

Inspection visit to the detention centre of the Law Enforcement Office of the Northern Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board

On 29 April 2019, the advisers to the Chancellor of Justice paid an unannounced inspection visit to the detention centre of the Law Enforcement Office of the Northern Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard. A family doctor participated in the inspection as a healthcare expert. The premises and documents of the detention centre were examined and the detainees were interviewed during the inspection visit.

The staff of the detention centre have done a lot to make the move to the new building as smooth and easy as possible. The attitude of staff towards the persons to be expelled and applicants for international protection staying at the centre (hereinafter referred to as persons staying at the centre) deserves recognition. It is good that there are plans to bring computers to the centre, as it gives the persons staying at the centre the chance to get to know legislation and visit the websites of state authorities. There are plans to install partition walls in the washroom and set up a lockable washroom for mothers and children in the department on the ground floor. The strict washing schedules have been made flexible again. All persons staying at the centre can use the courtyard with a basketball court by agreement with the recreation officer.

24-hour video surveillance may be used in the ordinary rooms only if it is essential. The window in the toilet area may be opened for monitoring the inside of the room only in exceptional cases. The possibility of creating alternative means of communication with family members using contemporary information technology should be seriously considered. The detention centre should have room(s) suitable for meetings with families and minor children. It would be good if the centre founds ways to increase its selection of books and newspapers in foreign languages.

It should be guaranteed that food is distributed correctly at the centre and that the composition of the food meets the requirements. Situations where employees of the centre or persons staying at the centre participate in communication between patients and doctors as interpreters should be avoided. Psychological counselling must be accessible to all persons staying at the centre. In the opinion of the healthcare expert, people should be checked for contagious diseases as soon as possible after they arrive at the centre. Every person staying at the centre should have the right to privately justify in greater detail their request to get an appointment with the doctor/nurse: this way, their health concerns can be better assessed.