

Inspection visit to the detention facilities of the Rakvere Police Station

On 19 January 2016, advisors of the Chancellor of Justice made an unannounced inspection of the detention facilities of the Rakvere Police Station of the East Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board (hereinafter the Rakvere Detention Facility). The Chancellor of Justice involved a family doctor in the visit as a health care expert.

Based on conversations with the detainees and a tour in the detention facility it was concluded that the detainment conditions were good and the officials' attitude towards the detainees is good. It is positive that the officials document steps taken towards detainees in detail. The randomly checked personal files were properly drawn up.

During the visit it became evident that in Rakvere Detention Facility the detainees could not regularly access national or local newspapers. According to the officials of the detention facility, they have no newspaper subscription and therefore the detainees receive newspapers irregularly. It is not possible to use portable radio sets to listen to the radio in the detainment cells, because there are no power sockets.

There are three outdoor courtyards that the detainees can use at least once a day for an hour. The courtyards had a partial roof cover that offered protection against precipitation, but there were no benches or seating facilities in the courtyards.

The expert involved in the visit found that there were numerous OTC and prescription medicinal products in the drawers, cupboards and on the table of the health care professional of the Rakvere Detention Facility, some of which had expired (incl. antiretroviral medicines, narcotic and psychotropic medicinal products, antibiotics, etc.). Some prescription medicinal products were properly kept in a locked cupboard. The expert found that the storage of expired medicinal products along with usable medicinal products could not be permitted and the storage of prescription medicinal products in unlocked drawers or open areas (e.g. on the table) was not an acceptable practice.

The expert deemed the availability of the health care service in the Rakvere Detention Facility as satisfactory. However, the expert pointed out in their opinion that the staff of the sobering-up centre of the Rakvere Detention Facility may be unable to ensure adequate medical assistance in the event of serious health problems related to intoxication (e.g. schizophrenia or suicidal thoughts). The expert admitted that the staff of the detention facility who did not have any medical education needed guidelines on how to handle the most frequent health issues.

The expert involved in the visit found that the detention conditions of the Rakvere Detention Facility were good overall. The only finding pointed out by the expert concerned the spread of tobacco smoke in the rooms of the detention facility.