

Inspection visit to detention facilities of Viljandi Police Station

Summary

On 26 May 2017, the advisers of the Chancellor of Justice made an unannounced inspection visit to the detention facilities of the Viljandi Police Station. During the visit, the premises of the detention block were examined, all the detainees were interviewed and the documentation drawn up regarding them was examined.

People may be detained in the Viljandi detention block for a very long time. For instance, there was a detainee who had been detained there for over seven months. Given that, the living conditions in the detention block should not differ considerably from those of a prison, since these are not chambers where people would normally spend more than a few days.

During the visit it became evident that the size and material (glass bricks) of the windows of the chambers of the detention block do not let enough natural light into the chambers. The constructional solution of the windows (size and material) must allow a sufficient amount of natural light into the chambers. The chambers should be equipped with a table and a strolling cubicle with a seat that is under the roof part that allows for shelter from precipitation. It is difficult to find a convincing explanation or statutory justification to why the detainees are not allowed to read national daily newspapers on the day of their publication. The documentation of informing the people close to the detainees and filling-in the first medical examination reports also need improving.