

XI Jornada de Juristes de Centres Penitenciaris

Adaptant prismes nous

Ponència

**Rita Mc Gahern. Assistant Principal Officer in the
Operations Directorate. Irish Prison Service**

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Avís legal

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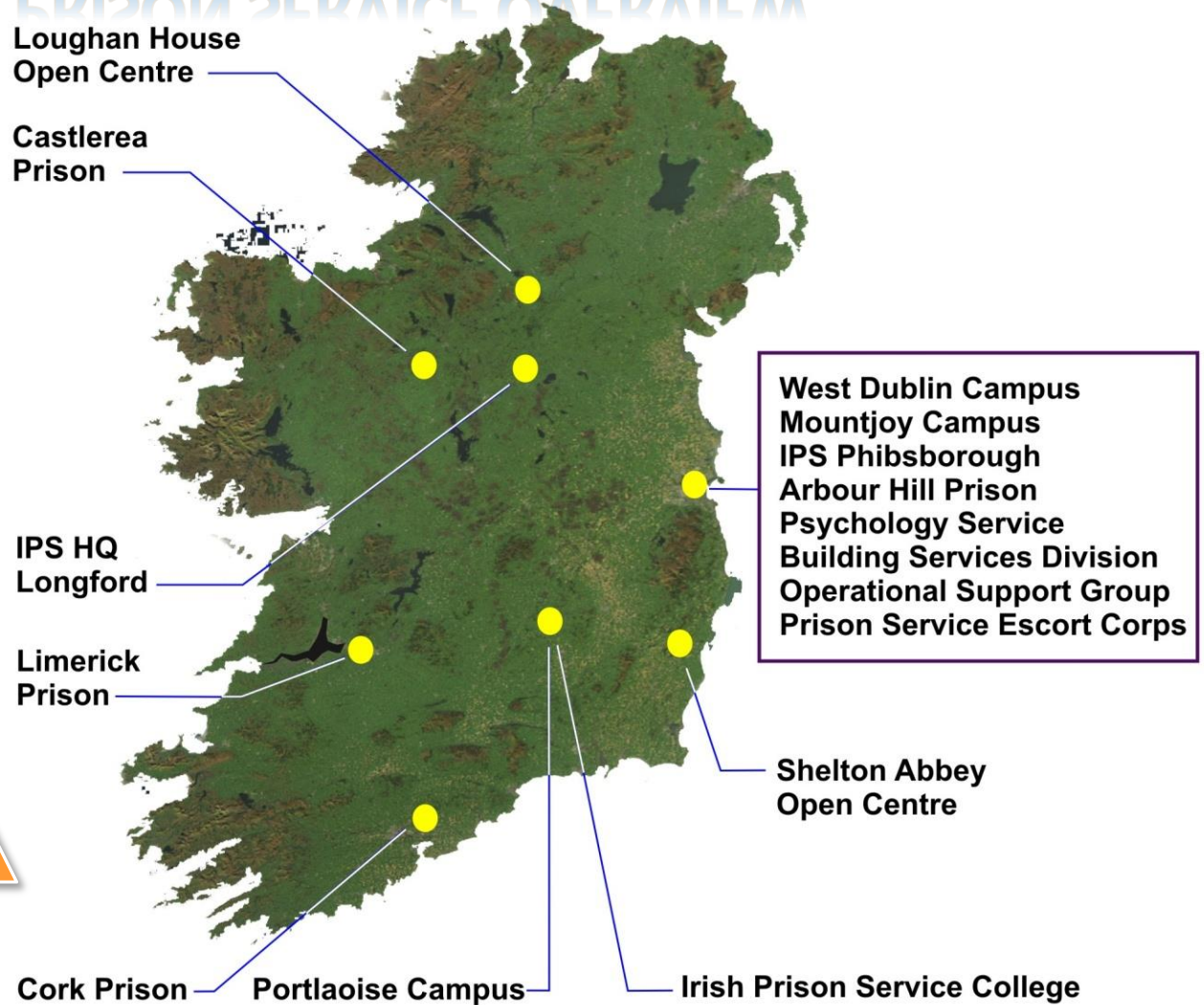
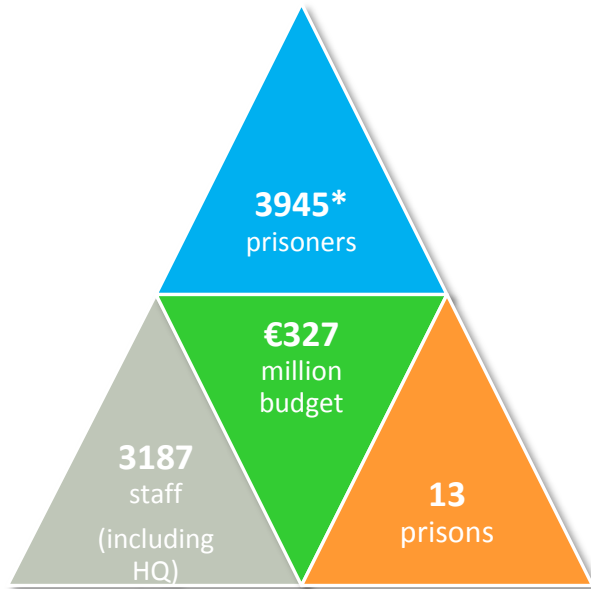


Seminar on Open Prisons in Ireland Barcelona 2018

**Rita McGahern
Assistant Principal Officer
Irish Prison Service**

THE IRISH PRISON SERVICE OVERVIEW

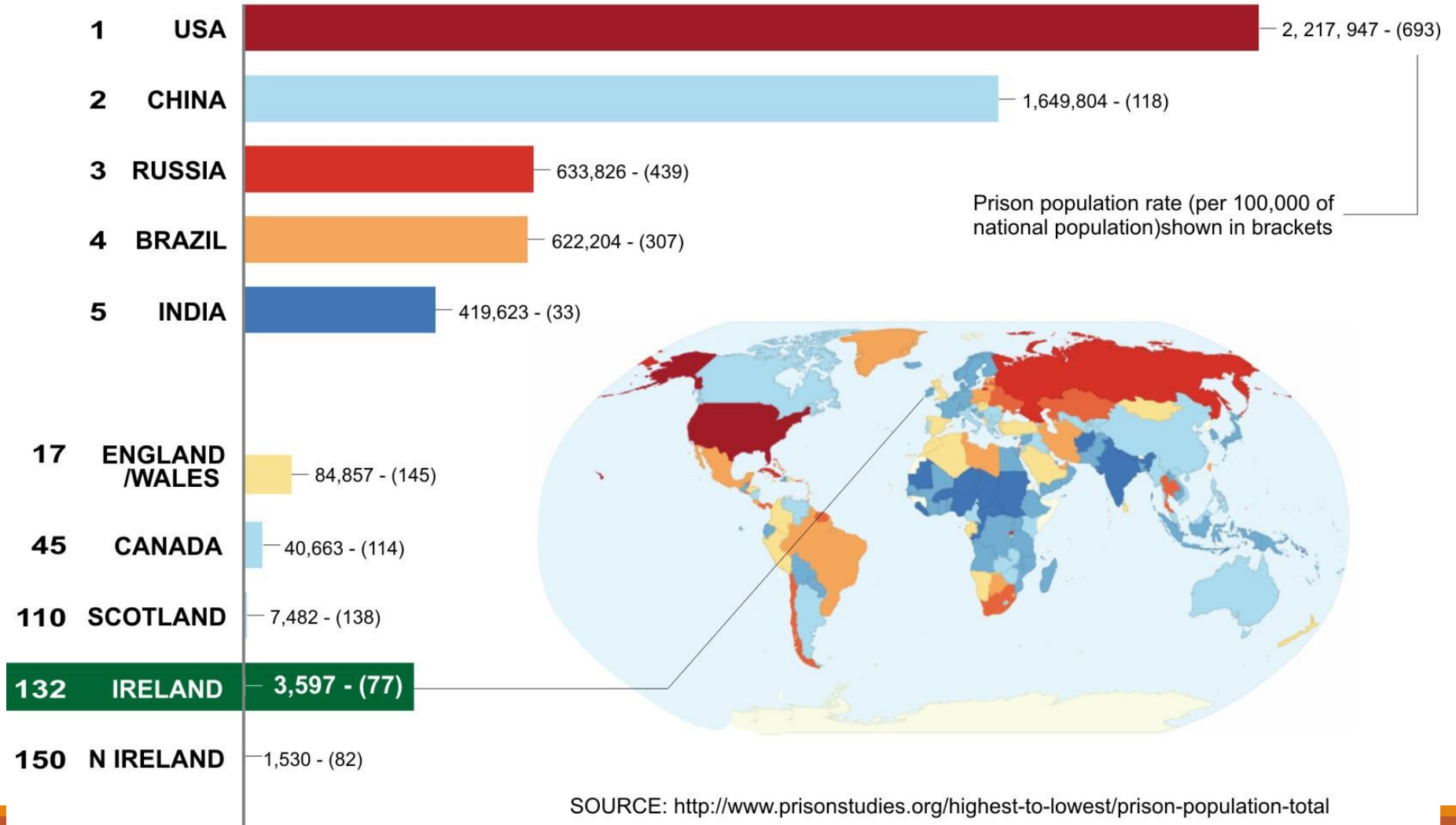
* 31st December 2017



GLOBAL RATES OF IMPRISONMENT 2016

RANKING LOCATION

PRISON POPULATION TOTAL



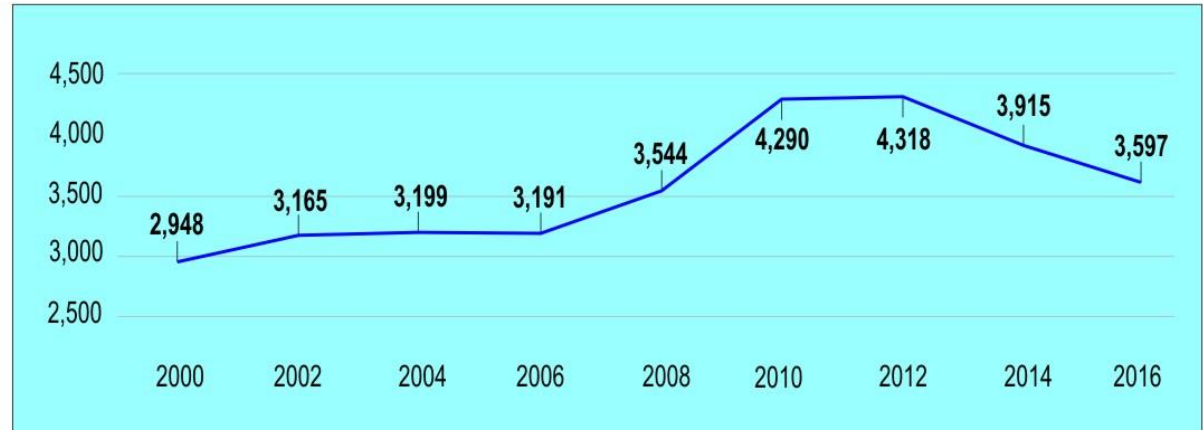
SOURCE: <http://www.prisonstudies.org/highest-to-lowest/prison-population-total>

IRELAND – PRISON POPULATION TREND 2000 - 2016

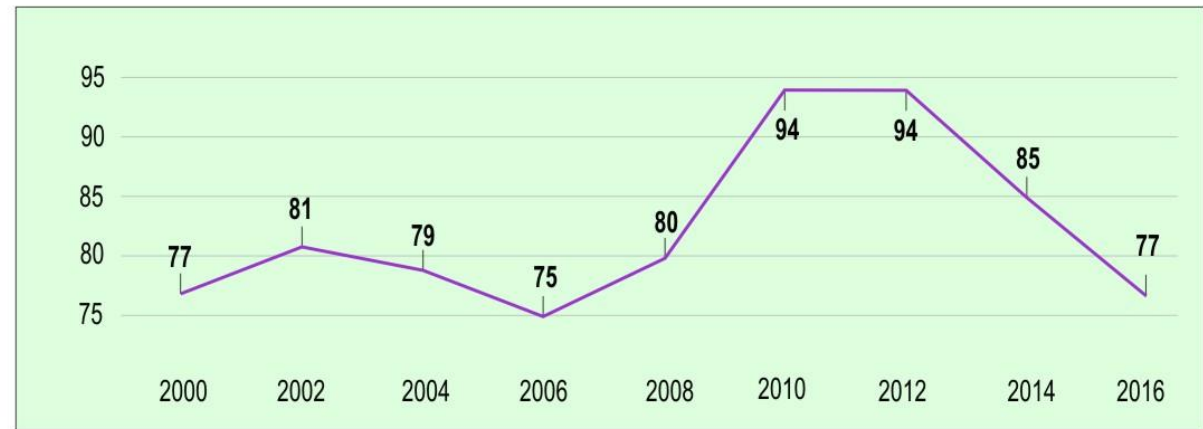
YEAR	PRISON POP TOTAL	PRISON POP RATE *
2000	2,948	77
2002	3,165	81
2004	3,199	79
2006	3,191	75
2008	3,544	80
2010	4,290	94
2012	4,318	94
2014	3,915	85
2016	3,597	77

SUMMARY TABLE

* Rate per 100,000 of population



PRISON POPULATION TOTAL
(Based on daily average of numbers in custody)



PRISON POPULATION RATE *

Offence groups relating to OC's June 2018

Type of Offence	Loughan House	Shelton Abbey
Murder	14	9
Manslaughter	1	2
Death by Dangerous Driving/ Dangerous Driving	2	3
Assault Related	11	5
Robbery/Theft/Burglary	18	14
Endangerment / False Imprisonment	3	0
Fraud related	3	4
Drug offences	46	35
Firearms/Weapon offences	5	1

Operations Directorate

The Operations Directorate co-ordinates the sentence management of prisoners with the local management of each institution.

The Directorate reviews a prisoner's progress on a regular basis for the duration of their sentence along with local management, therapeutic services and the Probation Service.

To ensure that each prisoner is held in safe, secure, humane custody. that they have access to therapeutic services to maximise their chances of rehabilitation; that the prisoner is enabled to retain positive relationships with their family and friends to enhance their prospects of re-socialisation after release from prison.

The Operations Directorate also co-ordinate the transfer of prisoners between institutions, the production of prisoners before the courts, the transfer of prisoners to hospital and the temporary release of prisoners from custody where appropriate

Numbers in Open Centres 2007 - 2017



Year	Shelton Abbey	Loughan House
2007	60	78
2008	86	121
2009	100	151
2010	93	115
2011	108	130
2012	90	97
2013	102	128
2014	110	114
2015	111	115
2016	110	116
2017	84	88
currently	110	125

Current staffing levels and service providers

Job title	Shelton Abbey	Loughan House
Governor	1	1
Prison staff (including discipline staff, work and training staff and gym officers)	45	43
Nurse Officers	2	2
Addiction Counsellors	1	1
Chaplain (not full time)	1	1
Teachers (not all full time)	10	9

Other services available include access to government funded

- Resettlement Officer
- Community Welfare Office
- Citizen advice service and
- Library service

Selection Process of Prisoners for Open Centre

Prisoner must meet the following criteria:

- Be on the Enhanced Regime Privilege level (3 levels basic, standard and enhanced, behaviour focused incentives)
- No disciplinary issues in previous 3 month period
- Be drug free on arrival and remain drug free
- Medically approved as limited healthcare service in OC's
- Free association with other prisoner groups (non protection)
- No further court appearances pending (final sentence)
- Be willing to transfer to an OC - engage with OC regime of rehabilitation re-integration

Decision criteria for selection of Prisoners for Open Centre

Factors considered by decision maker in Operations Directorate:

- Gravity and nature of Offence
- Length of sentence and length of sentence left to serve
- Risk of Absconding and Risk to Public Safety
- Medical restrictions / risk to oneself (self harm, serious illness, mental health issues)
- Recommendation of Governor and prison services (psychology)
- Previous behaviour in an Open Centre if applicable
- Police view of the prisoners background and criminal connections
- Behaviour / level of positive engagement with prison services

IPS Strategic Plan 2016 -2018

Staff support

- Developed a good work environment and a sense of pride
- Encouraged open “two way” communication for Governors and staff
- Promoted mutual respect between staff and prisoners
- Built positive relationships that are collaborative and inclusive
- Motivated staff in the open centres to work together with a common purpose to provide positive outcomes for prisoners and the community

Prisoner support

- The multi-disciplinary team work in a cohesive manner to achieve the best outcomes for prisoners through a wide range of services, addiction counselling, resettlement services, training and education
- Provision of comprehensive sentence plans for prisoners through a dedicated Integrated Sentence Management co - coordinator.
- Improved family friendly visits with extended visiting times maximising family reintegration and support.

IPS Strategic Plan 2016 -2018 continued

Victim Support

- Provide prisoners with an avenue to address and take responsibility for their offending behaviour.
- Participate in the Alternative to Violence Programme with facilitator from peer group
- Spiritual reflection and meditation programme
- Supports through the Samaritans, Red Cross, Alcoholic and Gamblers Anonymous.
- In house Addiction Counselling provided by Merchants Quay Ireland to assist prisoners in dealing with issues that may have lead to the original offending behaviour

Programmes available to Prisoners in OC

Sentence Remaining (months)	Proposed Programme
24+	(i) Initially 2 periods of AM-PM TR (escorted) (ii) Periods of AM-PM TR (unescorted) will be dependent on the length of sentence (up to a max of 3 per year)
19-24	1 weekend period of TR every 2 months
13-18	1 Weekend period of TR every month
6 - 12	2 Weekend periods of TR every month
Less than 6 months	3 -4 Weekend periods of TR every month

Terms & Conditions of Temporary Release

Temporary release may include short periods from 8 am to 6 pm, 1 overnight up to 5 overnights, extending to periods of 1 week or more.

The approved period is dependant on the activity, which may include unescorted hospital appointments, family visits and celebrations, Christmas, attendance at college or training centre, work experience, job interviews, employment, work party on community projects or to IPS HQ.

Applications for temporary release are forwarded by Governor with a recommendation, for approval to a Assistant Principal Officer in the Operations Directorate. When approved, the prisoner must sign a temporary release form agreeing to the following terms and conditions:

- Be of good behaviour
- Do not convey messages in or out of the prison
- Return to the prison on the date and time listed
- Be of sober habits, shall not enter pub, club or off licence premises
- Keep the peace and be law abiding
- Reside at the address listed
- Or other specific conditions as required – curfew, collect by family, electronic tagging, restricted access to specific areas or persons

Activities available to a Prisoner in an OC

Education

Range of programmes including

- Personal Development
- Parenting Skills
- Carer in the Community
- Academic and practical subjects such as, English, Maths, IT Skills, Home Economics, Music, Art and Woodwork from basic level 1 to higher level 5
- Open University courses

All courses are QQI accredited and are delivered in a mature and relaxed manner.



What is available to a prisoner in OC continued

Work and Training opportunities to fit the job market

- onsite training in basic food preparation and hygiene, with further training in the local college
- Work experience in catering with locally based international chef
- onsite training in horticulture with classes at local professional gardener centres
- Onsite Laundry
- Tiling and building skills
- Car valeting and bike repair
- Animal husbandry & crop production
- Industrial cleaning, waste management



Activities available to a Prisoner in an OC continued

Community Projects

Opportunities for prisoners to make reparations to community in a variety of ways including extensive charity & community work

- Bothár Project, providing dairy cows to Rwanda, goats to Ethiopia
- Jole Rider, Bikes for Africa
- Flowers for the Northwest & Wicklow Hospices
- Community based work parties (painting, cleaning and gardening in local amenity areas)
- Marshalling for local charity events



Re-integration and Re-socialisation

Social Enterprise

Introduced in July 2016 the project comprises Coffee Shop, Garden Centre & Car Valeting Service. It is

- Open to the Public
- Provides opportunities for up to twenty five prisoners
- Is ran and managed by prisoners who have received in-house training in the relevant areas

Drama Group

Introduced in 2017 with the support of a local playwright Seamus O'Rourke.

Red Cross, Men's Shed and Toastmasters



Healthcare of Prisoner in OC

Healthcare

- Nurse Monday to Friday
- Doctor three mornings per week
- Dentist two sessions per fortnight
- Access to local hospital and clinics as required

Health & Fitness programme

- Resistance Training
- Cardiovascular Training
- Team Sports and gym
- Outdoor pursuits including hillwalking, surfing and charity runs



Community Return Programme

The Community Return Programme is an incentivised early release scheme co-managed by the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service.

The Community Support Scheme is available to prisoners serving sentences of less than one year, IPS grant funds this scheme via charitable not for profit organisations.

The Community Return Scheme targets well behaved prisoners serving sentences of 1 - 8 years imprisonment who are making genuine efforts to desist from reoffending.

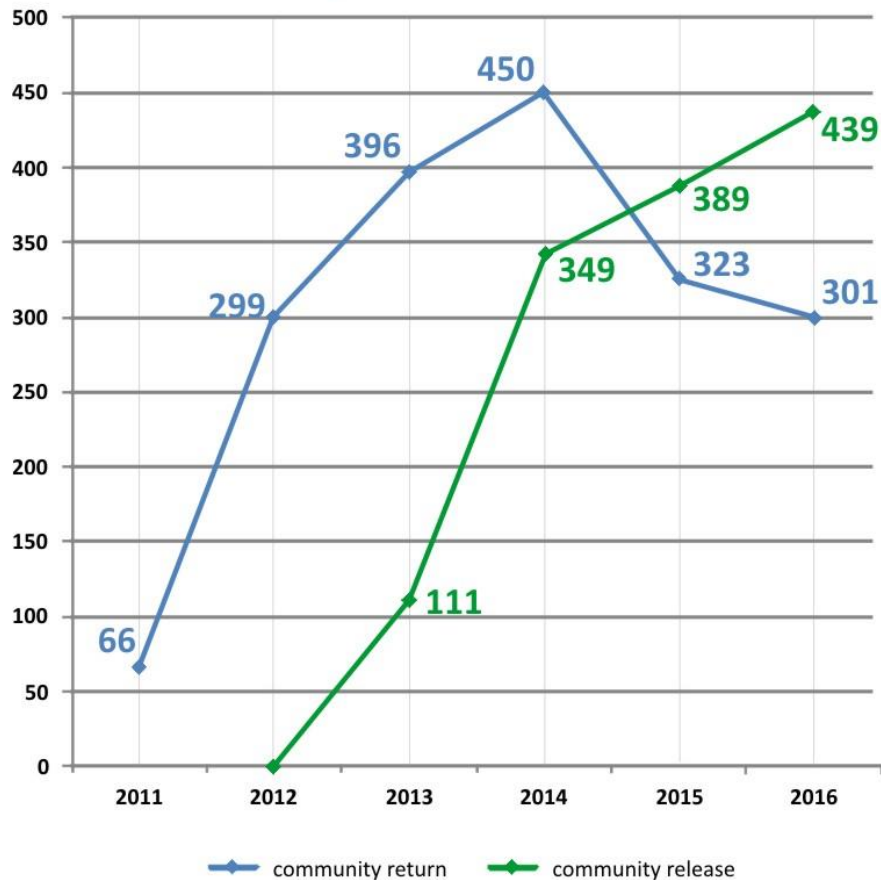
The Community Return Programme is one of the many joint IPS / Probations Service initiatives, **2061** prisoners have been released on CRS from 2011 to 2017

The Open Centres are actively engaged in the scheme with **947** Open Centre prisoners participating to date, representing 45% of the total participants. Compliance rate of 90%

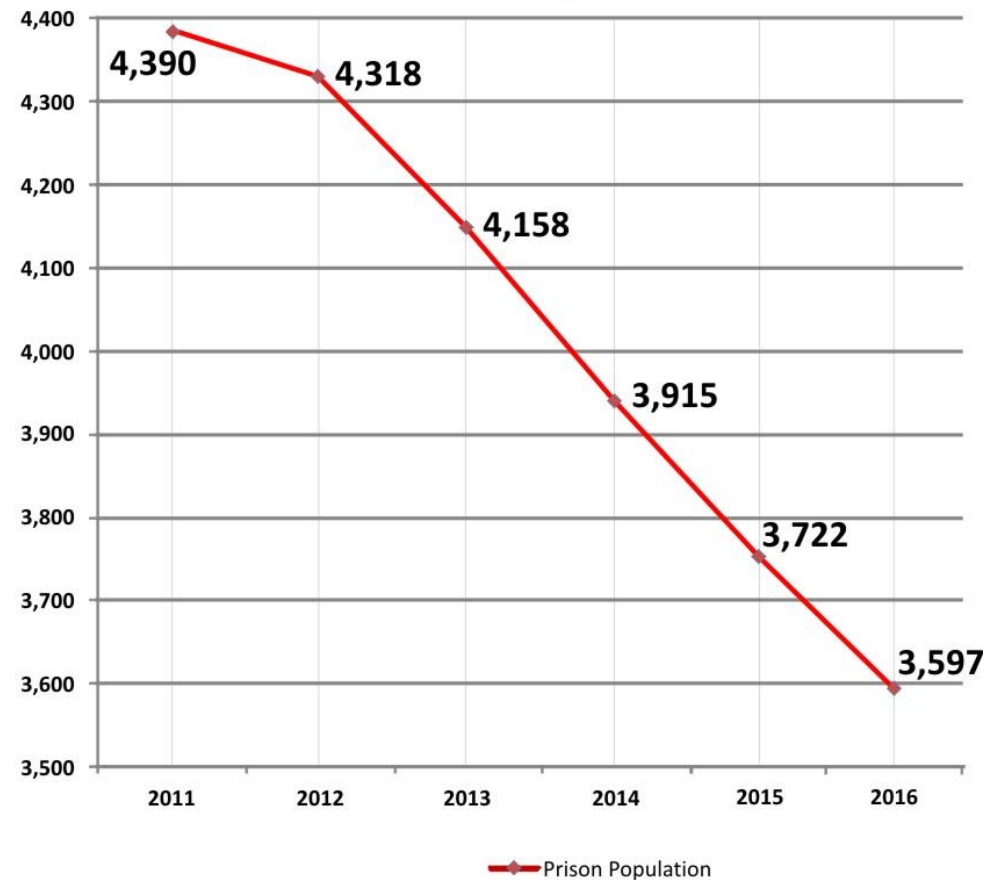


COMMUNITY RETURN/RELEASE PARTICIPATION – PRISON POPULATION

Community Return/Release numbers



Prison Population



Return to the Community continued

Approved work placement schemes in the community are particularly beneficial to long term and life sentence prisoners

Paid in accordance with national wage agreement and employment law, subject to taxation and social insurance

Purpose is to improve life skills, communicate outside of the prison environment, develop an ability to manage own finances, time keeping

Can form part of the recommendation of the Prison Review Committee (Governor, Probation Service, Operations, prison service providers) to the Parole Board when considering a prisoner's sentence management.

The recommendations of the Parole Board are forwarded to the Minister of Justice and Equality for approval. This is then built into the individual prisoners sentence progression plan, which is implemented on a staged basis over a 18 month to 36 month period. The ultimate objective is reintegration into the community under the supervision of the Probation Service.

Return to the Community continued

Remission of 25%

- All prisoners are automatically granted 25% remission on their sentence on committal.

Enhanced Remission up to 33%

- Prisoners who have engaged in authorised structured activity may apply to receive enhanced remission of greater than one quarter but not exceeding one third of their sentence.
- In order for a prisoner to be granted enhanced remission, the Minister must be satisfied that the prisoner is less likely to re-offend and is better able to re-integrate into the community.
- Applications for enhanced remission are examined by an Assistant Principal Officer grade in the Operations Directorate, who following consideration of the application and the information provided by the prisoner, Governor and support services makes an informed decision on behalf of the Minister.

Challenges for OC

- Maintaining flow of suitable candidates
- Addiction and availability of headshop drugs in community
- Isolated location can be difficult for family visits
- Staff adaption from a security focused regime to rehabilitation and integration regime
- Prisoner respect for the self regulated rules of an OC, access to own prison issue mobile phone, unrestricted unscreened visits, free association with other prisoners and no walls or barriers
- Maintaining the support and co operation of the local community

Open Centre Policy

Review Group to determine in relation to the current Open Centre Policy the following:

- Consistent and transparent approach in selection of prisoners to the OC's
- Uniform application and compliance with the policy
- Identify & address issues which are not currently covered

The review group sought the views of the Operations Directorate, Governors, prison staff representatives and external service providers.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THANK YOU

Irish Prison Service
IDA Business Park, Ballinalee Road,
Longford, Ireland.

Tel: +353 43 33 35100
Fax: +353 43 33 35371

www.irishprisons.ie