

Inspection visit to the detention facilities of Valga and Võru Police Stations

On 2 October 2019, the advisers to the Chancellor of Justice paid an unannounced inspection visit to the detention facilities of Valga and Võru Police Stations of the Police and Border Guard. During the inspection, the advisers examined the premises and documents of the detention facility and talked to the detainees.

It is positive that the detained and arrested persons in the Valga detention facility can get food suitable for their health condition, if necessary. It is also good that the toilet areas of the cells in the Valga and Võru detention facilities should now be hidden on CCTV images.

The conditions in the Valga detention facility are still very bad, so they should be improved until the new building is completed and the cells should only be used for a short time. It is also not acceptable that neither of the detention facilities has a courtyard. In each individual case, it must be assessed whether the use of 24-hour video surveillance is justified. The toilet area must be properly separated in cells for multiple detainees. The detainees must have access to national daily newspapers. The forced ventilation system of the Võru detention facility must be checked and repaired, if necessary. The situation where the detainees brought temporarily to the detention facility are not given the medicines that were prescribed to them in prison and must be taken daily has to be resolved. Expired medicines must be destroyed according to requirements. The documents of the detention facility must be correctly prepared.