

Inspection to Harku territory of the Harku and Murru Prison

From 19-21 November 2013, on 25 & 26 November 2013 and on 3 January 2014 advisers to the Chancellor of Justice made announced visit to inspect the Harku premises of Harku and Murru Prison. The Harku and Murru Prison is situated on two territories – on the Harku territory and on the open prison territory.

As a result of the inspection the Chancellor of Justice makes to the Harku and Murru Prison the following recommendations and proposals:

- Harku territory should provide suitable and adequate clothing that corresponds to the season, the person's mobility and health status (incl. socks, footwear and underwear) to all detained persons. The Chancellor of Justice also advises analysing the suitability of the clothing provided by the prison for the detainees and, if necessary, amending the prison's practice in providing clothing (offering suitable items of clothing to detainees);
- the walking enclosure next to the residential building should be weatherproofed (partly covered with a roof, equipped with a wall that offers protection from wind etc.) and the organisation of work should consider the principle that a person must be escorted back to the residential building within a reasonable time after they express their wish to return;
- in the future, the factual circumstances that lead to a need to apply or continue direct coercion should be recorded in greater detail in reports on the use of physical force, a service weapon, special equipment or restraining measures and examination of the offender's health status, or the report should contain a clear reference to where the relevant description can be found;
- the activities of medical professionals in examining the health status of a detainee after the application of direct coercion should be more carefully documented;
- all of the documents set forth in Subsection 17 (2) of the Imprisonment Act and § 28 of the Internal Rules of Prison, incl. materials about the application of additional security measures, should be recorded in the personal files of the detainees;
- strip searches of detainees in rooms where the temperature is considerably lower than usual room temperature should cease immediately;
- the prison service should make sure that the rooms used for strip searches are adequately heated;
- equipment that makes it easier to climb up to the upper bunks of bunk beds should be procured and installed;
- the prisons should immediately start looking for ways of establishing rooms required to guarantee personal hygiene in or right next to the residential buildings of the prisons, and equip them with toilet seats, sinks and, if possible, showers;
- access to official databases of legislation and the register of court rulings should be guaranteed via a computer in the prison library;
- it should be explained to the detainees in the mothers and children department that pursuant to Article 11.5 of the House Rules of the prison they have the right to have the clothing provided to them by the prison washed free of charge;
- the persons detained in the mothers and children department should also be guaranteed the option to read daily national newspapers, incl. in Russian;
- the meals provided to breastfeeding mothers in the mothers and children department should be constantly monitored and, if necessary, the prison service should intervene

without a request from a person and reorganise the meals provided to breastfeeding mothers;

- the daily schedule and catering in the mothers and children department should be analysed and the option of offering an additional meal to breastfeeding mothers should be found so that the time elapsing between dinner and breakfast does not become too long;
- the proposals made by the medical experts who participated in the inspection should be followed.