

Inspection to the Tallinn Detox Centre of the Detention House of the Law Enforcement Office of the Northern Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board

Early on the morning of 16 November 2013 (starting at 6.00 am) advisers to the Chancellor of Justice paid an unannounced visit to the Tallinn Detox Centre of the Detention House of the Law Enforcement Office of the Northern Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board. A GP accompanied the Chancellor of Justice during the visit as an expert, their task being to assess the provision of health services at the centre.

As a result of the inspection the Chancellor of Justice makes the following proposals and recommendation to the Police and Border Guard Board to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons:

- find ways of improving supervision in cells by installing video surveillance therein. Constant surveillance of detainees with video cameras is not always justified, but the Chancellor of Justice deems it necessary in the case of persons detained so that they can sober up. It is necessary because the intoxicated state of the person means that they need to be more closely monitored so as to reduce potential risks to their life and health posed by intoxication;
- draw the attention of police officers who prepare reports to the fact that reports on persons taken in for detoxification should be prepared on the basis of the currently effective report form established by the Minister of the Interior and that the description of the immediate threat is adequately explained in the report (a generic observation that the person was 'aggressive' etc. is not sufficient);
- officials from the centre must proceed from the provision of direct coercion stipulated in the Police and Border Guard Act even if the person brought in for detoxification has to be restrained in the medical bloc of the detox centre in the presence of a medical professional.

The Chancellor of Justice also asks West Tallinn Centre Hospital to consider the option of supplying the medical bloc of the detox centre with additional epilepsy medication and ECG equipment.