They try to meet all prisoners as soon as possible after committal and to support those about to be released. They spend time with people at times of bereavement and loss and liaise with families through phone calls, meetings and home visits.

Chapter 5

Healthcare Services for Prisoners

The Irish Prison Service aims to deliver a quality of healthcare reflective of that available to those holding medical cards in the wider community, taking into consideration the constraints that custody imposes. These services are important in sustaining prisoners' physical and mental health, encouraging positive personal development from within, and preparing them for re-integration into society on release from custody.

It is considered important that prisoners experience a continuity of care regardless of major changes in their circumstances. Ensuring continuation of treatment between prison and the community is essential in supporting the efficacy of interventions that have been commenced in either setting.

The Irish Prison Service is committed to promoting effective multidisciplinary and interagency workings and to the development of liaison arrangements with statutory providers and voluntary/community agencies.

The Irish Prison Service has committed considerable investment in recent years to improve clinical areas in prisons. New prison building programmes have incorporated enhanced medical facilities. The recently opened new blocks in Portlaoise and Wheatfield have enhanced primary care facilities. The surgeries in Limerick and Mountjoy Prisons have been completely redeveloped following an extensive refurbishment programme. The redevelopment of the surgery in Cork Prison is currently underway and refurbishment work in Castlerea Prison surgery is being completed. The dental surgeries in Loughan House and Arbour Hill were completely refurbished in 2010. At a corporate level the Irish Prison Service is committed to continuing the upgrading of medical facilities on an ongoing basis subject to the availability of resources.

Community healthcare provision is undergoing an 'accreditation' process which demands demonstrable quality improvements and value for money. The Irish Prison Service has taken on this wider healthcare agenda and we are endeavouring to achieve the stated corporate objective of community equivalence in the most innovative, efficient and

cost effective ways. A challenge to this objective is that prisoners have been identified, in health strategy documents, as having significant health deficits relative to the "average" health status of the general population and as such should be considered a "special needs" category.

Nursing

The Healthcare Directorate continues to maximise nursing interventions with a view to minimising outward traffic from prisons, while providing quality care for those in need of healthcare interventions. The lessons learned in managing the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 served staff well in terms of increasing awareness among staff and prisoners of infection prevention and control measures. Use of antiseptic hand sanitisers is now common practice.

Strategic alliances developed with the Health Service Executive (HSE) Director of Nursing Services has witnessed the HSE fund and support a number of Prison Nurses to pursue the Nurse Prescribing Course. There is one nurse qualified in Cloverhill and one in training, a further 3 nurses in Mountjoy, 2 in St Patrick's Institution and the Chief Nurse Officer in Dochas commenced training in 2010.

The committal process for prisoners continues to be a priority for the nursing team and 2010 saw continued progress to the initial screening tool used which provided more detailed data on prisoners' mental and physical health, which is critical to the management of risk. The Phlebotomy service continues to provide economic benefit through reducing outward traffic from prisons, in addition to increased prisoner access to speedier diagnostic testing.

The initiative commenced in 2009 by the Nurse Manager in Wheatfield in partnership with the VEC and Irish Red Cross which developed a programme that trained a group of prisoners to act as Red Cross Volunteers has been extended to Shelton Abbey and Cloverhill. The benefits of this peer led approach were multiple, prisoners accepted information more readily from their peers and were more likely to act on it; the group themselves exhibited increased self esteem and eagerness to be useful and helpful to their peers and staff in the prison community.

Drug Treatment

The Irish Prison Service continues to enhance and expand specialist treatment at all prisons.

The Irish Prison Service in the national context of drug treatment provision has cared for over 20% of the total numbers of people receiving opiate substitution treatment with methadone (detoxification, stabilisation, or maintenance). Table 5.1 below provides the number of prisoners who have received methadone treatment since 2000.

Table 5.1 - Number of Prisoners who received Opiate Substitution Treatment with Methadone (detox, stabilisation, maintenance)

Year	Prisoner Numbers
2000	65
2001	859
2002	1,063
2003	1,477
2004	1,144
2005	1,564
2006	1,363
2007	1,840
2008	2,014
2009	2,424
2010	2,424

The table above shows a 9% increase between 2007 and 2008. Figures for 2009 indicate a further 20% increase on 2008 figures. The numbers receiving drug treatment in 2010 remains the same as in 2009. The delivery of Drug Treatment Services and ensuring continuity of care for prisoners presenting with addiction problems continues to be a significant challenge for health-care services in prisons. The figures referenced in table 1 (supplied by the Central Treatment List) show some plateauing in the numbers accessing treatment within the Irish Prison Service. It should be noted that there has been similar stabilising in the numbers in treatment nationally, with numbers only rising by 100 for the year.

In 2007, 185 new prisoners entered methadone treatment; this figure increased to 241 in 2008 and 266 in 2009. The number of new prisoners entering methadone treatment in 2010 was 190.

Given the large number of prisoners requiring drug treatment services, the Irish Prison Service endeavours to provide a comprehensive range of such services in closed prisons, where demand is high for drug treatment services. Drug rehabilitation programmes for prisoners involve a significant multidimensional input by a diverse range of general and specialist services provided both by the Irish Prison Service and visiting statutory and non-statutory organisations. Prisoners who, on committal, are engaged in a methadone substitution programme in the community will, in the main, have their methadone substitution treatment continued while in custody. Methadone substitution treatment is available in 8 of the 14 prisons and places of detention (accommodating over 80% of the prison population).

The Health Service Executive provides consultant led in-reach addiction services to Cloverhill, Wheatfield and the Mountjoy Complex. A GP with special interest in addiction services was appointed to the Midlands/Portlaoise complex in early 2010 to facilitate the expansion of drug treatment services.

Drug Treatment Pharmacist services are now available in Mountjoy, Dóchas, Midlands and Portlaoise Prisons. Since May 2010, Pharmacists are now responsible for all aspects of drug treatment (mainly methadone) dispensing, administration, recording, ordering, storage etc in those prisons, thus ensuring that drug treatment is provided on an equivalent basis to that available in the community while meeting all legal and professional requirements. The Pharmacists work as part of the local multi-disciplinary addiction team, and provide a 365 day service.

A tender for the continuation of addiction counselling services was finalised in 2010 with Merchants Quay Ireland securing the contract for a further 3 years. The addiction counselling service continues to deliver approximately 1,500 prisoner contacts per month. Merchants Quay Ireland provides a national addiction counselling service for prisoners with drug and alcohol problems in prisons and places of detention where prisoners require such a service.

Mental Health

The prevalence of severe mental illness is significantly worse among prisoners compared to the general population. The Central Mental Hospital Forensic Mental Health Service provides 20 consultant led in-reach sessions weekly by arrangement at all Dublin prisons and also at Portlaoise and the Midlands Prisons. Specialist in-reach services are in place for consultant led mental health sessions in the remaining prisons.

The Irish Prison Service continues to facilitate the diversion of mentally ill people from the Criminal Justice System. The diversion system ensures as far as possible that those people presenting before the courts, or indeed at an earlier stage of the criminal justice system, where the infraction is a reflection of an underlying mental illness are referred and treated appropriately. Every effort is made by healthcare staff to assess and identify people at risk from a mental health perspective and refer them to appropriate primary and secondary care services. The provision of mental health services continues to improve in all prisons.

Hepatitis C Service

In 2010, the Irish Prison Service entered into an agreement with the Hepatology Department, St. James Hospital for a consultant led Hepatitis C Service at Wheatfield and Mountjoy Prisons led by a Clinical Nurse Specialist on site. This represents a significant improvement in service by improving prisoner access to treatment. The provision of clinics within the prisons provides more effective benefits to the patient and to the operation and management of prison resources.

Pharmacy Services

During 2010, professional pharmacy services were in place in all areas of each prison. The provision of this service ensures that all prisoners have access to professional pharmacy services, on an equivalent basis to that available in the community, taking into consideration the constraints that custody imposes. Both the technical (supply) and Professional (pharmaceutical care) elements of pharmacy service provision are now provided as part of agreed contracts.

While ensuring that all prescriptions are now monitored and checked by a pharmacist, and dispensed on an individual patient-basis, the introduction of pharmacy services also supports more effective through-care, as each prisoner's dispensed medicines are now sent with him/her on transfer to another prison, thus ensuring continuity of essential treatment. Similarly, where appropriate, a prisoner's dispensed medicines can be given to him/her on full or temporary release thereby supporting the continuity of necessary treatment until the prisoner can engage with the community healthcare services.

In 2010, as the original pharmacy services contracts were time expired, a tender competition was held for the continued provision of professional pharmacy services to Wheatfield, Cloverhill, Midlands and Portlaoise prisons. Following a successful tender competition, new contracts were awarded and commenced in March 2010.

The provision of professional pharmacy services facilitates and supports the introduction of In-possession (I/P), i.e. whereby following a risk assessment, suitable prisoners are given a week's supply of their dispensed medication. The prisoner signs a contract and then accepts full responsibility for the storage and management of his/her medication, and for compliance with their medication as prescribed. During 2010, I/P was introduced on a phased basis in Portlaoise, Wheatfield and Castlerea Prisons. This has resulted in those prisoners taking greater responsibility for their healthcare which will assist in their preparation for release.

Arrangements continued throughout 2010 with the HSE/National Cold Chain Service for the supply of all vaccines (including H1N1 vaccine) to all prisons, for the treatment of prisoners, thus ensuring availability of, and access to, all vaccines as required.

In conjunction with the HSE, in early 2010 a new contract was awarded for the supply of methadone to the Irish Prison Service. This ensures the lowest possible cost of methadone to the Irish Prison Service, as well as ensuring continuity of supply, and provision of necessary support services.

Vulnerable Persons Unit/ High Support Unit.

In December 2010 a Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU), which is a 9 bedded facility, opened in the Medical Unit in Mountjoy Prison. This Unit provides expert, supportive, short term input for prisoners who are in an acutely disturbed phase of a mental illness or require increased observation for a physical ailment, which has attendant increased risks. The VPU provides a more controlled and supportive environment for a vulnerable prisoner as a short term intervention.

Child Protection

Under the Prison Rules 2007, a child of less than 12 months of age of a female prisoner may be admitted to a prison and remain with the mother until the child reaches 12 months of age.

Following consultation with the HSE, who have overall responsibility for the assessment and management of child protection concerns, the Irish Prison Service have appointed a Child Protection Officer for the Dochas Centre and established the Dochas Multi-disciplinary Child Protection Group, which includes a nominated Childcare Manager from the HSE. The function of this group is to agree procedures and protocols to safeguard the protection and welfare of children at the Dochas Centre.

Prisoner Healthcare Management System

In 2009, it was decided to re-write the Prisoner Medical Record System (PMRS), using in-house resources, to give the Irish Prison Service full control over the application leading to a reduction in costs, while improving navigation and ease of use.

An Expert User Group was established, representing healthcare professionals, to guide this project. On 31st May 2010, Prisoner Healthcare Management System (PHMS) was launched. While this was intended originally to be only a re-write of PMRS, it was possible to introduce a certain number of new features, which have resulted in an enhanced system with additional functionality. This system supports the electronic maintenance of each prisoner's healthcare record, which is accessible across all prison sites as necessary. Two further upgrades were released in 2010, and work is continuing for the next release in early 2011. The planned introduction of scanning in 2011, will witness the development of a single unified electronic healthcare record for each prisoner.

Primary Care Reviews

The Irish Prison Service engaged independent reviewers to undertake an assessment of primary care in the Midlands, Cork & Mountjoy Prisons arising from concerns raised by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) subsequent to their visit in early 2010. A separate review of aspects of drug treatment in each of the above three prisons was also commissioned arising from CPT concerns.

All of these reviews have now been completed. Considerable work will be required to implement the recommendations arising from the primary care reports, which are broadly grouped under the following headings, prisoner concerns, nursing issues, medical issues, pharmacy issues, environmental issues and matters for resolution by the Healthcare Directorate. Work has already commenced on addressing specific issues and a working group has been established to bring forward the implementation of the recommendations subject, in some instances, to the availability of resources.

Chapter 6

The Prison Estate

The prison building and refurbishment programme continued throughout 2010 with a variety of prison projects to improve accommodation and facilities for both prisoners and staff at prisons and places of detention. The following capital projects were underway or completed during 2010.

Thornton Hall Prison Project

The prison campus development at Thornton Hall, Kilsallaghan, County Dublin is proceeding on a phased basis. Phase one comprises the essential preliminary and infrastructural works to support the prison development and includes the construction of the dedicated access road, the off-site services (water and foul, ICT services) and the construction of the security boundary wall, perimeter high security fence, perimeter road and ancillary works for the prison.

A contract for the construction of the access road and underpass to serve the prison development was awarded during the summer and construction work commenced in August. Construction work is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2011. A contract was also awarded for the installation of the various off-site services (water and foul, ICT services) with the work scheduled for completion in autumn 2011. A procurement competition for the design and construction of the security boundary wall, perimeter high security fence, perimeter road, foul pump station and additional landscaping commenced during the year and following a short-listing exercise, five companies were invited to tender for this work. The design and construction of the boundary security wall, high security fence, perimeter road and related security work is a central piece of infrastructure to facilitate the prison development. It also includes appropriate landscaping work to mitigate the visual impact of the prison development on the surrounding area in accordance with the Development Consent.

Running in parallel with the phase one work, the Thornton Project Team moved ahead to the

development of a new masterplan for the prison campus with the assistance of its technical advisors, the Office of Public Works. Following the Government decision in July 2010, the Prison Service is proceeding to develop the prison campus at Thornton on a phased basis using traditional procurement and funding. The priority is to provide good quality, regime focussed prison accommodation at Thornton Hall prison campus as quickly as possible. Phase two will provide 400 cells capable of accommodating up to 700 prisoners. Phases three and four will see the provision of the balance of the 1,000 cells thus providing a total of 1,400 cells, which when completed will have the potential to accommodate up to 2,200 prisoners. Various design options are being developed by the Thornton Project Team and it is expected that these will be finalised early in the New Year. The year ahead will see the commencement of the procurement competition for the prison buildings with a view to having the prison operational by 2014.

Munster Region Prison Project

The business case for the provision of a new Munster regional prison at Kilworth in County Cork was substantially completed in 2010. Preliminary discussions were held with Cork County Council regarding the provision of services to the site and agreement was reached with the Department of Defence for the transfer of ownership of the 160 acre site.

The project was suspended in October pending clarification of our capital funding position for such a large scale project.

Wheatfield Prison

A new block opened in Wheatfield in mid 2010 which has provided 200 spaces. Each cell is fitted with a shower, full in-cell sanitation, sprinkler system, televisions and emergency call systems.

There is also a Medical Centre with dentistry as well as a prisoner Reception Centre. A new kitchen facility to cater for the entire prison was also completed in 2010. A new visitor's area is under construction and will be completed in early 2011.

Midlands Prison

Work commenced on the planning of a new cell block extension at the Midlands Prison. The project went to tender in July, 2010 and a contractor has been appointed. The facility will provide a potential 300 spaces as well as a new prison kitchen, visiting, work training, education, and reception areas. It is expected that the block will be completed by the end of June 2012.

Mountjoy Prison Separation Unit

The refurbishment of the Separation Unit at Mountjoy Prison was completed in 2010 providing space for 56 prisoners. All of the recommissioned cells have full in-cell sanitation facilities.

Limerick Prison

14 disused cells in the female wing of Limerick Prison were completely refurbished in 2010. All of the cells are fitted with toilet facilities. Enhanced work-training facilities were also provided in the female wing.

Cork Prison

Work commenced in late 2010 on the construction of a new healthcare building at Cork Prison which will provide significantly enhanced healthcare facilities.

Dóchas Centre

A contract was awarded in late 2010 for the provision of an additional 70 spaces for female prisoners at the Dóchas Centre within the Mountjoy Campus. The accommodation will consist of multiple occupancy rooms with in-room sanitation and shower facilities. Work is scheduled to commence in late April 2011 when other essential enabling works have been completed. Significant work training / education facilities will also be provided.

Video-Link

Construction of a prison-court video-link suite at Cork prison commenced in late 2010. This facility will result in substantial savings on prisoner transportation costs for both the Irish Prison Service and the Gardaí and is due to be completed in early 2011.

Plans to provide video-link facilities to the remainder of the closed prisons progressed well in 2010 and by year's end the Irish Prison Service had gone to tender for the provision of these facilities at Mountjoy Prison, the Dóchas Centre, and St. Patrick's Institution.

Spike Island

The Irish Prison Service decommissioned Fort Mitchel prison in 2004. Fort Mitchell was officially handed over by the Irish Prison Service to Cork County Council in April 2010.

Health and Safety

Under the direction of the Health and Safety Executive Management Team (EMT), the internationally accredited safety management system, OHSAS 18001 Safety Management System was formally rolled out in all prison locations in 2010.

Midlands and Portlaoise prisons and the IPS Training and Development Centre were successful in achieving independent accreditation of the OHSAS 18001 system by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

The Cell Snatch Rescue Equipment (CSRE) was awarded a Taoiseach's Award under the Public Service Excellence Scheme which recognised the hard work undertaken developing the CSRE - a joint project between the Irish and UK Prison Services.

Environmental Matters

During 2010 the Environmental Office established a strategic partnership with Sustainability Energy Authority of Ireland which has resulted in the development of a training programme for key managers in the Irish Prison Service on energy awareness and monitoring across the service.

Energy audits were completed in Arbour Hill, Cloverhill, Limerick, Mountjoy, Prison Service Escort Corp and Wheatfield in order that the Irish Prison Service meets its requirement to reduce energy and resource use.

Information & Communications Technology

The Irish Prison Service has made significant investment in ICT to provide the key operational systems required to run a modern Prison Service and all areas of prison administration have been addressed. The Prison Service has become a substantial ICT operation with up to 4,400 users and more than 1,500 PCs in 19 locations around the country.

Significant achievements in 2010 included:

- The Prisoner Records Information System (PRIS). This system has been in operation in all prisons since 2001. The Irish Prison Service began the process of redesigning and redeveloping this system in 2010. The new system will improve on the older system in many critical areas and provide a comprehensive means of recording and sharing information about the prisoner population. In addition, it will significantly reduce the cost of maintaining this system in the future.
- The Time & Attendance system was significantly upgraded in 2010. The changes made are working well and allow for the full range of amended attendance arrangements and payments under the Proposal for Organisational Change.
- The Prisoner Medical Records System for doctors, nurses and other medical staff was redeveloped in 2010 on a more modern and robust platform. The new system provides improvements in many critical areas and provides a comprehensive means of recording medical information about the prisoner population. The redevelopment will significantly reduce the cost of maintaining this system in the future.
- A new Visitor system was developed and deployed in 2010. This system is integrated with the prisoner records system and allows for the recording of visits to prisoners. The system was developed in-house and as such will be significantly cheaper to maintain.

Chapter 7

Finance

The Finance Directorate has responsibility for the following areas:

- Financial reporting and control, including the production of annual financial statements in respect of the Service.
- Developing and implementing financial controls and procedures that comply with best accounting practice, EU regulations and national legislation and guidelines.
- Administering, operating and maintaining the financial management information system.
- Financial management and planning, including the provision and interpretation of financial management information.
- Introducing devolved budgetary control and delegation of financial authority to local management.
- Procurement.
- Compensation claims initiated against the Irish Prison Service.

Dáil Éireann voted a gross total of €352.115 million for the Irish Prison Service in the Prisons Vote 2010 (Vote 21).

Finance Review

The total gross expenditure by the Irish Prison Service in 2010 was €335.2 million, some €16.9 million within budget. Pay accounted for approximately 72% of all spending by the Irish Prison Service in 2010. Particulars of the 2010 Provisions and Expenditure are set out in Table 7.1.

Apart from pay, the two most significant areas of expenditure are Capital Spending and the Provision of Prison Services.

- Capital investment during 2010 was significant, with the provision of improved accommodation and facilities across the prison estate and in particular, the provision of additional spaces at Wheatfield. Particulars of the Irish Prison Service 2010 building programme are given in the chapter on the Prison Estate.
- The cost of providing Prison Services increased by 8% in 2010, principally, due to the increase in prisoner numbers and the related increase in the provision of bed capacity.

Irish Prison Service 2010 Expenditure and Income

Table 7.1: Prison Service 2010 Budget Provision and Actual Expenditure

	2009 Actual Expenditure €000	2010 Provision €000	2010 Actual* Expenditure €000
Administration			
A.1 - Salaries, Wages and Allowances	259,895	254,714	241,955
A.2 - Travel and Subsistence	2,714	2,316	2,082
A.3 - Incidental Expenses	8,099	8,187	5,884
A.4 - Postal and Telecommunications Services	3,627	3,985	3,154
A.5 - Office Machinery & Other Office Supplies	5,179	3,923	5,100
A.6 - Consultancy Services	189	190	66
A.7 - Value for Money & Policy Reviews	0	50	0

	2009 Actual Expenditure €000	2010 Provision €000	2010 Actual* Expenditure €000
Administration			
B - Buildings and Equipment	49,788	39,752	30,486
C - Prison Services, etc.	38,218	32,407	41,336
D - Manufacturing Department & Farm	648	629	586
E - Probation Service - Services to Offenders	10	53	26
F - Educational Services	1,320	1,665	1,457
G - Prison Officers, Medical Aid Society (Grant-in-Aid)	0	521	0
H - Compensation	4,013	2,973	2,854
I - Social Disadvantage Measures (Dormant Accounts)	420	750	218
Total Gross Expenditure	374,120	352,115	335,204
J - Appropriation in Aid (Receipts)	16,293	17,384	18,095
Total Net Expenditure	357,827	334,731	317,109
<i>* These figures are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General</i>			

Financial Management

Cost per Available, Staffed Prison Space

The average cost of an available, staffed prison space during the calendar year 2010 was €70,513, a decrease of €6,709 or 8.7% on the 2009 cost of €77,222. This decrease in average cost results from reduced expenditure and an increase in the provision of bed capacity. The relevant figures are:

- a decrease in total expenditure over 2009 figures of €20.7 million; and
- an increase in bed capacity of 97 from 4,106 as at 31st December 2009 to an average bed capacity of 4,203 for 2010.

Pay-related expenditure fell by over €20 million as staff numbers continued to decrease during 2010. The impact on staffing numbers through retirements and the recruitment/promotion moratorium are detailed in chapter 8.

The increase in prisoner numbers and the related increase in the provision of bed capacity impacted on expenditure. Particulars in relation to new accommodation provided during 2010 are provided in chapter 6.

Consistent with calculations in previous years, only costs under the direct control of the Irish Prison Service are included. Capital expenditure, including building and equipment assets and small works, is excluded from the calculations in the interest of facilitating comparisons between prison types and year-on-year.

The following tables show the figures for 2010 and the comparative figures for 2009.

Cost per Available, Staffed Prison Space - All Prisons		
EXPENDITURE TYPE	2009 Cost/Space (4,106 Spaces)	2010 Cost/Space (4,203 Spaces)
Accommodation-Related Variable Costs	3,900	4,245
Prisoner-Related Variable Costs	5,748	6,291
Prisoner-Related Fixed Costs	53,139	47,183
Non-Custodial Costs (incl. Prisoner Escorts)	14,436	12,795
TOTAL	77,222	70,513
Cost per Available, Staffed Prison Space - Open Prisons		
EXPENDITURE TYPE	2009 Cost/Space (250 Spaces)	2010 Cost/Space (260 Spaces)
Accommodation-Related Variable Costs	3,892	4,335
Prisoner-Related Variable Costs	4,940	5,431
Prisoner-Related Fixed Costs	31,896	27,510
Non-Custodial Costs (incl. Prisoner Escorts)	9,793	8,179
TOTAL	50,521	45,456
Cost per Available, Staffed Prison Space - Closed Prisons		
EXPENDITURE TYPE	2009 Cost/Space (3,457 Spaces)	2010 Cost/Space (3,573 Spaces)
Accommodation-Related Variable Costs	3,746	4,036
Prisoner-Related Variable Costs	6,149	6,414
Prisoner-Related Fixed Costs	54,358	47,745
Non-Custodial Costs (incl. Prisoner Escorts)	15,054	13,252
TOTAL	79,307	71,447
Cost per Available, Staffed Prison Space - High Security Prison		
EXPENDITURE TYPE	2009 Cost/Space (399 Spaces)	2010 Cost/Space (370 Spaces)
Accommodation-Related Variable Costs	5,234	6,197
Prisoner-Related Variable Costs	2,773	5,701
Prisoner-Related Fixed Costs	55,894	55,582
Non-Custodial Costs (incl. Prisoner Escorts)	11,989	11,62
TOTAL	75,890	79,104

The figures for available, staffed prison spaces are based on the average bed capacity in each institution for 2010.

Implementation of Management Information Framework (MIF) within the Irish Prison Service

The Irish Prison Service continues to enhance reporting under the MIF to bring about improved financial management and control. The intention is to have a more strategically driven organisation that meets the demands of a modern justice system and does so in a cost effective manner. During 2010, the Irish Prison Service continued to produce monthly financial reports for Directors and prison Governors and provided further training to key staff in the generation and interpretation of financial information.

In support of MIF, budgets have been devolved to senior management in areas of discretionary expenditure to assist decision-making in the allocation and management of resources.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The following information is provided in accordance with the Act within the guidelines issued by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The Irish Prisons Service has procedures in place to ensure that all invoices are paid within the statutory time limit. While the procedures have been designed to ensure compliance with the Act, they only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material non compliance with the Act. These procedures were in operation in the financial period under review and, in the case of late payments, the relevant suppliers were notified and the interest due was paid to them.

In accordance with the Prompt Payment of Account Act 1997, the following information is provided in respect of the financial period ending December 31st, 2010:

(a) Payment Practices

The Irish Prison Service makes payment to suppliers in accordance with the terms specified in the respective invoices or conditions specified in individual contracts, if appropriate. Since 2002 the standard terms are 30 days.

(b) Late Payments

Invoice Amount	No. of Invoices	Amount of Interest Paid €
Under €317	4	23.90
Over €317	88	1,714.51
Total	92	1,738.41

(c) Overall percentage of late payments to total payments and total interest paid.

The overall percentage of the value of late payments to the value of total payments was 0.28%. The total amount of interest paid with respect to late payments was €1,738.41.

(d) Irish Prison Service Initiatives to Reduce Prompt Payment Interest

The Irish Prison Service undertakes a monthly detailed analysis of all instances of prompt payment interest, with the aim of identifying and eliminating the common reasons for payment delays. As a result of the control measures introduced, the total amount of prompt payment interest paid in 2010 shows a 61% decrease on the equivalent figure for 2009.

Chapter 8

Human Resource Management

The Human Resources (HR) Directorate has responsibility for the provision of the full range of HR services to 3,400 staff working within the Irish Prison Service (IPS). The key areas of responsibility include the recruitment and deployment of prison staff, the processing of pay, allowances and pensions, absence management, policy development and most importantly the administration and monitoring of performance management across the service.

The following sections give an insight into the range of activities within these key HR areas.

Recruitment

Over the course of 2010 the Minister for Finance sanctioned the recruitment of 152 Recruit Prison Officers (RPOs), 7 Nurse Officers and 2 Psychologists. These sanctions were partly in response to an accelerated level of retirements and resignations during 2010 (226 staff left the service - an increase of approximately 6% on the 2009 figure). New staff were also required to facilitate the opening of the new prisoner accommodation in the Wheatfield and Mountjoy prisons. The new entrants also helped accommodate the opening of extra accommodation for female prisoners in Limerick Prison.

Promotions

Due to the level and nature of the retirements a number of essential posts became vacant over the course of the year. As a consequence the Minister for Finance also provided sanction for a number of promotion competitions. These competitions enabled the Irish Prison Service to maintain an adequate level of operational efficiency, especially at senior prison grades across the Service. During the year the promotion competitions facilitated two appointments to Governor 1 level. The other promotion competitions provided for five posts at Governor 3 level, eight posts at Deputy Governor level and twenty eight at Assistant Chief Officer grade.

Attendance Management

The health and well being of staff is of particular relevance when taken in the context of ensuring that predictable patterns of attendance are maintained to allow for the secure custody and care of the prisoner population. Exemplary levels of attendance are crucial to the managing of

workflows and maintenance of the efficient and timely delivery of services across the prison estate.

During 2010, 3,269 staff availed of 61,789 days sick leave which represents 18.9 days per capita, or a 5.6% increase in the number of days lost to illness when compared with the 2009 figures.

Year	Day	Staff	Per Capita
2005	81,503	3,077	26.49
2006	82,580	3,143	26.27
2007	71,651	3,311	21.64
2008	65,184	3,426	19.84
2009	58,515	3,392	17.25
2010	61,789	3,269	18.90

Since 2005 there has been a significant diminishing level of sickness absence. However, while the 2010 figures remain quite close to those for 2009, they also illustrate a worrying reversal of the four year downward trend in evidence since 2005.

This new upward movement, while small, will form one of a small number of key priorities for the HR Directorate in 2011. The Irish Prison Service is fully committed to addressing this issue and to continue to actively engage with all relevant stakeholders to significantly reduce the incidence of sick absence across the IPS to well below current levels. This reduction will be supported through a more focused and proactive engagement with our support services, i.e., access to psychological support services, the Employee Assistance Service and the Chief Medical Officer.

Human Resource Management System (HRMS Project)

Phase 1 of the HRMS project was implemented in June 2010. This involved the implementation of an absence management reporting tool for use across the prison estate including the HR Directorate in Irish Prison Service HQ. The introduction of this new technology solution has helped streamline the procedures for the recording and monitoring of staff absences within the service.

Phase 2 of the project which involves the procurement of a HR system for the Irish Prison Service is currently well progressed and is on target for decision by mid 2011. Following this a project plan and timeline for implementation and roll out of the chosen system will be developed in conjunction with the successful tenderer.

Public Service Agreement 2010 - 2014

The Transformation Agenda

Following negotiations in the early part of 2010 agreement was reached between the Irish Prison Service and staff representatives on a transformation agenda for the prison service. This agreement was concluded as part of the overall Public Service Agreement 2010 - 2014.

The Agreement provides that the Irish Prison Service will deliver annual savings of €21million on the prisons pay costs. The full savings will only be achievable on an annual basis when the required transformation programme is completed and fully implemented. While the transformation process will take a number of years to implement in full, the initial savings made will in the first instance be applied to support the opening of new prisoner accommodation and thereafter to deliver savings to the Exchequer.

The Agreement is based on the proposition that the current staffing levels and deployment models are not sustainable during the current economic circumstances. As a consequence these must change to effect any meaningful savings. In seeking to apply these changes the Irish Prison Service, working with prison staff, will seek to reduce the pay costs of the service without detrimentally impacting on the running of the prison service or undermining its capacity to deliver on our mission statement.

The Public Service Agreement provides, in relation to the Irish Prison Service, for the following:

- a joint staff/ management in-depth review of all tasks within the prison service (this review includes the examination of all aspects of prisons work - posts, tasks, processes, infrastructure etc.)
- the introduction of new business and work processes including where appropriate new policies
- a review of all allowances within the Irish Prison Service (on a cost-neutral basis)
- the introduction of open recruitment at certain grades
- the introduction of a scheme of accelerated promotion
- the establishment of new prison administration grades

Independent Monitoring Mechanism

A group chaired independently by Mr. Michael McCloone was established to guide and drive the process of implementation. This group contains an equal number of management and staff representatives and will report to the Implementation Body established by Government to oversee the Public Service Agreement. The Implementation Body are charged with verifying the delivery of savings under the Agreement and reporting to Government. Their first report is due in Spring 2011. The first meeting of the Sectoral Group was held in November 2010.

An Implementation Plan for the transformation process in the Irish Prison Service was submitted to the National Implementation Body in September 2010. This plan is to be published in early 2011.

A new accommodation block for 200 prisoners was opened at Wheatfield Prison in October 2010. This new block was opened with a new more efficient staffing model based on the principles set out in the Agreement. This is the first of the tangible outcomes to result from the implementation of the Public Service Agreement in the Irish Prison Service.

Task Review Progress

The Task Review, which is the centerpiece of the Agreement as it applies to the Prison Service, commenced formally on 12 November 2010. There has been considerable background and preparatory work completed in relation to these reviews; this has been carried out on a Partnership basis with the relevant staff associations. This has involved, inter alia, joint visits to prisons in Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom who have experience of significant organisational change in the context of reduced resources.

The joint management-union Task Review commenced in Cloverhill Prison on November 12 initially with a joint presentation by the Irish Prison Service and the Prison Officers' Association to the management and staff representatives at the prison. The process involves the management and union side jointly examining all aspects and operations of the prison and will be completed during 2011.



