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April 2021

Annual Report 2020

The Minister for Justice

To

## **Mountjoy Prison Visiting Committee Annual Report 2020**

### **Chapter 1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Members of Mountjoy Visiting Committee are pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report to the Minister for Justice in keeping with the statutory function under the Prison (Visiting Committees) Act.1925.
- 1.2 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on societies all over the world. The isolation and restrictions for citizens have been extensive and a struggle for many but perhaps none more so than for those behind prison walls, men and women separated from family and largely living in increased isolation, anxious about their own health and the health and safety of their families.
- 1.3 It is to the great credit of prisoners and of staff working in the Irish prison service that until the last quarter of the year Mountjoy remained virus free. The very low numbers of COVID-19 positive presenting have been contained with great skill and professionalism. The infection control team has been thorough and effective. The cooperation and hard work of staff needs to be fully acknowledged and the Visiting Committee wishes to pay tribute to them and to the Governor and management.
- 1.4 When challenged in 2020 by the pandemic the Irish Prison Service showed flexibility and innovation in addressing the safety needs of those serving a custodial sentence. Numbers of prisoners in custody were promptly reduced and prisoners were released to the community. Prior to the pandemic one of the aims of the IPS was to address the issue of the number of prisoners who might benefit from structured community based alternative programmes with an emphasis on training and rehabilitation. This flexibility is to be welcomed.
- 1.5 Prior to the pandemic and early in 2020 there had been a steady increase in the number of prisoners and the arranging of visits by phone and increasingly limited visiting times were reported to be a concern.
- 1.6 The level of direct communication with prisoners in their cell via the Newsletter, sharing information about risk, preventive steps and general sharing of information contributed to virus containment. The role of the Red Cross in this process with Red Cross trained prisoners, liaising with management is reported to have been much valued by both prisoners and management.

- 1.7 The plan to make video calls available facilitating direct communication between prisoners and families had been recommended in previous Visiting Committee Annual Reports. The setting up of video telephone calls in Mountjoy, in spite of a rather slow roll out, was welcome and the Committee recommends that this facility be further developed. Other positive prisoner focused developments included, facilitating money transfer, increased access to TV and creative strategies of user-friendly communication in the IPS Newsletter.
- 1.8 Notwithstanding the efforts of staff, for many months the experience for the prisoner during 2020 was likely to have been very bleak indeed. They were locked in cells for many hours, had for many months no direct family visits, limited access to education, to workshops or other rehabilitative activities and medical, psychological and counselling were inevitably limited to video consultation in the main.
- 1.9 The carrying out of the remit as defined in legislation to visit the prison and report to the Minister for Justice any concerns presented a dilemma for members of the Visiting Committee. How to maintain a focus on prisoners' rights and welfare, identify vulnerable prisoners, clarify procedures in prisoners and staff interests and maintain practice in keeping with NPHET guidelines. Officials of the Department of Justice and the Director General of the IPS liaised with Visiting Committees via the National Prison Visiting Committee Chairpersons Group regarding, plans, policy and practice in the early stages of pandemic. The question remains of how best to carry out monitoring in a pandemic? Are procedures sufficient to ensure prisoners are not exposed to risk of infection? Are procedures transparent and accountable? Are preventative measures and supports for staff adequate? Is there an equivalence of care with those in the community? Are prisoners kept informed of preventative measures, access to help lines and support services?
- 1.10 The Visiting Committee in Mountjoy established a protocol with the Governor by which their duties and responsibilities were carried out on an ongoing basis throughout 2020 generally remotely in the context of the pandemic.
  - A request was made on a number of occasions that a written message from the Committee
    would be distributed to cells of all prisoners in all areas of the prison advising of the
    availability of members to take phone calls from prisoners who wished to consult the Visiting
    Committee.
  - Regular phone contact was made with the Governor and his office. Information was sought
    regarding issues including, infection control measures, daily contact with prisoners in
    particular those in isolation in a special unit, setting up numbers of video calls with families,
    availability of medical, psychological, counselling services and education. Clarification of

- provision for safe care and support of staff was discussed as well as sharing of dilemmas and concerns managing a prison and ensuring care with dignity and respect in a pandemic.
- Five prisoners had phone consultations and one prisoner was seen in person with Committee members and issues of concern were reported to and followed up by Governors and staff.
- 1.11 Governors were responsive to Committee queries and shared information including, testing and tracing, reduction in prisoner numbers, facilitation of transfer of money, the entry of illegal substances and use of drugs, low development of video calls due to technical difficulties, video consultations by appointment with mental health and psychological services. The development of education by zoom and a programme of sleep and mindfulness therapy facilitated by the department of psychology were among the services and activities reported to be welcomed by prisoners.
- 1.12 The Visiting Committee was advised that the IPS developed an information Newsletter that was delivered to each prisoners in his cell by the Red Cross on a weekly basis. It was reported during the year that members of the Red Cross played a vital role in the flow of communication which was greatly valued by prisoners and staff.
- 1.13 A particular concern was the isolation of prisoners when all family visits were stopped in order to ensure that the prison remained virus free. The increased risk to the mental health of prisoners, isolated in cells, with loss of contact with family cannot be overstated. The Visiting Committee would urge that a plan is established to seek pathways to meet the needs of vulnerable prisoners in this context.
- 1.14 The Visiting Committee notes that the basement in the Progression Unit had been adapted in a timely fashion to accommodate a new intake prisoners for whom quarantine was indicated. This indicates flexibility in the service which, it is hoped, could be carried forward to the development of a step-down facility with a focus on rehabilitation and preparation for transition back to the community in keeping with the original aims of the Progression Unit Independent Living Skills Unit.
- 1.15 The Committee have noted the concerns expressed by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) in their 2020 Report. A number of the concerns highlighted by the CPT have in previous years been reported on by the Mountjoy Visiting Committee such as the complaints procedure and long hours in isolation in cells. The care of prisoners held in custody who are segregated from all others, needs monitoring, review and consideration of how best their health and welfare can be safeguarded in the context of single cell isolation. Prisoners held in special units, Challenging Behaviour, High Support, or Detoxification Unit have raised concerns about isolation, lack of therapy and educational input. Further training both, to prevent staff burn out and to assist vulnerable prisoners held in isolation, by providing structured programme, and supportive communication needs urgent consideration.

- 1.16. The Visiting Committee welcomes the development of a new prisoner complaints system. In 2010 Inspector of Prisons, Judge Michael Reilly recommended that training should be implemented for all levels of staff on handling complaint procedures. Over recent years the Committee noted that some staff reported that they were not familiar with how the complaint system worked. The CPT in their 2020 published report identified significant concerns regarding the IPS complaints procedures.
- 1.17 The Visiting Committee welcomes the development of a new prisoner complaints system. However, members of the Committee were concerned at the end of 2020 that CCTV footage did not appear to be available to review a complaint by a prisoner.
- 1.18 The mental and physical health needs of prisoners are complex and this has been highlighted in national and international research. Many of the prisoners in Mountjoy have come from a background of intergenerational deprivation, neglect and poor health. The medical and nursing team with are under increasing pressure with the increasing numbers of prisoners in custody.
- 1.19 The Visiting Committee has been concerned about the gradually increasing number of men who are sentenced to prison in the absence of appropriate community based mental health and services for homeless people.
- 1.20 The mental and physical health needs of prisoners are complex and this has been highlighted in national and international research. Prisoners diagnosed with a severe and enduring mental illness in need of a place in a secure specialised forensic treatment unit are on occasion kept in prison on a waiting list without the appropriate specialised treatment and clinical care. Prison staff who provide secure care, however, do not have the clinical training or skills to meet the needs of this cohort of prisoners who are ill. Further beds are required in a secure specialised forensic psychiatric setting to meet the needs of prisoners needing treatment. The in-reach specialised team from the Central Mental Hospital require greater resources to address the mental health needs of the population of Mountjoy up to 26% of whom are likely to need treatment for mental health or substance abuse issues. A study on infectious diseases among Mountjoy prisoners published in 2020 observed that over 20% tested positive for Hepatitis C.
- 1.21 The increased use of illegal substances in society is mirrored in the prison. Families, communities, staff and individual prisoners may be targeted to take part in the supply, distribution or use of drugs. Support and protection of vulnerable groups inside the prison and in the community requires further development.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Mountjoy and Dóchas had the highest proportions of prisoners on opiate substitution among ten prison 2020-2021. P.Q to Minister for Justice, No.1266, 24.3.2021.

# Prisoners Concerns by phone and visit

Prisoners met in person 33	
Prisoners spoken to on the phone 3	
Issues of concern	
Clothes and personal belongings missing	2
Transfer within prison	2
No answer to a complaint	1
• Post issues	1
Lack of rehabilitation	1
• Limited operation of the laundry in the PU.	1
• Prisoner's family experiencing difficulty visiting due to distance	of travel. 1
• Prisoner experiencing antagonism from other prisoners.	1
Absence of a release plan near end of sentence	1
Prisoners concerns in HSU and MSU	
Delays in the commencement of rehab courses in the MSU	1
Lack of education	5
Lack of workshop activity	5
Insufficient access to detoxification treatment	5

### **Chapter 3 Prisoner Family Relations**

- 3.1 Separation from loved ones is one of the most painful experiences of imprisonment. The preservation of family relationships and meaningful outside contacts, maintaining interactions with family members can contribute to a more settled safe environment in prison and contribute to reducing re-offending and assist re-settlement in communities. for prisoners. Prisoners have a statutory right to visits and to postal services while serving a sentence. Visits, letters and phone calls assist in maintaining support.
- **3.**2 Prison life can have a significant impact on the lives of family members financial, emotional and health problems may increase when a family member is imprisoned. Family networks are valued by prisoners. Many prisoners may have difficult family backgrounds. Family relationships may already be fractured due to drug abuse, addiction, mental illness and some prisoners may have grown up in care, poverty, or with a family member convicted of a criminal offence. Visits aim to support prisoners' relationships with partners and children.

#### Recommendation

- The Committee recommends an increase in the daily timetable allocated to visits.
- The Committee recommends that consideration be given to evening visits to reconcile school and family life for children.

### **Visiting**

- 3.3 The Prison Rules 2007 (S.35) provides for visits to prisons in Ireland. The Governor has the discretion to allow for additional or longer visits where circumstances permit. The Governor may also prohibit a prisoner from receiving visits from certain persons. In this instance, the Governor must provide a reason on why the prohibition has been decided upon [Prison Rules (Amendment) 2013].
- 3.4 More positively the COVID restrictions paved the way for the introduction of new initiatives such as video-linked family visits. This is a programme that had been suggested by the Visiting Committee in our 2019 Annual Report. It is a different and welcome approach to maintaining family connections and worthy of extension over time.
- 3.5 For matters of security, the Irish Prison Service only allows visits to take place which have been booked in advance by persons listed in advance by the prisoner. Difficulties gaining access to advance booking procedures for a visit has been an issue a concern for the Visiting Committee.

#### **Visitors Centre**

- 3.6 Staff from the Visitor Centres report that their services have developed and their hospitality service now provides refreshments to family members and friends, both before and after their visit.
- 3.7 In Mountjoy, it is noted that there was a reduction of one part-time staff project worker during 2020. Resulting from Covid-19 restrictions the number of visitors to the centre decreased considerably in 2020. Visitor numbers are only available for January, February and a three-week period in March. Given sporadic closures, visiting restrictions and video-link visits it was not possible for prison staff to supply the centre with real-time numbers.

The numbers of booked visits have risen between 2019 and 2020 over a three-month period.

Table 1 Visitors to Mountjoy Prison 2020

Month	Booked Visits 2020	Booked Visits 2019	Average No. of Persons per Visit	Total No. of Visitors
January	2,365	2,093	3	7,095
February	2,428	2,214	3	7,284
March (3 weeks)	1,753	2,267	2	3,506 (3 weeks)
March est. 4 weeks	2,337			. , ,
				17,885

Source: Mountjoy visitors centre 2021 and Mountjoy Visiting Committee

- 3.8 The main visitor issues reported by staff at the Visitors Centre to members of the Visiting Committee were:
- Difficulty in booking visits, including video-link visits. Many visitors advised the centre that, in some cases, it took nearly a month to book a video-link visit.
- Many visitors had difficulty in accessing video-link visits as they did not have the correct software on the phones or laptops.
- It was reported that telephone calls from prisoners to their families were hit and miss, especially towards the end of 2020 as prisoners were put on complete lockdown to stem the spread of Covid-19.
- When visiting restrictions were lifted many visitors advised the Visitor Centre that they had
  not seen their loved ones, either physically or through video-link, since their last physical
  visit, which in some cases was 4 months. This seemed to affect the older generation more
  than the younger visitors.

• The majority of visitors stated that they miss their physical visits and feel very cut off from their loved ones in prison. Many also commented on the fact that they feel very much alone as they no longer have access to the supports provided in the Visitors Centre.

### **Technology Assisted Family Support:**

3.9 The video-link system, even allowing for some difficulties in Mountjoy, was a step forward in the use of technology in facilitating family contacts.

#### Recommendation

The Visiting Committee would recommend this technological progress continues with the introduction of a video message service such as Skype, outlined in a previous Annual Reports in 2019.

#### **Post**

3.10 In the light of visiting restrictions in 2020 and the rising demand for visits, it is necessary in the interests of prisoner welfare to keep prisoners mail moving steadily. With an Post delivering letters within 1-2 days of posting, letters to prisoners should be available within a week.

### **Integrated Sentence Management (ISM)**

- 4.1 In previous reports the Committee has noted the key role, which the Integrated Management System (ISM) should have in enabling the prisoner to use his period in prison constructively. The IPS has implemented the System through the appointment of dedicated ISM Coordinators who conduct a First Contact Assessment at the Committal stage and in conjunction with other disciplines, try to ensure that the prisoner returns to life outside prison in circumstances that make him less prone to reoffending.
- 4.2 The effective number of staff dedicated to the ISM function between the main Mountjoy Prison and the Progression Unit (PU) during 2020 was one member. This was reduced from a previous staffing level, which hovered between two and four members serving the entire Mountjoy Campus, including the Dóchas Centre. As a result of the reduced staffing, First Contact Assessments were largely, not completed during the year. Normally this assessment would form the basis for drawing up a Personal Integration Plan (PIP), which guides the selection of activities such as education or work appropriate to the individual needs of the prisoner.
- 4.3 However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many prison activities could not proceed as normal and even if the prisoner's needs were identified at the committal stage in a PIP, many services including workshops, schools and drugs rehabilitation courses were unavailable or carried out in a limited way. Other elements of sentence management such as multidisciplinary sentence review meetings did take place with the help of an IT meeting platform. These sentence reviews are particularly important nearing the end of a sentence in ensuring that the prisoner is catered for in terms of accommodation and welfare as well as providing a roadmap for continued rehabilitation. A detailed record of all aspects of how a prisoner served his sentence is vital to informing review meetings.
- 4.4 A new large-scale study of prisoners was undertaken by the CSO and published in 2020. It showed that the most recent activity in May 2019 for one-in-ten (11.7%) offenders was substantial employment while for just over two-in-ten (22.7%) it was education and training. This means that 65 per cent of prisoners were neither in substantial employment, education or training.<sup>2</sup>
- 4.5 The absence of an adequate number of ISM coordinators is a serious obstacle to moving towards a rehabilitative emphasis on time spent in prison. There is an urgent need to identify the level of staffing for the ISM function that would meet the requirements of the Mountjoy Campus. In previous reports the Committee have suggested that greater involvement of class officers and staff on landings

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Central Statistics Office (2020) Offenders 2016: Employment, Education and other Outcomes, 2016-2019

in the ISM process would relieve demands on ISM Coordinators and facilitate greater awareness among prisoners of their progress relative to their PIP. In this respect each prisoner should have a copy of his PIP in his cell.

4.6 Prisoners who apply for activities such as education, training or work, but are denied the opportunity of participating because of circumstances not of their making such as shortage of facilities or security consideration, should have such applications taken into consideration when undergoing sentence review.

#### **Recommendations:**

- A high priority should be given to raising the numbers of dedicated ISM Coordinators to a sufficient level to meet the requirements of the Mountjoy Prison Campus.
- Staff on landings should be directly involved in the ISM process.
- Prisoners should have a copy of their PIP available to them in their cells.
- Prisoners who apply for activities but are denied the opportunity of participating because of
  circumstances not of their making such as shortage of facilities or security consideration,
  should have such applications taken into consideration when undergoing sentence review.

### Restricted Regime, Remand and Parole

Numbers of prisoners

5.1 The number of prisoners in custody in Mountjoy increased slightly from 695 in January 2020 to 710 prisoners in December 2020. The proportion on a restricted regime rose from 35 per cent to 38 per cent of all in custody. In contrast, the numbers on temporary release increased from 85 prisoners in January 2020 to 117 in April and were 44 by December 2020.

Table 2

Restricted Regime and Cell lock-up hours of prisoners 2020 Mountjoy

	23 hours	22 hours	21 hours	20 hours	19 hours	Total	Total as % of
	a day		those in custody*				
Jan	2	34	132	51	24	243	35%
April	0	14	201	0	25	240	37%
July	0	31	186	0	23	240	37%
Oct	0	107	93	18	24	242	38%

Source: Irish Prison Service, Extracted from Census of Restricted Regimes 2020 and Census 2020

5.2 As we have noted in our previous reports, the scale of numbers of prisoners 'on protection' is extremely problematic for the prisoners themselves and for the Governor, officers and staff of Mountjoy. This is an issue imported into the prison from the community. The Visiting Committee is aware that a number of different approaches have been implemented to address the situation over recent years. Access to phone calls, video visits and prompt mail distribution are of particular importance for 'protection regime' prisoners.

#### Remand

5.3 The numbers of remand prisoners committed to Mountjoy rose steadily over the year 2020 notwithstanding the Covid-19 epidemic. The numbers rose in the opening days of the month from 27 prisoners in January 2020, to 62 in May and stood at 44 by December 2020. These are numbers over which the Governor has no control and may be partly due to greater Garda efficacy, judicial reluctance to grant bail, accused person's inability to put forward a monetary bail, prisoner's legal

<sup>\*</sup>Data on prisoners segregated under Prison Rule 103 due to Covid-19 may be inconsistent between reporting periods in 2020 and may not be comparable with 2019.

<sup>\*</sup> Measured from first Thursday of each reporting period. The number of prisoners in restrictive lockup may also be due to segregation and quarantine due to COVID-19 preventative measures.

representative not seeking bail, absence of places in a remand prison, bail requiring an application to High Court or other factors. Remand prisoners have not asked to be separated from the main body of prisoners. They are however entitled to separation and separate treatment, which they do obtain usually in terms of visits.

#### Recommendations

- Groups of prisoners on 'protection' could be offered increased activities out-of-cell when such activities resume.
- Steps to explore the issues which would arise in the separation of remand and sentenced prisoners should be explored in conformity with the Mandela Rules standard.

### Parole changes - implications for overcrowding

5.4 The Parole Board in its present form will be abolished and replaced under the Parole Act, 2020 which may be operational in July 2021. Under the proposed new parole rules, life sentenced and other determinate sentence prisoners would have to serve 12 years before having eligibility to apply for parole, rather than 7 years at present.<sup>3</sup> This additional five years might 'accumulate' more prisoners inside prisons and could be a factor in medium-term overcrowding. Many prisoners (8 out of 10) awaiting parole, have to wait six months or longer after their review date to be provided with a hearing. Data on paroled prisoners is not provided in the public domain for individual prisons.

5.5 A factor taken into account in the granting of parole or sentence remission is the prisoner's engagement with rehabilitative services inside the prison. If the prisoner is not provided with sufficient opportunities to attend, for example, a therapeutic service, attend an anger management class, go to school or workshop, he cannot demonstrate his rehabilitation pathway and is impeded in offering a favourable profile of himself.

5.6 In Mountjoy therapeutic, educational and workshop activities for prisoners were reduced during the 2020-21 COVID-19 lockdown from March 2020. Prior to March 2020 many workshops had to remain closed due to staffing. There were waiting lists for therapeutic services. For the one in three prisoners in segregation, they have no direct access to the library and have partial educational provision. In these circumstances the volume of services provided or available in a prison like Mountjoy can impact on the capacity of a prisoner to present a positive rehabilitative profile of himself during his time in prison.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Parole Act. 2020. Sec 24(1) (a).

Loss, erosion, or destruction of CCTV footage

- 6.1 The Mountjoy Prison Visiting Committee have concerns surrounding the loss, erosion and or the destruction of CCTV evidence after 30 days, pertinent to a complaint made by prisoners, or their visitors, following alleged assault or assaults on the prisoner or prisoners by another prisoner or a prison officer(s).
- 6.2 The Supreme Court in a 2001 judgement, Braddish v. DPP and Haugh, overturned a High Court decision and commented on the important requirement to maintain CCTV footage.

"It is the duty of the Gardai arising from their unique investigative role, to seek out and preserve all evidence having a bearing or potential bearing on the issue of guilt or innocence. This is so whether the prosecution proposes to rely on the evidence or not, and regardless of whether it assists the case the prosecution is advancing or not".

- 6.3 The 2013 amendment to the Prison Rules mentions CCTV and the need to preserve it where it is alleged that a crime may have been committed:
  - 2) The Governor shall, on being notified of such a complaint—
  - (a) arrange for any relevant evidence, including CCTV recordings, to be preserved as long as they may be required for any investigation by the Garda Síochána, or any criminal proceedings,<sup>4</sup>
- 6.4 CCTV footage, following a complaint by a prisoner against a prison officer we are told, is generally held for a period of 30 days, following the incident, where the storage system within the CCTV storage bank, apparently erases/overwrites the video evidence of the interaction between the prisoner and the prison officer. We understand that a more modern system is available since 2018-2019.<sup>5</sup>

#### Recommendation

We propose that the 30-day limit for the retention of CCTV footage should be extended.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> S.I. No. 11/2013 - Prison Rules (Amendment) 2013. Addition to Rule 57.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> IPS Twitter, April 2021.

### **Chapter 7 Recommendations**

### Visiting

The Committee proposes an increase in the daily hours allocated to visits.

The Visiting Committee that technological progress continues with the introduction of a video message service / visiting service

The Committee proposes consideration be given to evening visits to reconcile school and family life for children.

#### ISM

A high priority should be given to raising the numbers of dedicated and permanent ISM Coordinators to a level sufficient to meet the requirements of the Mountjoy Prison Campus.

Prisoners should have a copy of their PIP available to them in their cells.

Staff on landings to follow through with prisoner care plan developed by ISM

### Complaints

The new complaints procedures urgently need to be implemented along with staff training.

We consider that the 30-day retention practice for CCTV should be extended.

### Mental Health

In order to prevent serious deterioration in the psychological wellbeing of vulnerable prisoners, services need to be developed with greater emphasis on rehabilitation and occupational training particularly for those who have been isolated throughout the pandemic.

The lack of adequate beds in a secure specialised forensic psychiatric setting to meet the needs of prisoners with a diagnosis of severe mental illness needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Greater support and resources are needed for the in-reach specialised team from the Central Mental Hospital and the prison psychological services.

In the High Support Unit, the facilities, including, education, occupational activities and recreation, need urgent review and development.

The care of prisoners held in custody who are segregated from all others needs monitoring and review of how best their health and welfare can be safeguarded in the context of single cell isolation.

#### Rehabilitation

Prisoners who apply for activities such as education, training or work, but are denied the opportunity of participating because of circumstances not of their making such as shortage of facilities or security consideration, should have such applications taken into consideration when undergoing sentence review.

In the Progression Unit greater emphasis is needed to develop step-down facilities with a focus on reintegration and transition back to the community.

The practice of closing workshops due to resourcing difficulties needs to be addressed as a priority.

### Physical Health

A review of staffing resources in the health and drug counselling services is recommended to enable a greater focus on infectious disease and substance abuse treatment. The adequacy of one nurse on duty at night for the entire Mountjoy campus needs to be reviewed.

A review of resources in the health services is recommended to enable a greater focus on the treatment of infectious diseases such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and substance abuse treatment.

### • 'Protection' regime

The Committee proposes that groups of prisoners on 'protection' could be offered increased activities out-of-cell when such activities resume.

#### Remand Prisoners

The Committee proposes that steps to explore the issues which would arise in the separation of remand and sentenced prisoners should be explored in conformity with the Mandela Rules standard.

#### Substance abuse

The Visiting Committee during 2020 remains concerned about the reports of continued supply of drugs and abuse within the prison notwithstanding the restrictions of the pandemic. Greater levels of interagency cooperation externally and increased vigilance internally would seem to be indicated.

Appendix 1

Mountjoy Visiting Committee Meetings 2020

Dates of Attendance 2020	Location
January 7	Mountjoy
January 13	Annual Report writing
February 4	Mountjoy Visiting Committee AGM
March 3	Mountjoy
March 30	Mountjoy Annual Report writing
May 5	Group Call
June 24	Mountjoy Egan Building
July 29	Mountjoy Egan Building
August 26	Zoom
September 22	Zoom
September 29	Zoom
October 27	Zoom
November 30	Zoom
December 21	Zoom

## Dates of Communications with prisoners 2020

11 Jan

28 Jan

19 Feb

13 March

10 October

22 October

04 November

14 December