

**A report by the Inspector of Prisons  
Judge Michael Reilly into the circumstances  
surrounding the death of Prisoner V  
on 30 December 2015 while  
on temporary release**

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**A report by the Inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly  
into the circumstances surrounding the death of Prisoner  
V on 30 December 2015 while on temporary release**

Presented to the Minister for Justice and Equality pursuant to  
Part 5 of the Prisons Act 2007

Judge Michael Reilly  
Inspector of Prisons

8 March 2016

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## **Preface**

Prisoner V was a 33 year old man who came from the Dublin area.

He is survived by his wife, parents, son and extended family.

I did not meet the family of the deceased, but offer my sincere condolences to them.

I would like to point out that I have not referred to the deceased by name. This is my normal practice in order to anonymise my reports.

Judge Michael Reilly  
Inspector of Prisons

8 March 2016

# **Inspector of Prisons Investigation Report**

## **General Information**

1. The deceased was a 33 year old man from the Dublin area. He is survived by his wife, parents, son and extended family.
2. The deceased was committed to prison on 28 February 2012. This was his first imprisonment. His remission date was to be 27 August 2016.
3. The deceased was on Temporary Release when he died in violent circumstances on 30 December 2015.
4. I wrote to the family of the deceased but they did not wish to engage with me in my investigation. I completely understand their position. However, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to them on their sad loss.

## **Status of deceased while in Prison**

5. The deceased was placed on the enhanced incentivised regime in August 2012 and remained on same until his release on Temporary Release. He had no medical issues while in prison. He had availed of the services of the addiction counsellors while in prison to address his misuse of drugs. He had no disciplinary reports while in prison and he did not require protection. He associated freely with other prisoners and was a good worker.

## **Deceased's progress within the prison system**

6. The deceased was initially committed to Mountjoy Prison on 28 February 2012. Following a review of his progress in prison, on 26 February 2013, he was approved for transfer to the Training Unit in the Mountjoy Prison Complex.

7. While in the Training Unit the deceased was further reviewed by multi disciplinary teams on a number of occasions and on 9 August 2013 was approved for transfer to Loughan House Open Centre which was effected on 13 August 2013.
8. Matters taken into consideration in determining the deceased's suitability for transfer to Loughan House included: his work history in the prison bakery, his school attendance, his work history in the metal shop, his exemplary behaviour in prison with no disciplinary reports and his interaction with the ISM process.
9. While in Loughan House the deceased was considered a highly motivated worker around the prison, he was a member of an external work party, he attended the gym each day, he linked with the addiction services and was well thought of by all services in the Centre.
10. The deceased was approved Temporary Release for overnight release on a number of occasions in October and November 2014 and for six overnights during the 2014 Christmas Period.

#### **Circumstances of deceased's Temporary Release on 25 February 2015**

11. On 22 January 2015 the deceased was referred to the Probation Service for assessment as to his suitability for the Community Return Scheme. This assessment took place on 18 February 2015.
12. The deceased was assessed as suitable for the Community Return Scheme. The matters taken into consideration in making such assessment included, *inter alia*, the positives referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9, his adherence to the terms of his periods of Temporary Release referred to in paragraph 10, confirmation that he had a permanent address to reside in and was welcome there, intelligence which did not disclose any threats to the deceased if released, a medical assessment that he was medically fit to engage in the Community Return Scheme, that he was willing to perform three days unpaid

work each week for 36 weeks as directed by the Probation Service, that he was willing to sign on at a named Garda Station in Dublin and sign on at the Training Unit on a weekly basis.

13. The deceased was released on Temporary Release on 25 February 2015 on the conditions referred to in paragraph 12.
14. The deceased abided by all the terms of his temporary release. He completed the work element of his Community Return in November 2015 and thereafter the terms of his temporary release were amended to that of Reviewable Temporary Release to engage in a pre-release/resocialisation programme with signing-on conditions in a Garda Station and in the Training Unit extended to once every two weeks.
15. The deceased abided by all the terms of his amended temporary release referred to in paragraph 14. He signed on at the Training Unit on the morning of 30 December 2015.
16. Later on 30 December 2015 the deceased died in violent circumstances. His death is the subject of a Garda investigation.

## **Findings**

17. The release of the deceased on Temporary Release was wholly appropriate having regard to the matters considered prior to such release as documented in this report.
18. The matters referred to in paragraph 17 were relevant and the documentation of same reflected a multi disciplinary approach to the decision to release the deceased on Temporary Release.
19. The deceased abided by all the terms of his Temporary Release.
20. I am satisfied that there are no further issues which I should investigate.