

<p style="text-align: center;">TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL CHOISTE CUAIRTE PHRÍÓSÚN CHRUITHNEACHTÁIN 2011.</p>

Táimidme, comhaltaí Choiste Cuirte Phríósún Chruithneachtáin, a bhfuil ár n-ainmneacha leis seo thíos, an-sásta ár dtuarascáil don bhliain dar críoch 2011 a chur i láthair.

Bhuaileamar le chéile i bPríósún Chruithneachtáin an dara Máirt gach mí. Bhí dhá chruinniú dhéag de chuid an Choiste Cuirte againn agus is iad seo a leanas an líon príósúnach a d'fhreastail ar an gCoiste Cuirte:

*Eanáir: 01 Feabhra: 08 Márta: 04 Aibreán: 13 Bealtaine: 04
Meitheamh: 12 Iúil: 07 : Lúnasa: 07 Meán Fómhair: 12 Deireadh
Fómhair: 06 Samhain: 04 Nollaig: 05*

Ba é 83 líon na bpríósúnach a d'iarr bualadh leis an gCoiste Cuirte le linn na bliana agus is é seo meán de 7 in aghaidh an chruinnithe. Éistíodh lena bhfadhbanna go léir agus déileáladh go sásúil leo a mhéad ab fhéidir amhlaidh.

Bhain ceann de na fadhbanna is deacra do phríósúnaigh le cuairteanna teaghlach. Ó tugadh madraí isteach le tabhairt isteach drugaí sa phríósún a shrianadh theip ar a lán daoine i dtástáil an mhadra agus dá bhrí sin níl cead acu ach cuairteanna scagtha a thabhairt. Tá a lán de na príósúnaigh míshásta le cuairteanna scagtha ach caithfimid a chur in iúl dóibh go ndéantar drugaí a choinneáil amuigh as an bpríósún ar mhaithe leis na príósúnaigh go léir.

I ndiaidh gach cuairte a rinne príósúnaigh ar an gCoiste Cuirte bhí mionphlé againn maidir le hiarratas gach príósúnaigh le duine de Ghobharnóirí Phríósún Chruithneachtáin. Ar bhonn an phlé sin thug dhá chomhalta ón gCoiste Cuirte cuairt ar gach príósúnach dhá sheachtain níos deanaí agus rinneamar ár mbreithnithe maidir lena iarratas nó lena hiarratas a phlé go príobháideach leis nó léi. Bhí an chuid is mó acu sásta leis an toradh.

I mí na Nollag thug Uachtarán na hÉireann, an tUasal Micheál D. Ó hUiginn cuairt ar an bpríosún. Thug anGobharnóir Connelly agus a fhoireann an tUachtarán ar thuras thart ar an bpríosún. Thug sé cuairt ar na ceardlanna agus ar láthair na cistine. Léirigh an grúpa Drámaíochta gearrdhráma agus bhí an tUachtarán an-tógtha le gairmiúlacht an léirithe.

Dúirt sé go dtiocfadh sé ar ais i mí an Mhárta leis an léiriú iomlán a fheiceáil. Iomlán mharcanna do gach duine ar ghlac páirt ann.

Tá an Coiste Cuairte an-sásta leis an líon príosúnach atá i mbun fostaíochta brabúsaí sna ceardlanna agus sa chistin a bhfuil saoráidí den scoth iontu. Tá an líon thar barr ag freastal ar na saoráidí Oideachais agus freastalaíonn a lán príosúnach ar an Leabharlann.

Tugann an Coiste Cuairte moladh do thiomantas leanúnach Ghobharnóir, Fhoireann, Leas agus Shéiplínigh Phríosún Chruithneachtáin as a n-iarrachtaí leanúnacha maidir le saoráid dea-reáchtáilte a dhéanamh den tsaoráid le haghaidh iad siúd go léir atá ansin mar bhaill foirne nó mar Phríosúnaigh.

Mar Choiste Cuairte bheadh sé neamartach mura ndéanfaimis trácht ar na líonta a bhfuil an Coiste Cuairte ag Príosún Chruithneachtáin déanta suas de faoi láthair. Ag tús na bliana seo bhí meán de 7 chomhalta againn agus amhail ó thus mhí Eanáir 2012 ní ach dhá chomhalta sa Choiste Cuairte ag Príosún Chruithneachtáin.

Tá sé de thuairim againn go bhfuil Coiste Cuairte ina fheidhm thábhachtach de phríosún ar bith agus iarraimid le meas ar an Aire, a luaithe is féidir, líon na gcomhaltaí a mhéadú go dtí sé ar a laghad toisc nach féidir le dhá chomhalta dualgais Coiste Cuairte a fheidhmiú go leormhaith.

Ar deireadh, toisc go bhfuil mé tagtha go dtí deireadh mo théarma ar an gCoiste Cuairte, ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le comhaltaí ár gCoiste Cuairte as a bhfreastal ar chruinnithe míosúla agus lár na míosa le príosúnaigh, leis an nGobharnóir agus lena fhoireann as a gneastacht agus a gcúirtéis agus ar deireadh le Rúnaí an Choiste Cuairte, an tUasal Gillian Byrne as a cuidiú leis na cruinnithe a eagrú agus na miontuairiscí a thairfead.

Sínithe thar ceann Choiste Cuairte Phríosún Chruithneachtáin:

*Thomas J. Lillis,
Cathaoirleach*

Patrick Somers: John O' Neill.

<p>WHEATFIELD PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2011.</p>

We the undersigned members of the Visiting Committee for Wheatfield Prison are pleased to present our report for the year ending 2011.

We met in Wheatfield on the second Tuesday of each month. We had twelve meetings of the Visiting Committee and the following are the numbers of prisoners attending the Visiting Committee:

January: 01 February: 08 March: 04 April: 13 May: 04 June: 12 July: 07: August: 07 September: 12 October: 06 November: 04 December: 05

The number of prisoners who requested to meet with the Visiting Committee during the year was 83 which is an average of 7 per meeting. All their problems were heard and dealt with satisfactorily as far as was possible to do so.

One of the most difficult problems for prisoners was in relation to family visits. Since the introduction of dogs to curb the introduction of drugs into the prison many visitors have failed to pass the dog test and therefore are only allowed screen visits. Many prisoners are unhappy with screen visits but we have to advise them that it is in the best interest of all prisoners that drugs are kept out of the prison.

After each visit by prisoners to the Visiting Committee we had a detailed discussion regarding each prisoners request with one of the Governors of Wheatfield Prison. On the basis of that discussion two members of the Visiting Committee visited each prisoner two weeks later and discussed privately with him our deliberations regarding his request. Most were happy with the outcome.

In December the prison had a visit from the new President of Ireland, Mr. Michael D. Higgins. The President was shown around the prison by Governor Connelly and his staff. He visited the workshops and the kitchen

area. A short play was produced by the Drama group and the President was very impressed by the professionalism of the production.

He has agreed to return in March to see the full production. Full marks to all who participated.

The Visiting Committee is very happy with the number of prisoners who are gainfully employed in the workshops and the kitchen whose facilities are second to none. The numbers attending the Educational facilities is excellent and the Library is well attended.

The Visiting Committee applaud the continued commitment of the Governor, Staff, Welfare and Chaplains of Wheatfield Prison for their continued efforts to make the prison the excellent run facility it is for all those who are there either as staff or Prisoners.

As a Visiting Committee it would be remiss of us as a Committee if we did not comment on the numbers who presently make up the Visiting Committee at Wheatfield Prison. At the beginning of this year we had an average of seven members and as of the first of January 2012 only two members constitute the Visiting committee at Wheatfield Prison.

We feel a Visiting Committee is an important function of any prison and we respectfully request the Minister, as soon as possible, bring the number of members up to six as it is not possible for two members to adequately perform the duties of a Visiting Committee.

Finally, as I have come to the end of my term on the Visiting Committee, I wish to thank the members of our Visiting committee for their attendance at monthly and mid-month meeting with prisoners, the Governor and his Staff for their kindness and courtesy and finally to the Visiting Committee Secretary, Ms. Gillian Byrne for her help in organising the meetings and recording the minutes.

Signed on behalf of the Visiting Committee of Wheatfield Prison:

*Thomas J. Lillis,
Chairman*

Patrick Somers: John O' Neill.

