

**A report by the Office of the Inspector of  
Prisons into the circumstances surrounding  
the death of Prisoner H on 5 October 2016  
in St James's Hospital while in the custody  
of Wheatfield Prison**

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**Office Ref: 2016/H**

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circumstances surrounding the death of Prisoner H on 5  
October 2016 in St James's Hospital while in the custody  
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Presented to the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality  
pursuant to Part 5 of the Prisons Act 2007

Helen Casey  
Office of Inspector of Prisons

16 February 2017

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## **Preface**

The deceased was a 57 year old man from the Dublin area.

He is survived by his wife, sons, daughter and extended family.

The Inspectorate did not meet members of the deceased's family but wish to offer their sincere condolences to them.

Helen Casey  
Office of the Inspector of Prisons

16 February 2017

# **Office of the Inspector of Prisons Investigation Report**

## **General Information**

1. The deceased was a 57 year old man from the Dublin area.
2. The deceased was committed to prison on 11 April 2016. His remission date was 10 July 2018.
3. The deceased was an inpatient at St James's Hospital from 17 September 2016 and he passed away in the hospital while undergoing surgery on 5 October 2016.

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

4. The deceased was on the enhanced level of the Incentivised Regime in Wheatfield Prison. He had worked in the staff mess prior to his admission to hospital and was accommodated on the East Wing landing. The deceased telephoned his family members on a regular basis.

## **Contact with the family**

5. The Inspectorate did not meet the deceased's next of kin but corresponded with the family by letter on 20 October 2016.

## **Hospital admittance**

6. The deceased was admitted to hospital on 17 September 2016 and underwent cardiac surgery on 5 October 2016.
7. On the morning of 5 October 2016 the deceased was taken for surgery. At approx. 4.10pm a Nurse from the hospital contacted one of the escorting

Prison Officers seeking the next of kin details of the deceased. The sister of the deceased was contacted and attended the ward where it was confirmed that the deceased had passed away during surgery.

8. The deceased was accompanied by Prison Officers at all times while he was an inpatient and the officers reported no issues of concern during this time.
9. At 5.40 pm senior staff from the prison and the Prison Chaplain attended the hospital to meet and extend their sympathies to the family.
10. The cause of death is a matter for the Coroner.

### **Findings**

11. The deceased passed away while undergoing surgery at St James's hospital on 5 October 2016.
12. The Inspectorate is satisfied that there are no further issues which the Inspectorate should investigate.