

Inspection of the Jõgeva and Tartu cellblocks of the Detention Block of the Southern Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board

On 12 September 2014 advisors to the Chancellor of Justice paid an unannounced visit to the Jõgeva and Tartu cellblocks of the Detention Block of the Law Enforcement Office of the Southern Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board. A family doctor participated in the inspection visit as an expert.

The inspected cellblocks are structural units of the Police and Border Guard Board where the persons in respect to whom criminal procedure has been initiated (arrested persons and also convicted persons in respect to whom a new criminal procedure has been initiated), detained persons, persons detained as suspects in criminal procedure, persons detained within the scope of misdemeanour procedure and persons taken in for detoxification are held.

The Chancellor of Justice has inspected the Tartu cellblock on three previous occasions (12 June 2008, 15 May 2009 and 21 September 2011). The building used by the Narva cellblock at present was built in 2012 and the Chancellor of Justice had not inspected it before.

There were three detainees in the Jõgeva cellblock and nine in the Tartu cellblock at the time of the inspection visits.

As a result of the inspection the Chancellor of Justice makes the following recommendations to the Southern Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board:

- make is possible for detainees in the Jõgeva cellblock to use a telephone and meet with people;
- make sure that the documents related to detainees are filled in according to requirements; and
- make sure that the opinion of the healthcare expert is complied with to avoid the threat of infection in the Jõgeva cellblock.

The Chancellor of Justice would also like the prefecture to inform him about the considerations due to which a walking yard for detainees was not established by the police building in Jõgeva and why frosted glass is used on the windows of the cells.

The Chancellor of Justice also asks the prefecture to give an opinion on whether and how a walking yard could be established by the building in question, the glass on the windows of the cells could be changed and the cells could be equipped with measures that adequately conceal the sanitary corner (screes or something similar).