

Inspection visit to the house of detention of the Kuressaare Police Station

On 15 January 2018, the advisers of the Chancellor of Justice made an unannounced inspection visit to the house of detention of the Kuressaare Police Station of the Police and Border Guard. During the inspection visit, the advisers inspected the rooms of the house of detention, talked to all the detainees and examined the documents of the house of detention.

The attitude of the staff of the house of detention towards the detainees left a very good impression. It is positive that the work journal of the house of detention registers who, when and how much the detainees receive medicinal products. The journal also contained details on the applications and requests made by the detainees.

However, it must be noted with criticism that the windows do not allow sufficient natural light to reach the cells and therefore a solution needs to be found that ensures better natural light in the cells. Instead of a walking yard, the house of detention still has a cell with a window that can be opened; therefore, the construction of a walking yard should be considered. In every single case it must be assessed if a cell of the house of detention needs 24/7 video surveillance and if an official must certainly be present at every single short visit. The screen separating the hygiene corner does not serve its purpose and a more effective solution must be found instead. In addition to tea, breakfast must be offered to detainees in the morning. Clean water cups must be available to persons placed in a cell for sobering up. The detainees must have access to national daily newspapers. Public information and information available only to the detainee regarding the receipt of packages and visits must not be controversial. Expired medicinal products must be destroyed properly. It should be ensured that the report of detainment of a person as a suspect properly records the health status of the detainee and the notification of the next of kin.