



**MAGILLIGAN
PRISON**

KEY FACTS

REPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF PROGRESS AT MAGILLIGAN PRISON



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The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

FEBRUARY 2024



WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF PROGRESS (IRP)?

IRPs check what progress prisons had made against particular recommendations or priority and key areas of concern identified in full inspection reports rather than wait until another full unannounced inspection.

An IRP aims to support continuous improvement and identify any emerging difficulties at an early stage that could impact on outcomes for prisoners.

IRPs focus on recommendations or priority and key areas of concern identified in inspection reports rather than a full assessment against the healthy prisons tests examined during a full inspection. Prisons know in advance what recommendations or key and priority concerns the IRP will examine.

IRPs contribute to monitoring places of detention as part of the United Kingdom (UK) National Preventive Mechanism, established in response to the UK's commitment to the Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.



WHY WAS AN IRP CONDUCTED AT MAGILLIGAN PRISON?

A full inspection of Magilligan Prison against the healthy prisons tests was conducted during May and June 2021. Then Inspectors found that outcomes for prisoners were reasonably good in three of the four healthy prison tests but not sufficiently good in the area of Purposeful Activity. This was a decline in three of the healthy prison tests since the previous inspection in 2017.

The 2021 inspection made 30 recommendations that included two key concerns and recommendations related to cleanliness and the response to reducing the supply and demand for drugs and alcohol within the prison.

When inspected in 2021, Magilligan Prison was emerging from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and had a new leadership team. Inspectors were concerned about the decline in the prison's performance and lack of ambition to recover the regime. Inspectors wanted to see what progress prison leaders and those responsible for prison health care services and learning and skills provision had made since then to address the concerns and recommendations in the 2021 inspection report.

Four judgements are made about progress during an IRP:



GOOD PROGRESS

A realistic plan was delivering clear improvement in outcomes for prisoners.



REASONABLE PROGRESS

A plan was in place and there was evidence of progress.



INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS

Actions taken had not yet resulted in sufficient evidence of progress.



NO MEANINGFUL PROGRESS

A realistic improvement plan had not yet been made or implemented.



WHO CARRIED OUT THE IRP?

As with full prison inspections, CJI worked in partnership with His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority and the Education and Training Inspectorate to conduct the IRP at Magilligan Prison.

WHAT WAS LOOKED AT DURING THE IRP?

Since Magilligan Prison was inspected in 2021 there has been a change to how inspection findings were reported. Inspections now report up to 15 priority and key concerns rather than make 30-35 recommendations. This change aimed to encourage leaders to focus on improvement and better outcomes for prisoners.

The Inspection Team selected 14 of the 30 recommendations, including the two key concerns, to follow up during the IRP.

The IRP included two days on site at Magilligan Prison in late October/early November 2023 and Inspectors spoke to leaders, managers, staff, service providers and prisoners. We also spoke to Independent Monitoring Board members and a staff association. The prison, the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and Belfast Metropolitan College/North West Regional College had provided data and documentation setting out their assessment of the progress they had made and this was examined and tested.



MAGILLIGAN PRISON FINDINGS

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|------------|---|---|
| 1. | Effective arrangements should be put in place to set, monitor and maintain high standards of cleanliness and hygienic practice in residential units | 😊 |
| 2. | Procedures for controlled drugs | 😊 |
| 3. | Face-to-face contact with Probation Officers | 😊 |
| 4. | Complaints handling | 😊 |
| 5. | Capacity and capability of the addiction service | 😊 |
| 6. | On-site College leadership | 😊 |
| 7. | Quality of Personal Development Plans to support progression | 😊 |
| 8. | The drug strategy action plan should be up to date, widely communicated and closely tracked to reduce the supply and demand for drugs and alcohol | 😞 |
| 9. | Scope of consultation with prisoners | 😞 |
| 10. | Overview of the quality of education, skills and work | 😞 |
| 11. | Number and quality of work activities | 😞 |
| 12. | Improve essential skills provision | 😞 |
| 13. | Perceptions of staff victimisation | 😞 |
| 14. | Digital strategy for delivery of learning and skills | 😞 |

WHAT DID INSPECTORS FIND?

- Overall, our findings at Magilligan Prison were mixed.
- We identified good progress had been made in three areas and reasonable progress in four.
- It was disappointing to find insufficient or no meaningful progress in the remaining seven recommendations including against the key concern related to reducing the supply and demand for drugs and alcohol for drugs and alcohol.



WHAT NEXT?

Magilligan Prison has the potential to be a model establishment. We would like to see prison leaders address recommendations with greater vigour, really grip and implement an effective substance misuse strategy, and be more robust in their assessment of whether outcomes for prisoners have improved because of the work they do.

If you would like to know anything more about us or this inspection please get in touch with:

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