

## Annual Report for 2010

We wish to submit the Annual Report of the Training Unit for 2010. A total of twelve meetings were held and all were well attended.

### January

This month Terry Roche (Chief Officer) was transferred to Arbour Hill. He will be greatly missed by the committee as he always showed great interest and to members of the U/C. We wish him well. This month sees staff down by 16, a situation which was of concern to all members of the committee. It was encouraging to hear that there are 14 prisoners doing Open University courses.

It was agreed to apply to Castlereagh Prison for a visit on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. The AGM was held and Mrs Deirdre Kenneally was proposed by Mrs Diamond and seconded by Mr O'Malley. Mr Christopher Faulkner was proposed as Vice Chair by Mrs Kenneally and seconded by Mrs Foster.

### February

A/Gov Conlon gave the committee a complete report re the Positive Sentence Management Scheme in operation (there were 48 prisoners involved in this scheme). He advised the meeting that 4 cells were affected due to leaks in the roof.

Mr Coade gave an up to date report of the Library Club. A Library Gazette Magazine was produced over Christmas, with another issue scheduled for Easter. It was hoped to produce the magazine on a quarterly basis. Unfortunately Una Gomez the Head Librarian is to leave. He thanked her for all her help and encouragement with the Library Club. He advised the committee that a Spanish Linguaphone course was up and running. Mr Coade thanked all members of staff for their help and co-operation and enthusiasm.

Mr Twomey informed the meeting that his term of office had expired. He was thanked for his contribution to the meetings. We were informed that Niall Downes was retiring in May. The Chair on behalf of the committee wished him well and thanked him for the assistance he gave to the committee.

### March

New meeting Room. Due to illness of the Clerk to Committee Mrs Foster took the minutes. As there were discrepancies in the February minutes it was agreed to delay the adoption of same until April meeting. The Governor advised the meeting that there was an unannounced search of cells on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00 am. Twenty-eight mobiles, one Blackberry, seven shivs made in a workshop and a quantity of drugs. The committee congratulated the Governor on the success of the search. The Governor advised the meeting that 4 cells were OOO due to roof leaks and 8 cells were OOO due to fire alarm system being broken. He was asked re mobile blocking system. Unfortunately these are only effective at four feet.

Mr Coade gave a report on the Library and he advised the meeting that one of the concerns of prisoners upon release was the difficulty in opening a bank account. Mr Richard Brennan advised the committee that they could get a LM10 form from An Garda Siochana which would help in this regard. He said the next issue of the Library Gazette was being prepared. He asked members of the committee to give a contribution of 20 to 30 euros to help with expenses of publishing the Gazette.

### April

It was with great relief A/Gov Jean Carey advised the committee that all leaks from roof had been fixed and that a new fire alarm system was under installation and that training was being provided to staff. A/Gov Carey informed the meeting that the Positive Sentence Management Programme under the auspices of the IPS had now gone live and was being practised in all prisons throughout the country. Many outside agencies have come on board (AA, NA, Samaritans etc). The main aim of the Education Dept was placing emphasis on literacy within the prison system. The Chairman Mrs Keneally advised the meeting that she had attended a meeting of the Chairpersons Group in Portlaoise on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Mr Richard Brennan and Mr Charles O'Malley's terms of office expires next month. The Chairman thanked them both for their contribution to the committee.

### May

The committee visited Castlereagh Prison on 13<sup>th</sup> May. It was very informative and the committee were very impressed with the intensive recycling system in operation. The Chairman thanked the Chairman of Castlereagh for his kindness shown to committee.

### June / July

Mr Coade advised us that the Library and Book Club had invited Martin Devlin author of Titanic to address their next meeting. He added that presentation of musical awards by Tutors would take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> June and the Art Exhibition would coincide.

### August

In August we again had no Clerk and the Chairman asked Mrs Foster to take the minutes. We had a report that three shops were open however a tutor was resigning and not being replaced. Out of 123 urine samples taken there were only 2 prisoners positive. The Chairman and committee were very impressed with this outcome. The Chairman issued an invitation to Mr Willie Conlon from IPS to attend the meeting.



In September the A/Gov Willie Conlon gave a detailed report. He covered the Positive Sentence Management Scheme which is in operation in the Training Unit. 93% of prisoners in the Training Unit were participants. He advised the committee that 3 prisoners were to be electronically tagged on a trial basis. The Chairman Mrs Keneally informed the meeting that the Chairpersons of all visiting committees were to meet the Minister Dermot Ahern on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and invited members for submissions of any concerns they wanted raised with Minister.

### October

We had another issue with the non availability of the Clerk to the Committee. Chief Officer O'Meara agreed to take the minutes. The situation deteriorated when it was found that there were no minutes available of the last meeting in September but would be posted to members shortly and that the A/Gov Jena Carey had no report to give to the committee as she was unaware of the meeting. She advised the committee that the remedial work to the roof was taking place.

Tom Twomey donated some DVDs to the library. Mr Coade advised the meeting that noted author Mr John Connolly had visited the Library Club, and it was a great success and thoroughly enjoyable. The Chairman advised that she had attended the Chairmans meeting in Wheatfield Prison. Prison Building Projects and staffing levels were high on the agenda.

### November

Another important search took place in the Training Unit. 5 mobiles and 6 symofones were found. A/Gov Carey also reported that 21 cells were now doubles. Mr Coade reported that the Unit Gazette for Halloween was a great success and he added that the recent visit of Mr John Connolly was very well received and that he hoped to get other authors to visit. A/Gov Jean Carey gave a brief rundown on the tagging of prisoners which was initiated on a trial basis. 39 offenders were being tagged over a 4/5 week period. She said she would report to the committee on the success rate.

### December

Due to the dreadful inclement weather conditions the meeting was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. A/Gov Carey reported that there were 117 offenders in custody. A total of 186 urine samples were analysed. 10 offenders were transferred to Mountjoy and 3 to St Pats having tested positive for drugs. 2 offenders were transferred to Cork Prison and 2 to Wheatfield for operational reasons. The Chairman and committee expressed concern re high numbers testing positive. A Training Unit Gazette was published by prisoners for Christmas and Mr Coade welcomed back A/Gov Willie Conlon after his recent serious illness. The Chairman concluded the meeting advising that the AGM would take place next month and wishing everyone a happy Christmas.

Deirdre Keneally  
DEIRDRE KENEALLY - Chair

Donal Doran  
DONAL DORAN.

Maureen Coade  
Maureen Coade

Geraldine Foster  
Geraldine Foster.

Tom Twomey  
Tom Twomey.

Christopher Faupkner  
CHRISTOPHER FAUPKNER

Thomas Hericity  
Thomas Hericity.