

Inspection of the Kuressaare cellblock of the Detention House of the Law Enforcement Office of the Western Prefecture of Police and Border Guard Board

On 3 May 2012 advisers to the Chancellor of Justice paid an unannounced visit to the Kuressaare cellblock of the Detention House of the Law Enforcement Office of the Western Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board. A fire safety expert from the Rescue Board inspected the cellblock at the request of the Chancellor of Justice on 24 May 2012.

As the result of the inspection the Chancellor of Justice makes five proposals and one recommendation to the Western Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board to guarantee fundamental human rights.

- to continue with current practice until the completion of the new building and detain persons in the Kuressaare cellblock for the shortest time possible (generally no longer than 10 days);
- as not many people are usually held in the cellblock, possibilities should be found to allow detainees to use a toilet more often;
- to allow detainees to take material about the rights and obligations of detainees to the cellblock with them, not keep it in the detainee's personal file. The file only needs to confirm the fact that the rights and obligations have been explained to the detainee;
- to inspect the validity of the legislation given to the detainees in the cellblock and to update this if necessary;
- after the detainee's next of kin is informed, to document this in such a manner that it is possible to see which police officer contacted the next of kin, whom they contacted and when;
- to consider the fire safety observations made by experts.