Annual Report for St Patrick's Institution, 2013.

2013 continued to be a year of change and uncertainty at St Patrick's Institution.

In June it was announced that the prison would no longer serve as a detention facility for young offenders and the population of the prison would be sent to Wheatfield or Oberstown as soon as these facilities were ready to take them.

In October it was announced that the movement of all prisoners would start. By year-end, all sentenced 17-year-old inmates were moved to Wheatfield. The only children remaining in St Patrick's at present are remand prisoners.

At the end of the year there were approx. 60 prisoners, 18-20 years old remain on C Wing. The refurbished D Wing is now part of the Mountjoy Prison and is facilitating 40 Mountjoy prisoners who are the responsibility of Mountjoy Prison.

Solas Project

Solas project is a very well respected and supported initiative with the purpose of building trust with seventeen year old inmates through developing social skills and environmental awareness by participating in tag Rugby, music Production and Aquaponics. Solas Project also provides practical support to inmates on a pre and post release basis.

The Aquaponics Project is a concept whereby fish are housed in a purpose built tank and provide waste to fertilise plants and vegetables grown throughout the pollytunnel system. In 2013 the project expanded to include a chicken coop with inmates taking care of eight hens who in turn provided a daily supply of fresh organic eggs. This project has proven to be so successful that older inmates and adult prisoners in the general Mountjoy campus have shown a keen interest in engaging in a similar project. As the current Solas Project is funded to cater for seventeen year old inmates it has been transferred in late 2013 to Wheatfield Prison.

Additional information about the Solas Project can be found at: www.solasproject.ie

Library

The prison library which had been a very valuable source of social, recreational and learning opportunities was destroyed in March 2013. This serious incident occurred following the seizure of drugs which had been smuggled into the prison. The inmates involved barricaded themselves into the library and proceeded to destroy all equipment and furniture including computers, fish tanks etc. They also set fire to the large collections of books and any books not destroyed by fire were destroyed by water in the resulting measures needed to extinguish the fire. Some of the offending inmates eventually vacated the area voluntarily with the remainder removed by force and transferred to Mountjoy Prison. The library has since been repaired and

refurbished and will be used for general educational purposes. Relevant books and literature will also be made available to inmates through the various educational classes provided at St Patricks.

Red Cross Training

The Red Cross Project took place in the prison between January and March of 2013. The project involved a group of 7 inmates who were involved in projects to do with prisoners' health and hygiene culminating in the D Division becoming a cleaner environment to all inmates who resided there. The inmates who successfully completed this were awarded the CBHFA and were designated as Red Cross volunteers.

25 inmates had completed a Street Doctor Course

Football Training

A Football Training Course was held under the auspices of Bohemians Football Club. 3 groups of 10 inmates participated in the course during the year. The course was facilitated by Richie Sadlier and Jeff Conway who twice weekly for four weeks trained and coached inmates in football skills and this led to two football matches against Bohemians first team players for the Conway Cup.

The 'Tag Rugby' continues throughout the year with various school teams playing with the inmates. Most of the matches have been won by our inmates.

Driving Simulator

A Driving Simulation Course consisting of Best Practices and Driver Theory was run by Dublin City Council.

This was held during the month of August. The course was designed to demonstrate proper driving techniques and skills. A group of 30 inmates successfully completed this course, with only one dropout.

EDUCATION

Classes

9 inmates sat at least 1 Junior Certificate exam this year, while a number of others undertook some study towards it. 65 took Level 2 FETAC, 71 took Level 3, 4 took Level 4 and 6 took Level 5. Some inmates were taking more than one subject and at different Levels. A number had also completed a limited ECDL this year. Access to the full ECDL is not available to the inmates of St Patrick's as this required Internet

access. A number of new computers operating under Windows 7 and using Microsoft 2013 were installed. This brought the facilities available up to current standards.

The Gaisce Presidents Awards

14 inmates participated in the Gaisce Presidents Award. Their goal was to achieve the Bronze award. Each inmate who took part had to complete in four different challenge areas and for this they had to step outside their comfort zone. The four areas they had to complete were community involvement, personal skill, physical recreation and team project. This was all done with the help of their designated PAL/Leaders Officer L Bannon and Officer R Bruce who helped and encouraged them to reach their goals. All the participants completed all the challenge areas and on the 9th of May they were presented by the Director General of the Irish Prison Service, Michael Donnellan with their awards and medals. Families of the recipients were invited to attend the ceremony.

Incidents

One of the primary functions of the Visiting Committee is to ensure that all interaction between inmates and staff is carried out in a dignified and humane way. To ensure this we inspect the Accident/Incident, Removals Log on a regular basis. We are pleased to report that the backlog of paperwork that had grown up in this area has now been wiped out. Based on incidents recorded in these Logs we regularly inspect the CCTV footage of the incidents to see if the Log accurately reflects the incident.

One thing that was obvious to us was that many of the Incidents were the result of inter-inmate violence often driven by previous history. This is often the reason for what appears to be an excessive use of Protection within the Institution.

There has been a significant attempt to reduce the number of inmates on Protection and also to improve the Educational, Training and Recreational Facilities available for them

Visitors Centre

During 2012 the Vincent De Paul withdrew their support for the Visitor Centre and the service of Tea, Coffee, and a chat was discontinued. From then and at the start of 2013 the Committee continuously asked for a solution. In early March some inmates were recruited from the Mountjoy Training Centre to provide this service. This had a double benefit, as Training Unit inmates are well on their way to full integration their empathy with visiting parents and friends is very valuable.

On Saturday 12th January 2 members of the visiting committee spent the morning in the visiting centre to meet with visitors and discuss any problems their friends & family might have. This was a very worthwhile exercise.

The Visiting Committee has being encouraging the Workshops to make a display cabinet for the visiting centre so visitors could observe some of the high quality items created by the inmates. This project is in progress.

Some inmates have difficulty when visitors are travelling long distances in that their visitors may be delayed and miss some or all of their visit time. Following discussions with the Governor there is now a procedure in place which allows a lot of flexibility in these situations.

Probation

In recent times the exchange of information on prisoners entering the prison seemed to be haphazard. When prisoners arrived on remand the information from previous minders in their community did not follow them into the prison. This meant that the Probation Officer handling the prisoner in St. Patrick's was starting from scratch. We were glad to find out at a recent meeting that much better communications are in place between those dealing with the prisoners before and after their prison term.

Trip to Oberstown

In March the Visiting Committee took part in a trip to Oberstown. Here we saw the excellent facilitates available to those detained, including but not limited to; greater inmate/teacher ratios, promotion of literacy and numeracy throughout classes and every day experiences and an overall calmer environment in which children can rehabilitate themselves and develop individually.

Staff Training- CPD

Staff at St. Patrick's Institution takes part in numerous Continuing Professional Development courses throughout the year. The following is an example of some such courses (medical staff undergo their own CPD particular to their profession).

- The HSE 'Children First' programme
- Human Rights training
- FETAC Level 2 component Specification development
- FETAC Level 4- changeover to new Component Specifications
- Integrating literacy across the Curriculum

Issues raised & resolved by inmates throughout the year

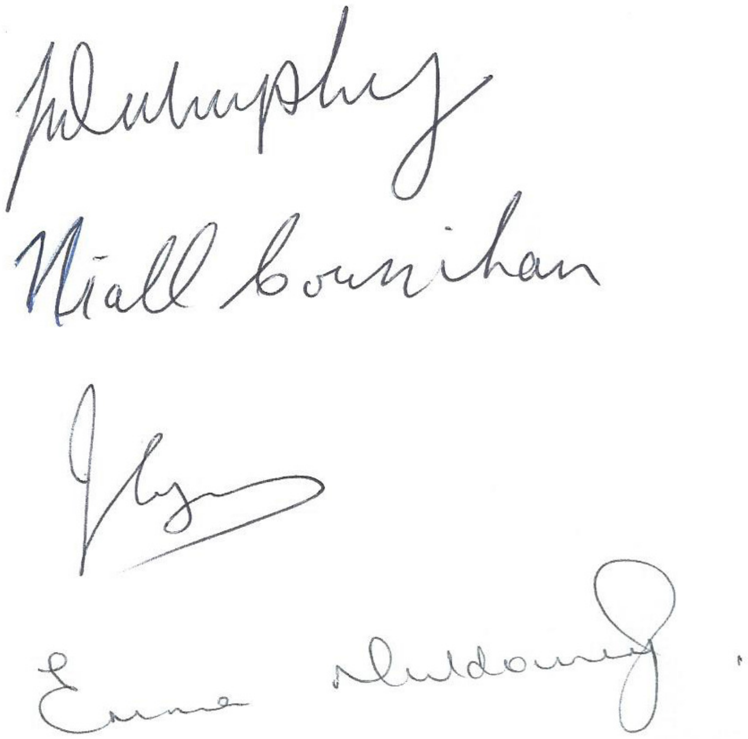
During our unannounced visits and scheduled meetings we take note of various issues raised by inmates. We endeavor to assist in resolving such issues and where necessary, report any matters to the appropriate person/authority. Below is a list of issues raised and resolved throughout the year:

- Washing machine on C3- A number of inmates had requested that an additional washing machine be made available on C3 landing, this request was facilitated.

- Gym equipment- In particular the 'peck deck' machine that was out of use was serviced and made available.

- Transfers/TR- Throughout the year a number of inmates requested the Visiting Committee to make enquiries into the progress of their application for transfer and/or early release. The Visiting Committee tracks the progress of an inmate’s application until a decision had been made by IPS and this decision has been relayed to the inmate.

We would to thank Simon Walsh for his continued support of our Committee during 2013, and wish him well during his career in the service.



Tuarascáil Bhliantúil d'Fhoras Naomh Pádraig, 2013.

Bliain ina raibh athrú agus neamhchinnteacht ag Foras Naomh Pádraig a bhí sa bhliain 2013.

I mí an Mheithimh, fógraíodh nach bhfónfadh an príosún mar shaoráid choinneála do chiontóirí óga a thuilleadh agus go gcuirfí pobal an phríosúin chuig Príosún Chruithneachtáin nó chuig Príosún Bhaile an Oibricigh a luaithe is a bheadh na saoráidí sin réidh lena nglacadh.

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair, fógraíodh go gcuirfí tús le gluaiseacht gach príosúnaigh. Faoi dheireadh na bliana, cuireadh gach príosúnach faoi phianbhreith a bhí 17 mbliana d'aois chuig Príosún Chruithneachtáin. Is príosúnaigh athchuir amháin iad na leanaí atá i bhForas Naomh Pádraig faoi láthair.

Faoi dheireadh na bliana, bhí thart ar 60 príosúnach idir 18-20 bliain d'aois ag fanacht ar Sciathán C. Cuid de Phríosún Mhuinseo anois is ea Sciathán D athchóirithe agus tá sé ag éascú 40 príosúnach de chuid Phríosún Mhuinseo a bhfuil freagracht ar Phríosún Mhuinseo astu.

Tionscadal Solas

Tionscnamh ar a bhfuil an-mheas agus lena dtacaítear go mór is ea tionscadal Solas. Tá sé mar chuspóir aige muinín a fhorbairt le príosúnaigh atá seacht mbliana déag d'aois trí fhorbairt a dhéanamh ar scileanna sóisialta agus ar fheasacht chomhshaoil trí bhíthin páirt a ghlacadh i Rugbaí leaiste, i Léiriú ceoil agus in Uiscephonaic. Chomh maith leis sin, cuireann Tionscadal Solas tacaíocht phraiticiúil ar fáil do phríosúnaigh ar bhonn réamhscaoilte agus iarscaoilte.

Is éard atá sa Tionscadal Uiscephonaice ná coincheap trína bhfeirtear éisc in umar saintógtha agus trína soláthraíonn siad dramhaíl chun plandaí agus glasraí a fhástar ar fud an chórais pholatholláin a thoirchiú. I 2013, leathnaíodh an tionscadal le go gcuirfí cúb sicíní san áireamh. Thug príosúnaigh aire d'ocht gcearc a chuir soláthar laethúil uibheacha orgánacha úra ar fáil. Mar gheall ar a rathúla is a bhí an tionscadal, léirigh príosúnaigh níos sine agus príosúnaigh is aosaigh i gcampas ginearálta Phríosún Mhuinseo go bhfuil an-spéis acu i ngabháil do thionscadal cosúil leis. Ós rud é go maoinítear an tionscadal reatha de Thionscadal Solas chun freastal ar phríosúnaigh atá seacht mbliana déag d'aois, aistríodh é go mall i 2013 chuig Príosún Chruithneachtáin.

Is féidir tuilleadh faisnéise faoi Thionscadal Solas a aimsiú ag: www.solasproject.ie

An Leabharlann

Leabharlann an phríosúin, a bhí ina foinse an-luachmhar deiseanna sóisialta, caitheamh aimsire agus foghlama, scriosadh í i mí an Mhárta 2013. Tharla an

teagmhas tromchúiseach sin tar éis drugaí a smuigleáladh isteach sa phríosún a urghabháil. Rinne na príosúnaigh a bhí páirteach ann iad féin a bharacáidiú sa leabharlann agus lean siad leis an trealamh agus leis an troscán ar fad a scriosadh, lenar áiríodh ríomhairí, umair éisc etc. Chomh maith leis sin, chuir siad cnuasaigh mhóra leabhar faoi thine agus ba leis an uisce sna bearta iarmhartacha a bhí ag teastáil chun an tine a mhúchadh a scriosadh aon leabhair nár scriosadh le tine. D'fhág roinnt de na príosúnaigh a bhí freagrach an limistéar go deonach sa deireadh agus baineadh na príosúnaigh eile trí fhórsa a úsáid agus aistríodh iad chuig Príosún Mhuinseo. Rinneadh an leabharlann a dheisiú agus a athchóiriú ó shin i leith agus bainfear úsáid aisti chun críocha oideachas ginearálta. Ina theannta sin, cuirfear leabhair agus litríocht ábhartha ar fáil do phríosúnaigh trí na ranganna éagsúla oideachais a chuirtear ar fáil ag Foras Naomh Pádraig.

Oiliúint na Croise Deirge

Cuireadh Tionscadal na Croise Deirge ar siúl sa phríosún idir mí Eanáir agus mí an Mhárta 2013. Bhain an tionscadal le grúpa 7 príosúnach a bhí páirteach i dtionscadail maidir le sláinte agus sláinteachas na bpríosúnach. Mar thoradh air sin, d'éirigh Rannóg D ina timpeallacht ní ba ghlaine do na príosúnaigh go léir a chónaigh inti. Bronnadh an CBHFA ar na príosúnaigh ar éirigh leo an tionscadal a chur i gcrích agus ainmníodh iad mar oibrithe deonacha de chuid na Croise Deirge.

Chuir 25 príosúnach Cúrsa um Dhochtúir Sráide i gcrích.

Traenáil Peile

Cuireadh Cúrsa Traenála Peile ar siúl faoi choimirce Chlub Peile Bohemians.
Ghlac 3 ghrúpa de 10 príosúnach páirt sa chúrsa le linn na bliana. D'éascaigh Richie Sadlier agus Jeff Conway an cúrsa. Rinne siad príosúnaigh a thraenáil agus a chóitseáil i scileanna peile dhá uair sa tseachtain ar feadh ceithre seachtaine agus tháinig dhá chluiche peile in aghaidh imreoirí na chéad fhoirne de chuid Bohemians le haghaidh Chorn Conway as an gcúrsa sin.

Leantar leis an 'Rugbaí Leaiste' ar fud na bliana nuair a imríonn foirne éagsúla scoile in aghaidh na bpríosúnach. Bhuaigh ár bpríosúnaigh formhór na gcluichí.

Ionsamhlóir Tiomána

Reáchtáil Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath Cúrsa Ionsamhlúcháin Tiomána a chuimsigh Dea-Chleachtais agus Teoiric Tiomána.

Cuireadh é sin ar siúl le linn mhí Lúnasa. Bhí an cúrsa deartha chun teicnící agus scileanna tiomána cuí a thaispeáint. D'éirigh le 30 príosúnach an cúrsa sin a chur i gcrích, agus níor éirigh ach duine amháin as.

OIDEACHAS

Ranganna

Rinne 9 príosúnach 1 scrúdú Teastais Shóisearaigh i mbliana, agus thug roinnt príosúnach eile faoi roinnt staidéir ina leith. Rinne 65 príosúnach Leibhéal 2 FETAC, shuigh 71 príosúnach Leibhéal 3, rinne 4 príosúnach Leibhéal 4 agus thug 6 príosúnach faoi Leibhéal 5. Bhí níos mó ná ábhar amháin agus ag leibhéil éagsúla á ndéanamh ag roinnt príosúnach. Chuir roinnt díobh ECDL teoranta i gcrích i mbliana freisin. Níl rochtain ar an ECDL iomlán ar fáil do phríosúnaigh Fhoras Naomh Pádraig mar go bhfuil rochtain Idirlín ag teastáil ina leith. Suiteáladh roinnt ríomhairí nua a fheidhmíonn faoi Windows 7 agus a úsáideann Microsoft 2013. Thug sé sin na háiseanna atá ar fáil suas go dtí na caighdeáin reatha.

Gaisce - Dámhachtain an Uachtaráin

Ghlac 14 príosúnach páirt in Gaisce - Dámhachtain an Uachtaráin. Bhí sé mar sprioc acu an dámhachtain Chré-Umha a bhaint amach. Bhí ar gach príosúnach a ghlac páirt ceithre réimse dúshláin éagsúla a chur i gcrích agus, chuige sin, bhí orthu triail a bhaint as rud éigin nach raibh siad eolach air. Ba iad na ceithre réimse a bhí orthu a chur i gcrích ná: páirteachas pobail, scileanna pearsanta, aclaíocht áineasa agus tionscadal foirne. Rinneadh an méid sin le cúnamh ó Oifigeach L Bannon agus ó Oifigeach R Bruce, an PAL/Ceannaire ainmnithe dá gcuid, a thug cabhair agus spreagadh dóibh a spriocanna a bhaint amach. Rinne gach ceann de na rannpháirtithe cur i gcrích ar na réimsí dúshláin agus bhronn Michael Donnellan, Ard-Stiúrthóir Sheirbhís Phríosúin na hÉireann, a ndámhachtainí agus a mboinn orthu an 9 Bealtaine. Tugadh cuireadh do theaghlaigh na bhfaighteoirí freastal ar an searmanas.

Teagmhais

Ceann de na príomhfheidhmeanna de chuid an Choiste Cuairte is ea a chinntiú go ndéantar gach idirghníomhaíocht idir príosúnaigh agus baill foirne ar bhealach maorga daonnachtúil. Chun an méid sin a chinntiú, déanaimid cigireacht ar an Taifead Timpistí/Teagmhas agus Aistrithe ar bhonn rialta. Tá áthas orainn a thuairisciú gur glanta anois atá an riaráiste páipéarachais a d’fhás sa réimse sin. Bunaithe ar na teagmhais a thaifeadtar sna Taifid sin, déanaimid cigireacht rialta ar phíosaí scannáin TFCI ar na teagmhais chun a fháil amach cé acu a fhreagraíonn, nó nach bhfreagraíonn, an Taifead an teagmhas go cruinn.

Rud amháin a bhí soiléir dúinn ná gur tháinig formhór na dTeagmhas as foréigean idir príosúnaigh a bhí spreagtha ag nithe a tharla roimhe sin. Is minic gurb í sin an chúis le húsáid Cosanta laistigh den Fhoras atá iomarcach de réir cosúlachta.

Rinneadh iarracht shuntasach líon na bpríosúnach faoi Chosaint a laghdú agus na Saoráidí Oideachais, Oiliúna agus Caitheamh Aimsire atá ar fáil dóibh a fheabhsú freisin.

An tIonad Cuairteoirí

Le linn 2012, tharraing Cumann Naomh Uinseann de Pól siar a thacaíocht don Ionad Cuairteoirí agus scoireadh den tseirbhís Tae, Caife agus comhrá. Ó shin i leith, agus

ag tús na bliana 2013, d'iarr an Coiste réiteach arís is arís eile. Go luath i mí an Mhárta, earcaíodh roinnt príosúnach ó Ionad Oiliúna Phríosún Mhuinseo chun an tseirbhís sin a chur ar fáil. Baineadh dhá bhuntáiste as sin. Ós rud é go bhfuil príosúnaigh an Ionaid Oiliúna go mór ag druidim le himeascadh iomlán, baineann an-luach lena n-ionbhá le tuismitheoirí agus le cairde a thugann cuairt.

Dé Sathairn an 12 Eanáir, chaith 2 chomhaltaí den ionad cuairte an mhaidin san ionad cuairteoirí chun bualadh le cuairteoirí agus plé a dhéanamh ar aon fhadhbanna a d'fhéadfadh bheith ag a gcairde agus ag a dteaghlach. B'fhiú go mór an cleachtadh sin.

Tá spreagadh á thabhairt ag an gCoiste Cuairte do na Ceardlanna caibinéad taispeántais a dhéanamh don ionad cuairte le go bhféadfadh cuairteoirí breathnú ar roinnt de na míreanna ardchaighdeáin a gcruthaíonn na príosúnaigh iad. Tá an tionscadal sin ar siúl.
Tá deacracht ag roinnt príosúnach sa chás go bhfuil cuairteoirí ag taisteal achair fhada sa dóigh is go bhféadfadh go mbeadh moill ar chuairteoirí agus go gcaillfeadh siad cuid dá n-am cuairte nó an t-am sin ar fad. Tar éis plé leis an nGobharnóir, tá nós imeachta i bhfeidhm anois a éascaíonn cuid mhaith solúbthachta sna cásanna sin.

Promhadh

Le déanaí, ba chosúil gur neamhrialta a bhí an malartú faisnéise faoi phríosúnaigh ag dul isteach sa phríosún. Nuair a tháinig príosúnaigh ar athchur, níor tháinig an fhaisnéis ó fheighlithe roimhe ina bpobal isteach sa phríosún leo. Chiallaigh sé sin gur ag tosú gan réamheolas a bhí an tOifigeach Promhaidh ag déileáil leis an bpríosúnach i bhForas Naomh Pádraig. Bhí áthas orainn a aimsiú ag cruinniú le déanaí go bhfuil cumarsáid i bhfad níos fearr i bhfeidhm idir na daoine sin ag déileáil leis na príosúnaigh roimh a dtéarma príosúin agus ina dhiaidh.

Turas chuig Príosún Bhaile an Oibricigh

I mí an Mhárta, ghlac an Coiste Cuairte páirt i dturas chuig Príosún Bhaile an Oibricigh. Chonaiceamar anseo na saoráidí sármhaithe atá ar fáil dóibh siúd atá faoi choimeád, lena n-áirítear ach gan a bheith teoranta do na nithe seo: cóimheas breisithe príosúnach/múinteoirí, litearthacht agus uimhearthacht a chur chun cinn ar fud ranganna agus eispéiris ghnáthshaoil agus timpeallacht atá níos socra san iomlán ina bhféadann leanaí iad féin a athshlánú agus forbairt go haonarach.

Oiliúint Foirne - Forbairt Ghairmiúil Leantach

Glacann na baill foirne ag Foras Naomh Pádraig páirt i roinnt cúrsaí Forbartha Gairmiúla Leantaí ar fud na bliana. Is éard atá sna nithe seo a leanas ná roinnt cúrsaí den chineál sin (tugann baill foirne míochaine faoina bhforbairt ghairmiúil leantach féin atá bainteach ar leith lena ngairm).

- An clár 'Tús Áite do Leanaí' de chuid FSS
- Oiliúint um Chearta an Duine
- Forbairt Sonraíochta comhpháirte Leibhéal 2 FETAC
- Leibhéal 4 FETAC - aistriú chuig Sonraíochtaí Comhpháirte nua
- Litearthacht a chomhtháthú ar fud an Churaclaim

<u>Saincheisteanna a d'ardaigh agus a réitigh príosúnaigh ar fud na bliana</u>

Le linn ár gcuairteanna gan fógairt agus ár gcruinnithe sceidealaithe, tugaimid aird ar shaincheisteanna éagsúla a ardaíonn na príosúnaigh. Déanaimid ár ndícheall cabhrú leis na saincheisteanna sin a réiteach agus, nuair is gá, aon ábhair a thuairisciú don duine/údarás iomchuí. Tá liosta de na saincheisteanna a ardaíodh agus a réitíodh ar fud na bliana thíos:

- Meaisín níocháin ar C3 - d'iarr roinnt príosúnach meaisín níocháin breise a chur ar fáil ar cheann staighre C3. Éascaíodh an t-iarratas sin.

- Trealamh spórtlainne - Go háirithe, rinneadh an meaisín 'brollaigh' a bhí as feidhm a sheirbhísiú agus a chur ar fáil.

- Aistrithe/Scaoileadh Sealadach - Ar fud na bliana, d'iarr roinnt príosúnach ar an gCoiste Cuairte fiosruithe a dhéanamh ar an dul chun cinn ar a n-iarratas ar aistriú agus/nó ar scaoileadh luath. Rianaíonn an Coiste Cuairte an dul chun cinn ar iarratas príosúnaigh go dtí go ndéanann Seirbhís Phríosúin na hÉireann cinneadh air agus go gcuirtear an cinneadh sin in iúl don phríosún.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil le Simon Walsh as an tacaíocht leantach a thug sé dár gCoiste le linn 2013, agus guímid rath air i rith a ghairme sa tseirbhís.