

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

On 8 March 2018, the advisers of the Chancellor of Justice made an unannounced inspection visit to the house of detention of the Paide Police Station of the Police and Border Guard. During the inspection, the rooms and documents of the house of detention were examined and detainees were interviewed by the advisers.

The attitude of the staff of the house of detention towards the detainees left a very good impression. It is also commendable that the detainees can use the shower room more frequently than once a week. On working days they can stay in the walking yard for more than one hour. It is commendable that on the basis of the recommendations made as a result of the previous visit by the Chancellor of Justice a partial roof offering protection from the weather conditions and a bench have been installed in the walking yard. It is positive that the use of handcuffs is recorded in the documents as well as marks left on the body of the detainee as a result thereof. The duration of use of special equipment is worth recording because the use of special equipment rather intensively affects the person's fundamental rights and it may later cause disagreements and legal disputes.

Glass bricks have been used for filling the windows of the cells of the house of detention, which prevent natural light from reaching the cell. Thus, a solution must be found that would ensure better natural light in the cells. Due to the work organisation of the house of detention, the detainees cannot stay in fresh air during the weekend. The detainees must have a chance to stay outdoors for at least an hour every day (incl. at the weekend). Video surveillance is used 24/7 to monitor the detainees in all the cells of the house of detention. It should be considered if the 24/7 video surveillance is absolutely necessary with regard to every person (e.g. due to their health status) and decided to what extent it could be used in each specific case. If video surveillance is not absolutely necessary, it should not be used. The detainees must be given access to national daily newspapers.