

**A report by the Inspector of Prisons
Judge Michael Reilly into the circumstances
surrounding the death of Prisoner A
on 30 January 2015 while on Temporary
Release from Wheatfield Prison**

***Please note that names have been removed to anonymise this Report**

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**A report by the Inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly
into the circumstances surrounding the death of Prisoner A
on 30 January 2015 while on Temporary Release from
Wheatfield Prison**

Presented to the Minister for Justice and Equality pursuant to Part 5 of the
Prisons Act 2007

Judge Michael Reilly
Inspector of Prisons
23 March 2015

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Preface

The deceased was a 34 year old single man from the Dublin area.

He is survived by his parents, his three children and his two sisters.

During the course of my investigation I met the deceased's mother to enquire as to whether she or the family had any issues that they wished me to investigate. His mother stated that neither she nor the family had any issues that were troubling them. She said that she wished me to refer to her son's care in prison in my report. I address this in paragraph 21.

I wish to offer my condolences to all members of the deceased's family on their sad loss.

I would like to point out that names have been removed from this report to ensure anonymity.

Judge Michael Reilly
Inspector of Prisons

23 March 2015

Inspector of Prisons Investigation Report

Background information

1. The deceased was a 34 year old single man at the date of his death. He came from the Dublin area.
2. He is survived by his mother and father, three children and his two sisters.
3. The deceased was committed to Wheatfield Prison on 5 November 2013. His release date was to be 5 February 2015.
4. The deceased was granted weekly reviewable temporary release on 15 December 2014.
5. He died in his house on 30 January 2015.

Reasons for granting temporary release

6. The prison authorities confirmed that the deceased presented as a very quiet and sensitive individual. He was not considered vulnerable and was not on "*special obs*". He worked as a cleaner in the school.
7. The deceased had no particular medical needs and was not on medication prior to his release.
8. While in prison the deceased engaged with the Merchants Quay drug counselling service and completed relapse prevention and advanced relapse prevention programmes. He also attended in excess of 20 one to one sessions with a counsellor. He completed an overdose prevention workshop programme in July 2014.
9. The deceased achieved numbers of commendations as evidenced by certificates awarded to him in a number of disciplines. He endeavoured to

increase his literacy skills by engaging in one to one literacy classes in the prison school.

10. The deceased was nominated as the prisoners' spokesperson on a steering group operated under the aegis of the education centre in the prison.
11. He telephoned his mother every day and spoke to her and his children.
12. On 17 November 2014 the deceased's case was reviewed to ascertain if he should be granted temporary release. The review meeting was attended by representatives from Prison Management, Probation, Education, Psychology, Healthcare, Merchants Quay, IPS, the Industrial Manager, the TEO and the ISM Officers.
13. In addition to the positive aspects detailed in paragraphs 6 to 11 the following matters were also taken into consideration at the meeting referred to in paragraph 12:-
 - He was well behaved and well regarded by prison staff and fellow prisoners.
 - He had a permanent place of residence – his parent's home and they were happy to have him home.
 - His wish to get home to his family as Christmas was approaching.
 - He had an offer of employment.
 - The evidence available to the prison authorities was that he was drug free.
 - He had two previous periods of temporary release in 2005/2006 and in 2010/2011 and in both cases had completed same without any negative reports.

It was the general view of the meeting that the deceased was a good candidate for temporary release.

14. The deceased was released from Wheatfield Prison on weekly renewable temporary release on 15 December 2014. His release was subject to conditions which included, *inter alia*:-
- That he report to his local Garda Station daily.
 - That he reside at a designated residence being that of his parents.
 - That he report to Wheatfield Prison weekly.
15. The deceased abided by all the terms of his temporary release. There were no negative reports.
16. The deceased died at his home on 30 January 2015 from a suspected drug overdose.

Findings

17. The deceased took active steps while in prison to better himself and to address his drug addiction.
18. The decision to release the deceased on temporary release was appropriate having regard to the positive reports considered at the review meeting and referred to in this report.
19. The deceased abided by all terms of his temporary release.
20. The suspected cause of the deceased's death was a drug overdose but the actual cause of death is a matter to be determined at the Inquest.

Comment

21. The deceased's mother asked that I would, on her behalf, acknowledge that her son was treated well while in prison and that the prison authorities, the addiction services, the educational services and all who provided help to her son could not have done more. In her words – "*he got more help in prison*".