



REPORT ON AN UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF MAGILLIGAN PRISON

FEBRUARY 2022

WHAT TYPE OF PRISON IS MAGILLIGAN?

- ▶ Magilligan is a medium security prison that holds male, sentenced prisoners aged 21 years and over; usually on transfer from Maghaberry prison.
- ▶ At the time of inspection, there were 405 men in the care of the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS), 50 men were serving life or Indeterminate Custodial Sentences, 150 were subject to Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland and 72 to Sexual Offences Prevention Orders. Most men were serving sentences of two years or more.

WHO CARRIED OUT THIS INSPECTION?

- ▶ This inspection involved Inspectors from Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) and the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI).
- ▶ CJI, HMIP and RQIA are all part of the UK National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), a body which monitors the treatment of and conditions for detainees, including prisoners, to safeguard them against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

WHAT WAS THIS INSPECTION ABOUT AND WHAT DID YOU LOOK AT?

- ▶ We looked at the condition of the prison and how prisoners were treated.
- ▶ We assessed the outcomes for prisoners against the four healthy prison tests of Safety, Respect, Purposeful Activity, and Rehabilitation and Release Planning. Each test has a range of expectations that prisons are assessed against.
- ▶ We surveyed prisoners in May 2021, 86% of those surveyed replied.
- ▶ Inspectors spent four days at Magilligan in June speaking with Governors, Prison Officers, staff and prisoners. They spoke to health care service providers from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) and education and skills providers from Belfast Metropolitan College (Belfast Met) and North West Regional College (NWRC). They also spoke to chaplaincy, Probation Officers and representatives of voluntary organisations that provide services in the prison.
- ▶ We assessed data and documentation provided by the NIPS and its partner organisations.

WHAT DID INSPECTORS FIND?

- ▶ Outcomes for prisoners were reasonably good in three of the four healthy prison tests but were not sufficiently good in the area of purposeful activity.
- ▶ There had been a decline in three healthy prison tests scores since the last inspection (Respect, Purposeful Activity, and Rehabilitation and Release Planning) which reflected the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and decisions made to restrict in person contact with people like Probation Officers and education and skills providers.
- ▶ Prisoners had been well protected from COVID-19 but this had negatively impacted on opportunities for purposeful activity and face-to-face learning and skills in a safe environment was just restarting.
- ▶ A new service level agreement with Belfast Met was being implemented and an on site leadership presence was needed.
- ▶ We identified two key areas of concern during this inspection. One related to the effectiveness of the prison's drug and alcohol strategy and the other concerned the standards of cleanliness in some parts of the prison.
- ▶ The monitoring arrangements for in-possession medication required attention to ensure they benefit the patient they were intended for and were not diverted.
- ▶ We identified six areas of innovative work that had resulted in particularly good outcomes for prisoners at Magilligan. These included a culture of care driven by the Prisoner Safety and Support Team, the work of the Family Support Officers and partners to sustain and promote family contact and integrated social care packages for prisoners with severe needs.
- ▶ We found the prison had achieved or partially achieved just over 70% of the recommendations made during the previous inspection in 2017.

WHAT NEXT?

- ▶ Inspectors made 30 recommendations for improvement.
- ▶ Inspectors expect the NIPS, SEHSCT, Belfast Met and NWRC Magilligan team to work in partnership to implement the inspection recommendations.

