

**To The Tanaiste and the Minister for Justice and Law Reform
Ms Frances Fitzgerald T.D.**

Annual Report-Training Unit –Year 2016

We The Training Unit Visiting Committee wish to submit our Annual Report for 2016; a total of 12 meetings were held.

The first meeting of 2016 was held on the 4th January with a compliment of 2 Visiting Committee members in attendance Pat Holton in Chair and Anne Confrey, leaving the Visiting Committee short of 4 members

The V.C. members extended their gratitude and a big thank you to the Governors, ACOs, all staff and service providers for their courtesy and assistance throughout 2016.

JANUARY 2016

As Mountjoy has many connections with 1916, events of remembrance and commemorations were held. These are mentioned later on in our report. Pat Holton was reappointed to the Visiting Committee on the 18th January and continues in the position as chairman. Mr Billy Ireland was appointed to the V.C. at the end of January 2016. The V.C attended a Training Day at Stack House Portlaoise.

FEBRUARY 2016

At the February meeting our new member Mr.Billy Ireland was welcomed to the Training Unit bringing the V.C. membership to 3. The prison is spic and span with work in progress cleaning up the toilets and building new showers by a contract company. The vegetable glasshouse tunnel is a great asset to the prisoners who are doing the Q.Q.I horticultural course. The Metal Workshop is closed awaiting a new manager since Brian retired. This workshop is sadly missed by the inmates as the quality of work done here was superb. The Picture Framing is performing to very high standards with many of the inmates are seeking to work there. About 50% of the inmates are out daily on various courses and work experience. City and Guild certificates were awarded to the inmates in the Cleaning Department. Chief O'Connell is working with H.Q.and the school about enabling college goers to access laptops for course work while in the Training Unit.

MARCH 2016

The population of the Training Unit is 96 with 45 out plus 55 inside doing picture framing, music and education. 84 urine samples were analysed. Very few complaints from the inmates during the year...perhaps it is because they are meeting the same VCs month after month.

APRIL 2016

The Training Unit's plans for the 1916 commemoration were in full swing during April ending with a marvellous exhibition in the Training Unit which was visited by many people both inside the Campus and outside. It was held on Thursday 28th April from 10am to 6pm. One painting to note was that of the Humphrey Window painted by three inmates.

MAY 2016

The prison was quiet during the month of May

JUNE 2016

On 6th June a Commemorative Exhibition of Art & Sculpture themed the 1916 Rising by inmates of all the prisons in Ireland was opened by President Michael D. Higgins in the Church of Mountjoy West Old Women's Prison which has this beautiful window donated in 1939 by Nell Humphreys where she was a prisoner in 1916

JULY 2016

Nothing to report as the prison was very quiet.

AUGUST 2016

Most of the prisoners were tidying up the Training Unit
Rumour of the unit's closure was mentioned by both inmates and staff

SEPTEMBER 2016

Two Prisoners who had heart and lung problems passed away. May they Rest in Peace.

OCTOBER 2016

The STEPS Programme is nearing completion.
ISM Flanagan is looking after P.I.M.S. which is a brilliant system for monitoring the prisoners' advancements in various tasks and awards.

NOVEMBER 2016

The library is well stocked with books and is well supported by the inmates.
The Men's Health Class is up and running.
The soccer team is going well with one of the prisoners attaining his Coaching Badge which qualifies him to give instruction to the team.

DECEMBER 2016

On Thursday 8th December the population of the Training Unit is 90 offenders in custody.

3 in PACE, 8 in Thornton Hall, 6 Mountjoy Campus, 3 attending College/Courses, 7 Work/Training, 12 transfers out of the Training Unit and 10 transfers to the Training Unit.

The prisoner population in the Training Unit appears to have dropped considerably. The teachers have excellent results and they would be willing to take more prisoners into their classes.

However, there appears to be a scarcity of staff within the prison officers' grade with many retirees and promotions.

Regretfully our outside visit to Cork prison did not take place due to all the changes with Governors and staff.

Patrick J. Holton

Signed-----

Chairperson

Billy Ireland

Members-----
