

## **Inspection visits to the short-term detention facilities of the Eastern Harju, Central Tallinn and Western Harju Police Stations**

On 21 November 2018, the advisers of the Chancellor of Justice made unannounced inspection visits to the short-term detention (up to 48 hours) facilities of the Eastern Harju, Central Tallinn and Western Harju Police Stations of the Police and Border Guard. There were no such holding cells in the Western Harju Police Station during the visit.

It is positive that detainees are fed three times a day in the Central Tallinn and Eastern Harju Police Stations. Eastern Harju Police Station's plan of improving the look of the area of the holding cells with the help of art students is commendable. Usually, the duration of use of special equipment has been correctly recorded in the documents.

At the same time, the Chancellor of Justice drew the attention of the Northern Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board to various deficiencies. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (hereinafter the CPT) has emphasised that persons detained for more than 24 hours have to be able to spend some time outdoors. Each holding cell should also have enough natural light. Detainees should have appropriate sleeping conditions, incl. clean bedclothes. They should be able to take care of their elementary hygiene, have access to clean drinking water and the cell should also have clean cups. In a cell for multiple detainees, the toilet seat should be separated from the rest of the cell so the detainee's privacy is ensured. The toilet seat should be concealed so it cannot be observed through the door latch without a compelling need also upon exercising supervision. Giving over-the-counter medicines to detainees should be documented. More attention needs to be paid to drawing up certain documents.