

Inspection of Psychiatry Department of Prisons at Tartu Prison

On 21 May 2013 advisers to the Chancellor of Justice paid an announced visit to the Psychiatry Department of Prisons, which is located at Tartu Prison and provides services to all persons detained in prisons. There are places for 18 patients in the department, six of them in single rooms and 12 in double rooms. Eight persons were receiving treatment in the department during the inspection. Restraining measures are used in the department.

A general practitioner took part in the inspection to assess the provision of health services.

The Chancellor of Justice found problems in the use of restraining measures in the Psychiatry Department of Tartu Prison. Namely, the doctor who was on home duty outside working hours often made the decision to use restraining measures over the telephone. As a result of the inspection the Chancellor of Justice requested that Tartu Prison follow the requirement of personal and immediate assessment of a patient's condition by a doctor when restraining measures are used.