

Inspection visit to the detention facilities of the Haapsalu Police Station

On 13 June 2016, the advisers of the Chancellor of Justice made an unannounced inspection of the detainment facilities of the Haapsalu Police Station of the Western Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board (Haapsalu Detention Facility). An official of the Rescue Board participated in the visit.

Detainees cannot stay outdoors at the Haapsalu Detention Facility, because there is no courtyard. The living conditions of the Detention Facility are also poor: there is no window in multiple cells and not all the cells are equipped with the furnishings required by law. The Chancellor of Justice discussed the living conditions and the absence of a courtyard in the Haapsalu Detention Facility in a summary of the inspection made in 2014. The contents of the inspection report remain relevant today and do not need to be repeated. The Chancellor of Justice made a proposal to continue improving the living conditions in the Haapsalu Detention Facility (incl. find ways for constructing a courtyard) and place detainees (especially those detained for a longer time) in cells where the conditions are better and where there is a window.

During the visit, it also became evident that the detainees fill their health inspection report in on their own. According to the officials, detainees have also filled in the report in a state of intoxication. The Chancellor of Justice emphasised that the health inspection report must be filled in as accurately and unambiguously as possible. It must be possible to identify afterwards what was the health condition of the person who arrived at the Detention Facility (incl. external injuries). To ensure the related clarity, an official must fill in the report and it must not be entrusted with the detainee.