

## **Inspection visit to the house of detention of the Pärnu Police Station**

On 11 April 2018, the advisers of the Chancellor of Justice made an unannounced visit of inspection to the house of detention of the Pärnu Police Station of the Police and Border Guard Board. During the inspection, the rooms and documents of the house of detention were examined and detainees were interviewed. A family doctor participated in the inspection as a health care expert.

It is positive that the documents indicate for how long handcuffs are used upon detaining a person. Also, medical examination reports correctly record the external injuries of the detainees or the absence of such injuries. It is a good practice and necessary for resolution of possible later legal disputes and disagreements. It is worth recognition that the detainees have access to a broad selection of books that include works in Estonian, Russian, Latvian, Lithuanian and English. It is also good that the staff of the house of detention say that convenience goods may be sent to detainees by a pack more frequently than once a week, where necessary.

However, it should be noted that the detention conditions in the house are still poor and have not improved considerably in comparison with 2012 and 2015. The detainees cannot stay outdoors in fresh air and short visits take place in the corridor, between the bars. Only one sobering-up cell has a toilet. The expired medicinal products left in the storage room of the house of detention must be destroyed in accordance with the applicable procedure. Documents concerning a detainee must be drawn up correctly: among other things, the injuries of the detainee or the absence thereof as well as the notification of the next of kin must be recorded. It also became evident during the inspection that the prison service of the Tallinn Prison continues to remove from the personal files of the detainees the medical examination reports drawn up in the house of detention.

According to the expert who participated in the inspection visit, there are problems with the living conditions as well as with the availability of medical assistance.