

# **WHEATFIELD PRISON**

## **Annual Report 2005**

### **The Visiting Committee to Wheatfield Prison**

We the undersigned members of the Visiting Committee for Wheatfield Prison are pleased to present our report to the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform for the year ending 2005.

The Committee met in Wheatfield on the third Saturday of each month, all meetings were very well attended.

#### **MEETING'S**

The members met in Wheatfield each month of their term of office. All aspects of the Inmate welfare were reviewed in addition to inspection of their accommodation and varied facilities. The standard's of hygiene and cleanliness can be regarded as most satisfactory and the Governor and Staff are to be complimented in this respect.

The number of inmates who requested to meet the Committee during the year was 61 which averaged 5 per meeting. All their requests and grievances were heard and disposed of satisfactorily. Apart from the formal meeting's, many members made unscheduled visits to Wheatfield during which the visiting members spoke to the inmates in the work place, which was a less formal atmosphere than that which prevails at the committee meeting.

#### **TEMPORARY RELEASES**

Many inmates availed of Temporary Release throughout the year either on a part weekly or weekly basis or in some cases for special one day occasions.

## WORK AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

In excess of 923 prisoners were processed through the work & training area during 2005. Inmates who completed Training Programmes were awarded various external Certificates of Achievement which include:-

EHOA Primary Course in Food Hygiene.  
FETAC Elementary Cookery Programme.  
Guild of Cleaners and Launderers Technician Certificate.  
MIG TIG ARC Welding Certificate.  
FETAC Engineering Process.  
City & Guilds Computer Skills.  
Safe Pass.  
Abrasive Wheel.  
Construction Skills.  
An Gaisce Presidents Awards Bronze Medal.

During 2005 the Work & Training area achieved the following:-

March 2005	Gold Medal Winners for Hospitality Industry.
February 2005	Re-Certification in NSAI ISO 9001-2000 (catering area)
April 2005	Re-Certification NSAI IS. 343 - Food Safety Management System.
June 2005	EIQA Emerald Hygiene Mark (Catering)
June 2005	Q Mark in the New Laundry Area.
October 2005	ISO 22000 - International Standard for Food Management.
December 2005	EFQM: Committed to Excellence Award for Work & Training Area.

The area completed many works for charity which included Irish Epilepsy Society, Spina Bifida, Stewarts Hospital, James Hospital, Hospice Harolds Cross, Irish Red Cross, Tsunami and Pakistan Earthquake Appeal.

In November 2005 we opened an Induction Workshop for new committals to Wheatfield Prison. The programmes is for a five day period where the new inmate meets and is inducted on all the services available to him at Wheatfield Prison.

Our new Laundry facility is now fully operational, with inmates certified in the Guild Of Launderer's Certificate.

## **Education Unit**

### **Wheatfield Education Unit Report for Visiting Committee 2005**

The Prison Education Service (and Wheatfield Education Unit) has developed within a framework based on the principles and ideas advocated in the Council of Europe Report and Recommendations, Education in Prisons (Strasbourg 1990). The aim and objectives of the Prison Education Service, as outlined in the Management of Offenders (1994) can be summarised as follows:

To provide a high quality, broad and flexible programme of education that meets the needs of those in custody through helping them:

**Cope with their sentence**

**Achieve personal development**

**Prepare for life after release**

**Establish the appetite and capacity for lifelong learning**

Participation in educational activities is voluntary in Wheatfield, as it is in all prison education units. Of a total population of 377 inmates 245 are currently time tabled for classes. We offer a wide range of classes and courses suited to students of every level of ability. Students choose the range of classes or courses they wish to take and are individually time tabled. The CDVEC employs 31 Teachers in Wheatfield Prison, 11 Of whom are full time.

## *Conclusion*

The Committee are most happy with the numbers of Inmates gainfully employed and using the Educational facilities. The Kitchen is second to none ! With excellent food quality, content and presentation. The Staff of all ranks are consistently courteous and helpful when Members visit with Inmates. The building of the new Console Room has commenced and is expected to be finished in 2006.

At present the 2 Drug Free Units up and running smoothly. Now all categories of Inmates can avail of this chance to give up drugs. The Committee realise that this would not be possible without the assistance and commitment of the Staff on the floor, the Governor and his Managers, Trades, Medical, Welfare and Prison Chaplains. We applaud their efforts to rid the system of the curse of the addiction to drugs that effects so many of our youth.

Wheatfield Prison is in pristine condition. It is consistently clean and tidy on our numerous individual visits. All Inmates are in good health.

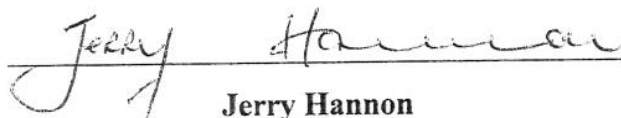
Arbour Hill Prison Visiting Committee visited Wheatfield Prison in September 2005 and they were very impressed with the cleanliness and smooth running of the Prison.

The "All Weather Pitch" is fully operational and is continuing to be a huge success with the prisoner population.

The Listener Scheme was set up in Wheatfield Prison in 2005 in conjunction with the Samaritans, so far, it has proved to be a great success.

Queries from inmates in general were not generally of a critical nature, which in itself is a testament to the smooth running of Wheatfield Prison. Those that were deemed most urgent were always acted upon without delay by Management. The Committee feel that the provision of extra dental facilities and psychiatric services would be extended.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governor Edward Whelan and all his Staff for their help and courtesy extended to us at all times.

  
**Jerry Hannon**

Signed on behalf of the members of the Visiting Committee to Wheatfield Prison.

W. J. Clark  
John O'Neill  
Steff O'Neill  
Colette Carter  
Sadie Gordon  
Thomas J. Hill  
Phyllis Clark