



The Probation Service and Irish Prison Service Introduction

JUST/2011-2012/JPEN/AG/2943
Release and Resettlement of High Risk Prisoners

Florence December 2012

The Probation Service

- Agency of the Department of Justice and Equality
- Adult and children community sanctions and post-custody supervision
- Over 400 staff
- National service
- Budget of €40 million
- Network of 62 community based organisations
- 15,000 offenders in community annually



The Probation Service – what we do

Two main areas of work

1. Assessment

- Courts
- Parole Board
- Department of Justice and Equality
- Irish Prison Service

- Risk Assessment tools
e.g. LSI-R, YLS-CMI, S&A

LSI-R Profile October 2012

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Low | Mod | High | V.High |
| 10.2% | 56.6% | 27.7% | 5.6% |

2. Supervision and Rehabilitation of offenders:

- Probation type supervision
- Community Service
- Life sentence and other ex-prisoners
- Sex offenders & high risk offenders



Irish Prison Service

- The Irish Prison Service deals with male offenders who are 17 years of age or over and female offenders who are 18 years of age or over.
- The Irish Prison Service operates as an executive agency within the Department of Justice and Equality

Irish Prison Service

- 14 Prisons
- Irish Prison Service operating budget for 2012 is €312m

Prisoners

- 2007 - 3,321 prisoners
- 2011 4,389 prisoners (an increase of over 32%)

Committals

- 2007 11,934
- 2011 17,318 (an increase of over 45%)

IPS- Integrated Sentence Management (ISM)

- A prisoner-centred, multidisciplinary approach to working with prisoners with provision for initial assessment, goal setting and periodic review to measure progress.
- Newly committed prisoners with a sentence of greater than one year are eligible to take part in ISM.
- Personal Integration Plan (PIP) - a plan of actions for the prisoner to complete during his/her time in prison.

Our Key Partnerships



Court mandated supervision

Courts have authority in sentencing to mandate post-sentence Probation Service supervision of certain prisoners.

- Part or fully suspended sentences (CJA 2006)
- Post custody supervision of scheduled sex offenders (SOA 2001)

Temporary Release

Criminal Justice Act, 1960 as amended by the Criminal Justice (Temporary Release of Prisoners) Act, 2003) authorises the Minister for Justice and Equality to release prisoners for specific periods for purposes including:

- assessing the person's ability to reintegrate into society upon such release,
- preparing him/her for release upon the expiration of his sentence of imprisonment
- Resettlement and reintegration

The Parole Board.

- Interim Parole Board established 2001
- Advises the Minister for Justice and Equality on the administration of long-term prison sentences.
- Reviews the cases of prisoners sentenced to determinate sentences of eight years or more.
- The final decision regarding the recommendations of the Parole Board lies with the Minister, who can accept them in their entirety, in part or reject them.



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