

Report on an Inspection of Arbour Hill Prison
by the Inspector of Prisons
Judge Michael Reilly

13th December 2011

Office of the Inspector of Prisons
24 Cecil Walk
Kenyon Street
Nenagh
Co. Tipperary

Tel: + 353 67 42210
Fax: + 353 67 42219
E-mail: info@inspectorofprisons.gov.ie
Web: www.inspectorofprisons.gov.ie

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Inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly**

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

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Inspector of Prisons

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Acknowledgement

I received a high level of co-operation from all people involved in my inspection of Arbour Hill Prison. I would like to thank Governor Dowling, Assistant Governor Healy and all prison officers for their constant willingness to assist me in all aspects of my inspection.

I would like, in particular, to thank all the persons that spoke to me and my team including prison staff, prisoners, those that provide services to prisoners and visitors to the prison for their forthright and candid views. I would also like to thank those who are not mentioned in this short acknowledgment and who, in one way or another, assisted me in my inspection.

I am indebted to my small team not only for their attention to office duties but also for their diligence in carrying out inspections sometimes during unsocial hours. They are Ms. Linda Larkin (Office Manager), Ms. Michelle Slattery and Mr. John Byrne. They are a dedicated, interested and cohesive team who worked long hours and for that I thank them.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

- 1.1 Since taking up my position as Inspector of Prisons I have visited Arbour Hill Prison on numerous occasions. These visits were mostly unannounced and took place not alone during the working day but at weekends and at night.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Report is to give an overview of Arbour Hill Prison, to refer to the regimes and services which operate in the prison and to detail the programmes available to prisoners which contribute to their eventual reintegration into society.
- 1.3 The Governor, his management team and those that work in the prison should be complimented on the cleanliness of the prison, the fact that prisoners are engaged in relevant structured activity, that the atmosphere in the prison is that of a settled prison where prisoners and staff feel safe and where relevant programmes are in place which aid the reintegration of prisoners into society on their release. All prison officers that I spoke to or observed in their working environment appeared to be well motivated and interested.
- 1.4 I am satisfied that Arbour Hill Prison is a well run prison.
- 1.5 In Chapter 2, I give an overview of Arbour Hill Prison.
- 1.6 In Chapter 3, I refer to the structured activities available to prisoners in the prison.
- 1.7 In Chapter 4, I set out the programmes available to prisoners which should contribute significantly to their reintegration into society.
- 1.8 In Chapter 5, I detail a number of concerns that need to be borne in mind or addressed.

Chapter 2

Overview of Arbour Hill Prison

- 2.1 Arbour Hill Prison was built in 1787. It initially accommodated military prisoners. It was acquired by the Department of Justice in 1973 and after renovations was carried out it opened as a civilian prison in 1975. It has three wings each with two landings all linked to a central circle.
- 2.2 The prison is a closed medium security committal prison for males aged 17 years and over.

Prisoner Sentence/Age Profile

- 2.3 The sentence profile of prisoners in Arbour Hill Prison differs from other prisons in that the majority of prisoners are serving long sentences. The following was the sentence profile of prisoners in December 2010:-

0 - 2yrs	=	9
3 - 5yrs	=	35
6 - 9yrs	=	32
10 - 14yrs	=	25
15 - 19yrs	=	10
Life	=	43

- 2.4 The age profile is higher than in other prisons with a significant minority aged in excess of 60 years. I have encountered prisoners who suffer from blindness, dementia and an inability to walk without aid. The following was the age profile of prisoners in December 2010:-

Under 21	=	0
21 - 29	=	20
30 - 39	=	37
40 - 49	=	46
50 - 59	=	23

60 - 65	=	17
66 - 69	=	4
70 - 80	=	8

2.5 The majority of prisoners are sex offenders.

2.6 There are no protection prisoners in Arbour Hill Prison.

2.7 Prisoners associate freely with one another.

General Condition of the Prison

2.8 The prison is well maintained. It is well painted and is clean.

2.9 All cells are adequately furnished, are well maintained and are clean.

2.10 All services such as water, sanitation and ventilation are functioning properly.

2.11 Breakages are repaired or equipment is replaced immediately and as necessary.

Reception

2.12 This area is adequate in size for the prison. It was clean on all my visits. Proper records are maintained in the reception area.

Accommodation/Overcrowding

2.13 In my Report titled – “*An examination of duties and obligations owed to prisoners*” dated the 29th July 2010 (hereinafter referred to as my “Duties and Obligations Report”) I set out in Chapter 6 an overview of the cell accommodation in Arbour Hill Prison.

2.14 There are ninety six cells measuring 6.93m², fifteen cells measuring 8.32m² and five cells measuring 14.52m². All cells have in-cell sanitation. There is one Safety Observation Cell.

- 2.15 I set out in paragraph 2.3 of my Duties and Obligations Report that cells should measure at a minimum 7m² for single occupancy, 11m² for double occupancy, 15m² for triple occupancy and 19m² for quadruple occupancy. Based on this criteria the cells measuring 6.93m² and 8.32m² should only be used for single occupancy. While the cells measuring 14.52m² do not quite meet the criteria for triple occupancy I am satisfied, because of the regimes and services that exist in the prison and because prisoners are out of their cells for most of the day, that three prisoners could be accommodated in these cells. Therefore, Arbour Hill Prison should accommodate no more than 131 prisoners.
- 2.16 According to the Irish Prison Service the bed capacity of the prison is 148. All this means is that there are either beds or bunks for 148 prisoners. I have pointed out in many reports that in calculating the bed capacity of prisons the Irish Prison Service should adopt the criteria set out in paragraph 2.15 above. In the case of Arbour Hill Prison the Irish Prison Service should state that the bed capacity is 131.
- 2.17 On 5th December 2011, 148 prisoners were accommodated in Arbour Hill Prison. This represented 113% of bed capacity. On the 5th March 2010, 158 were in the prison which represented 121% of bed capacity. Bed capacity in this context should be 131 as set out in paragraph 2.15 above. The settled nature of the prison and the fact that prisoners are out of their cells for most of the day cannot be taken as an excuse for allowing this overcrowding to continue.

Safety Observation Cell

- 2.18 This cell was clean on all my visits to the prison. This cell is rarely used. The Irish Prison Service are introducing a new record keeping system for Safety Observation Cells which, I am informed, will be in operation as and from the 16th January 2012.

Structured Activities

2.19 These include the school, the library, the workshops, catering, the laundry, the gym, recreational pursuits and other structured activity all of which are more particularly referred to in Chapter 3.

Programmes

2.20 It is evident on any visit to Arbour Hill Prison that numbers of prisoners are engaging in programmes which should contribute significantly to their reintegration into society. I refer to these programmes in greater detail in Chapter 4.

Yards

2.21 The yards were clean on all my visits. The yards are adequate for purpose. Prisoners have adequate access to such yards.

Telephones

2.22 There are adequate numbers of telephones in the prison.

Tuck Shop

2.23 The tuck shop is adequately provisioned and is open at reasonable times.

Redevelopment

2.24 When I was appointed Inspector of Prisons Arbour Hill Prison did not have adequate office space or facilities for many who provide services to prisoners. A number of areas required refurbishment.

2.25 I am pleased to report that a redevelopment of the Old Quarters Building has taken place. This has meant the provision of new office facilities for many persons or organisations that provide services to prisoners, including, psychology, probation, chaplaincy etc.

2.26 I am also pleased to report that work on new offices in the first floor of the stores building has been completed and the Chief's Office and Control Room have been refurbished.

Chapter 3

Structured activities available to prisoners

School

- 3.1 The education centre is staffed by teachers from the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee.
- 3.2 Basic adult education in literacy, numeracy and computer skills is taught.
- 3.3 Junior and Leaving Certificate courses are taught in the following subjects:- English, Maths, History, Design and Communication Graphics, Spanish and CSPE. Other general subjects are also taught.
- 3.4 Prisoners who wish to undertake Open University Courses are facilitated.
- 3.5 FETAC modules in, *inter alia*, Computers, Crafts, English, Irish, Maths, Music, Community Drug Work, Personal Development and work related subjects are taught. The majority of prisoners achieve Level 3 but in certain cases advance to Level 6.
- 3.6 I do not, in this Report, refer to the efficiency or otherwise of the school in Arbour Hill Prison as I am aware that the Irish Prison Service, as a result of recommendations made in paragraph 3.6 of my Duties and Obligations Report, is carrying out an audit of the education provided in all prisons. This statement is not to be taken as either an endorsement or a criticism of the education provided to prisoners in Arbour Hill Prison. In this context I wish to point out that on all occasions I visited Arbour Hill Prison during 'normal school hours' the class rooms appeared to be operating to capacity. All prisoners that I spoke to were complimentary of the school and the teachers.

Library

- 3.7 The library, while small, is well stocked with a wide variety of books. It is a much sought after facility and availed of by a wide number of prisoners.

Print Workshop

- 3.8 The print workshop satisfies the printing requirements of the Irish Prison Service. In addition, it provides printed goods for other state agencies including the Data Protection Commissioner, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the Forensic Laboratory. Several charities and voluntary bodies also avail of the services of the print unit. Two prison officers have completed training with Big Wave Media in Adobe in Design. One of these officers completed a two year course in D.I.T. Bolton St. completing his Diploma in Print and Digital Media Management.
- 3.9 A maximum of 16 prisoners can work in the print workshop at any one time. These prisoners gain accreditation which benefits them on their release when seeking employment.

The Braille Unit

- 3.10 This unit provides transcript services including text to Braille, text to electronic media and Braille to text. It also engages in book binding, service and repair of Braille machines. Prisoners can complete Learn Braille Courses to FETAC Level 5. These courses are run in conjunction with St. Joseph's Centre for the Visually Impaired. The Braille unit has a close working relationship with St. Joseph's School for the Blind in Drumcondra.
- 3.11 A maximum of 16 prisoners can work in the Braille Unit at any one time. These prisoners gain accreditation which benefits them on their release when seeking employment.

Woodwork

- 3.12 The woodwork shop provides furnishings for both Barrettstown House and Durrow Castle. Beds, wardrobes and blanket boxes are designed and constructed to a very high standard for these venues. The personnel (prison officers and prisoners) working in this workshop have refitted the surgery area in Arbour Hill Prison. They have also fitted out approximately one third of the prison cells in the prison with lockers and other furniture. Several projects have been completed on behalf of charitable and non charitable bodies such

as:- the Samaritans, Lusk Community Respite Unit and Castleknock Educate Together. The workshop has also provided furnishings for the Mountjoy Visitors Centre. Links have been formed with, *inter alia*, Dublin City Council and Limerick Environmental Protection Agency to explore whether the workshop can assist in environmental and ecological initiatives. The workshop has and is currently producing hundreds of nesting and bat boxes for installation in public parks and other suitable locations in both Dublin and Limerick.

3.13 A new air extraction system and spraying booth are now fully operational in this workshop.

3.14 A maximum of 16 prisoners can work in the woodwork shop at any one time. These prisoners gain accreditation which benefits them on their release when seeking employment.

Fabric Shop

3.15 The fabric workshop meets the total demands for bed sheets and pillow cases for all prisons. I am informed that this leads to a saving to the Irish Prison Service of between €350,000 and €400,000 per annum. Prisoners are taught a variety of other skills relevant to working with fabrics.

3.16 A maximum of 16 prisoners can work in the fabric shop at any one time. These prisoners gain accreditation which benefits them on their release when seeking employment.

Kitchen

3.17 The kitchen is well appointed with modern equipment. It satisfies the total requirements of the prison. It provides a rolling 28 day menu for prisoners. The kitchen continually achieves awards in excellence. The area is audited by the Irish Prison Service, the Environmental Health Officer and the Excellence Ireland Quality Association (EIQA) and has received national awards for food safety and hygiene. In 2011 Arbour Hill Prison, following an audit by EIQA

was awarded 99% for food handling, storage and the preparation of food items.

- 3.18 A maximum of 16 prisoners can work in the kitchen at any one time. Prisoners take part in numbers of training course including “Foundation and Proficiency” - a new training programme introduced by City and Guilds. They can also train in manual handling and food safety. These courses lead to accreditation which benefits them on their release when seeking employment.

Waste Management

- 3.19 A maximum of 12 prisoners can be gainfully employed in the prison’s waste management process. This has been developed over a number of years to the extent that it has achieved national recognition. An all weather recycling area has now been developed.

Laundry

- 3.20 The laundry is modern and well equipped. It caters for the total needs of the prison and the prisoners.
- 3.21 A maximum of 10 prisoners work in the laundry. A number of these prisoners also act as cleaners in the Reception Area.
- 3.22 The prisoners working in the laundry gain accreditation which benefits them on their release when seeking employment.

Painting

- 3.23 The majority of the painting of the prison is carried out by prisoners working under the supervision of prison staff. This painting is carried out to a high standard. Depending on the time of the year, the need or the size of a painting project approximately 6 to 8 prisoners can be engaged in such painting.
- 3.24 Despite the high painting standard achieved by such prisoners, not alone in Arbour Hill Prison but in all prisons, this excellence is not recognised by any accrediting body.

Cleaning

- 3.25 Two general cleaners are assigned to each landing. Therefore, 12 prisoners are engaged in this work on a full time basis.
- 3.26 Prisoners also clean the staff locker rooms, the staff mess and the prison offices. A maximum of 6 prisoners attend to these duties.

Grounds Maintenance

- 3.27 Depending on security issues approximately 2 prisoners are assigned to the maintenance of the grounds. The grounds and gardens are maintained to a high standard.

Gym/Recreational Hall

- 3.28 Since my appointment as Inspector of Prisons the gym and recreational hall have been refurbished. This refurbishment has been carried out to a high standard.
- 3.29 The gym is well equipped. All prisoners who wish to use these facilities are facilitated.

Visiting

- 3.30 The visiting area is clean. It is fit for purpose.
- 3.31 Elderly prisoners sometimes find it hard to hear their visitors. Consideration should be given to utilising the existing single visiting rooms for such visits.

Chapter 4

Programmes available to prisoners which should contribute significantly to their reintegration into society

- 4.1 A number of programmes which aim to better the lives of prisoners, which address their reasons for offending, which equip them with relevant skills to reduce reoffending and which ease their transition into society are available in Arbour Hill Prison. The programmes set out in this Chapter are the main programmes available in the prison.

Building Better Lives Programme

- 4.2 The Building Better Lives programme (BBL) is a therapeutic programme for men who acknowledge that they have committed a sexual offence and who have a desire to build a better life for themselves. The programme is structured in three modules. It was devised by psychologists within the Irish Prison Service and is based on a world renowned therapeutic approach. The psychology service in the prison is fundamental to the success of this programme. It supports continuing research in a number of key areas in order to ensure that the programme is effective and is informed by best international thinking and practice. It liaises with and is engaged in continued professional development with the Lucy Faithful Foundation, the GEESE Theatre Company and NOTA in the United Kingdom in order to ensure such best therapeutic practice.
- 4.3 The BBL programme helps those prisoners who participate openly and fully in the programme to:-
- Better understand what aspects of their life style, thinking patterns and moods may have contributed to their sexual offending,
 - Develop a positive and realistic plan for their future that identifies specific goals and strengths,
 - Understand how they can prevent future offending, and,
 - Build more trusting open relationships that will support them in the future.

- 4.4 Prisoners who join the programme will form part of a group of men who have committed sexual offences and who want to address their offending behaviour in a positive and productive way. There are certain basic requirements made of these prisoners such as the attendance at all group sessions, the completion of specific aspects of group work after sessions and other requirements which it is not necessary to disclose in this Report.
- 4.5 The structure of the BBL programme involves open rolling groups. Those joining move in and out of these groups at different times as they complete their work which, as I have already stated, is in three modules. This supports new group members in the beginning and allows a continuous flow of applicants.
- 4.6 The first module is entitled Exploring Better Lives. The aim of this group is to help participants to recognise how they can bring about positive change in their lives. This module lasts for approximately two months. Shortly after completing this module participants progress to the next group.
- 4.7 The second module – Practising Better Lives aims to help those participating to develop a better understanding of the factors in their lives that contributed to their offending. This module lasts for approximately six months.
- 4.8 The third module – Maintaining Better Lives provides ongoing support for the participants who are serving long sentences for sexual offences. This module will help prisoners to maintain the benefits they achieved in the previous modules and gives help to link up with community supports. This module lasts for approximately four months. Before joining this last module prisoners should have completed the Practising Better Lives module at least one year prior to beginning this module.
- 4.9 It will be seen that the modules are completed in group form. It is, however, necessary that participants complete a considerable volume of “homework” which forms part of the Building Better Lives programme.

- 4.10 I have been informed that the Irish Prison Service is currently devising a protocol for the transfer of suitable offenders from other prisons to Arbour Hill Prison to participate in the Building Better Lives programme. This would, in effect, mean that Arbour Hill Prison would become a ‘Centre of Excellence’ for such a programme.
- 4.11 The psychology service assists in the identification of those offenders who are motivated and willing to transfer for the purpose of participating in this programme.
- 4.12 In order that the Building Better Lives programme could operate at its most efficient it should be extended into the community in order that those prisoners who had participated in all modules would receive ongoing assistance and monitoring to enable them to maintain better lives post their release and going forward. It should be possible to harness the good will of people in the community who, after receiving appropriate training, could, under the guidance of the Psychology Service in the prison and working with the Probation Service, assist in the reintegration of such prisoners into the community after their release.

Integrated Sentence Management (ISM)

- 4.13 This multi disciplinary approach to prisoner assessment involves the use of evidence based structured assessment procedures by all the services to assess prisoner risks and/or needs. This leads to a personal development plan for each prisoner against which future progress can be measured. The personal development plan sets out stated goals for the prisoner’s time in custody and provision for ongoing/mentoring support. The prisoners who engage in ISM are involved in developing and reviewing their own progress and plan.
- 4.14 Personnel from Prison Regimes, Prison Operations, Psychology, Education and Probation together with all staff from Arbour Hill are involved in ISM.
- 4.15 All sentenced prisoners committed to Arbour Hill Prison since the start of 2010 are offered the opportunity to participate in ISM.

Post Release Management of Offenders

- 4.16 It is necessary to plan for the release of all offenders but especially sex offenders. Virtually all sex offenders leaving prison following several years of imprisonment have multiple issues to contend with and in many cases have a critical need for safe, secure and anonymous accommodation.
- 4.17 TRAIL, which is an organisation which provides accommodation and resettlement services for high risk offenders, and other such organisations provide accommodation for numbers of prisoners.
- 4.18 Many of the prisoners released from Arbour Hill Prison require ongoing monitoring and support. This can best be provided in a structured setting such as suggested in paragraph 4.12 and reinforced if post release supervision orders were made as part of the originating sentence. The attention of the Judiciary should be drawn to this important aspect of a sentencing policy when dealing with sex offenders.
- 4.19 I have been informed that in certain cases offenders who were not subject to post release supervision orders asked that they receive supervision and aftercare support post release. I understand that this has been provided on a voluntary basis by the Probation Service.
- 4.20 It is difficult, if not virtually impossible, to provide accommodation post release for very high profile offenders or those assessed as being at high risk for fear that the location of their accommodation will become known to the public. This highlights the need for special accommodation and support facilities for this coterie of offenders. Sufficient facilities are not, at present, provided by statutory or voluntary agencies.
- 4.21 The primary onus for the accommodation of those prisoners mentioned at paragraph 4.20 should rest with relevant state agencies and should not be left to voluntary organisations.

4.22 It is a difficult task for any prisoner to integrate into society having served a prison sentence and all the more so for those who have been convicted of sexual offences. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the recidivism rate for those prisoners who engage in the Building Better Lives Programme, Integrated Sentence Management and who are subject to Post Release Management is low. It is, therefore, less than helpful if unreasonable obstacles and fears relating to the reintegration of such prisoners are created in the minds of the general public by those who seek to influence public opinion.

Prisoner Healthcare

4.23 Prisoner healthcare is provided by, among others, the nursing staff in the prison, the general practitioner, a psychiatric team from the Central Mental Hospital, the psychology team in the prison, the chiroprapist, the optician, the visiting dental clinics and the pharmacist.

4.24 A multi disciplinary approach is taken by all those working in the general health area.

4.25 Screening and health reviews of prisoners serving life sentences are ongoing.

4.26 I do not propose in this Report dealing in detail with the healthcare provided to prisoners in Arbour Hill Prison. I will deal more comprehensively with same in a future report when dealing with healthcare generally.

Tackling Drug Abuse

4.27 Arbour Hill Prison is considered a drug free prison. It is necessary for staff to be constantly aware and vigilant to ensure that drugs do not get into the prison.

4.28 The following measures are taken to ensure the prison remains drug free:-

- Targeted urinalysis testing
- Random daily searching
- Random urine tests
- Mandatory drug testing (mouth swabs)

- Random searching by OSG dog unit
- Random searching by OSG specialist search teams
- Mandatory “booking” of all visits
- Photo ID passes for all visitors to the prison

4.29 Methadone is not a feature of drug treatment as prisoners on methadone are not transferred to Arbour Hill Prison.

Chaplaincy

4.30 There is one resident Chaplain who provides services to prisoners of the Roman Catholic Faith.

4.31 The prisoner population of Arbour Hill Prison is diverse with prisoners seeking guidance from chaplains or others who subscribe to other religions or beliefs.

4.32 I have encountered prisoners who find it difficult to have contact with their religious mentors.

4.33 It is important that prison management are continually aware of their obligations and ensure that prisoners are able to avail of support to meet the demands of their religions beliefs. This must always be balanced against security considerations.

Probation

4.34 I have not examined the role of the Probation Service in Arbour Hill Prison as I intend dealing with this in the general context of prisons. Suffice is to say that the role of the Probation Service, while recently restricted, is vital in the context of post release supervision of prisoners.

Services Provided By Outside Agencies

- 4.35 In addition to the people who provide normal services to prisoners such as teachers, probation officers, external health workers etc. other persons and organisations give assistance to prisoners in numbers of ways.
- 4.36 The Guild of St. Philip Neri, AA, NA, GROW, St. Vincent De Paul and the Samaritans provide support and counselling to prisoners in Arbour Hill Prison. They make a valuable contribution to the well being of many prisoners especially those who do not have any personal visitors.
- 4.37 The Samaritans support and sustain a Listener Programme that involves volunteers coming into the prison and training prisoners to perform the listener role. This is important having regard to the profile of many of the prisoners.
- 4.38 The Samaritans maintain a 24 hours a day service by way of a dedicated telephone line which prisoners have unlimited access to for those prisoners experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide.
- 4.39 The above is not a finite list of all service providers to prisoners. By choosing those mentioned in paragraph 4.36, I do not, in any way, take from the very worthwhile work of other agencies or people not mentioned in this Report.

General Comment

- 4.40 Many prisoners engage in the programmes outlined in this Chapter. This is essential if such prisoners are to change their lives and reintegrate into society on their release. Credit should be given for such endeavours. At present the perception and the actual reality is that there is no distinction drawn between those prisoners who engage and those who do not.

Chapter 5

Concerns

- 5.1 The concerns set out in this Chapter are self evident from the preceding chapters of this Report. In all cases I am satisfied that such concerns are reasonable.
- 5.2 I intend revisiting the issues that give rise to the concerns set out in this Chapter within 12 months and will further report to the Minister for Justice and Equality on my findings.
- 5.3 The following concerns must be, as appropriate, either taken on board or addressed:-

Elderly prisoners

- 5.4 In December 2010 there were 29 prisoners over the age of 60 in the prison with 8 over the age of 70. A number of this group have ongoing health issues which impact on their daily lives. These issues range from mobility impairment to cognitive deficits and incontinence.
- 5.5 For many managing their daily tasks is only achieved with the assistance of fellow prisoners. Their difficulties are exacerbated by overcrowding in the prison.
- 5.6 A significant number of this elderly group are no longer well enough to engage in the programmes available as outlined in this Report. I have witnessed a blind man trying to take his daily exercise in the yard with no other aid than his white stick. I have witnessed another prisoner trying to get around his cell and the immediate space outside his door on the landing with a Zimmer frame. I have witnessed men with dementia and those that are incontinent. The prison and outside agencies give instruction and practical help to prisoners with sight or mobility problems which greatly assist such prisoners in their daily lives.

5.7 It is not part of my mandate to engage in policy matters but the Irish Prison Service and local management must be conscious that the requirements of the coterie of prisoners referred to in this section differs greatly from those required by the majority in the prison system.

5.8 The management of such prisoners requires different skills, resources and regimes than those found in a medium secure prison such as Arbour Hill. It is a policy matter for others to decide how best to accommodate such prisoners so that their needs are met in an appropriately secure setting.

Overcrowding

5.9 I have pointed out that Arbour Hill Prison has a bed capacity of 131 prisoners (paragraph 2.15). One cannot make a case for increasing this number despite the fact that prisoners are out of their cells for most of the day and are engaged in worthwhile structured activity. A date should be announced by the Irish Prison Service by which the numbers in Arbour Hill Prison will be capped at 131.

Record Keeping

5.10 Management must be vigilant to ensure that proper records are maintained covering all aspects of the prison.

Painting

5.11 Consideration should be given in all prisons to having relevant accreditation available for those prisoners who achieve certain standards in painting (paragraph 3.23 and 3.24).

Prison Visits

5.12 Management should consider alternative arrangements to accommodate those prisoners who find it hard to hear at visits as suggested in paragraph 3.31 of this Report.

Building Better Lives Programme

- 5.13 Consideration should be given to extending this programme into the community in order that those prisoners who have participated in all modules of the programme receive ongoing assistance and monitoring to enable them maintain better lives post release and going forward (paragraph 4.12).

Practice of Religion

- 5.14 Subject to considerations of safety and security every effort must be made to ensure that prisoners who do not subscribe to the Roman Catholic Faith must be accommodated to enable them practice their religion and have guidance from their religious mentors (paragraph 4.33).

Adequacy of Staff Numbers

- 5.15 As can be seen from this Report Arbour Hill Prison is a well run prison where best practice is adhered to, that is safe for staff to work in and where prisoners are safe and treated with dignity. It is also clear from this Report that prisoners engage in structured, relevant activity during the day. In order to achieve this all workshops are kept open. This is achieved by the efforts of local management working in harmony with all officers.
- 5.16 The Irish Prison Service and local management must be conscious that, even in the very difficult financial situation being experienced at present, there should be no diminution in the regimes and services at present provided in Arbour Hill Prison.