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## Message from Director

Sean Lowry, former Probation Service Director, passed away last month (4<sup>th</sup> February 2016). Sean's passing highlights, among other things, the awareness that so much of what we do today is built on the foundations laid down by those who went before us. We are now entering a new phase of rebuilding in the Service, with the commencement this month of a recruitment campaign for Probation Officers, the first for eight years. The new staff that will join us in the coming weeks and months will enable us to continue to build our range of interventions, including offender rehabilitation programmes, extending further that continuous line of service, to communities across the country, since the foundation of the State.



As we go to press, more terrorist attacks on Europe have been perpetrated in the Belgian capital, Brussels. While details are still emerging, and our hearts go out to all those affected, this latest atrocity is a stark reminder that we all need to be vigilant and maintain our resolve in the face of such grievous threats to our democracy. We also mark this month, with deep sadness, the tragic passing of the Northern Ireland Prison Service's (NIPS) Prison Officer, Adrian Ismay, whose death followed the outrageous bombing of his car while he drove to work on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Adrian's death brings into sharp focus the way so many of our criminal justice colleagues put their lives on the line in helping to make our communities safer. Our thoughts are with Adrian's family, friends and colleagues, including NIPS Director General, Sue McAllister and all her team, as well as those across the Justice system in Northern Ireland, at this difficult time.

The next edition of *Probation works* will be published in May 2016.

**Vivian Geiran, Director**



## Sean Lowry – An Appreciation



It is with regret that we announce the death of Sean Lowry, former head of the Probation Service, who sadly passed away on the 4th February 2016.

Sean joined the (then) Probation and Welfare Service (PWS) in May 1973. There were thirty-nine probation officers in the PWS then, a time that marked the beginning of significant organisational development and growth. Having completed the postgraduate diploma in social work (CQSW) course in UCD in 1975, Sean was promoted to Senior Probation and Welfare Officer in 1977 and to Assistant Principal Probation and Welfare Officer in 1984. He was appointed Principal Probation and Welfare Officer in July 2002, following Martin Tansley's retirement.

Over his Probation career, Sean managed a range of operational and strategic work areas, including courts and prison teams, staff development, and research and statistics. A quiet, soft-spoken, and dedicated family man, Sean was always focused on what was best for the Probation Service and for those people and communities we serve. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Obituary notices remembering Sean's life and work were published in the Irish Times and in the Irish News recently. The articles may be accessed via the links below:

[Irish Times \(5th March 2016\)](#)

[Irish News \(19th March 2016\)](#)

## Council of Europe issues guidelines to prevent radicalisation

The Council of Europe recently issued a set of guidelines to its 47 member states to prevent the radicalisation of prisoners and people under probation, and rehabilitate individuals who have already become radicalised.



Adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, the [guidelines](#) endorse the good management of prisons as an indispensable basis for the prevention of radicalisation and the introduction of efficient exit and reintegration programmes.

The guidelines promote the concept of dynamic security – meaning that prison staff should not only guard the inmates, but communicate with them, know their concerns and be trained to recognise signs of radicalisation, evaluate the risks and deal with the problem. They also need to be trained in inter-cultural mediation and crisis management.



**Above:** Vivian Geiran, Chair of PC-CP being interviewed about the new CoE Guidelines on radicalisation for prison and probation.

Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service and chair of the CoE expert Working Group on Penological Co-operation PC-CP, was interviewed about the new guidelines. This interview can be accessed online by clicking on the image above.

The full guidelines can be accessed via the [CoE website](#) or at the following link:

[CoE Guidelines to prevent radicalisation in prisons and while on probation](#)

## Council of Europe SPACE Statistics Published

The Council of Europe in collaboration with the School of Criminal Sciences of the University of Lausanne have recently published the annual SPACE I & II statistical reports. The reports, based on 2014 data from the 47 Council of Europe Member States, provide an insight into prison and probation across the European Union. SPACE I reports on prisons and SPACE II reports on probation type supervision.

The SPACE I reports shows that there was a decrease of 7% in the number of prisoners in 2014 with regard to the previous year, from 134 to 124 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants.

The SPACE II report shows that in 2014 there were just over 1.2 million individuals under the supervision of agencies in charge of alternative measures to imprisonment, such as, probation, community service etc.

The reports are available on the CoE website or by clicking on the relevant icon below.



SPACE I



SPACE II



## Penal Policy Review – Implementation Workshop

The Department of Justice and Equality held a workshop at their St. Stephen's Green office, Dublin, on Monday, 8 February 2016 to advance a number of actions, arising out of the report of the [Strategic Review of Penal Policy \(2014\)](#). Specifically, the workshop addressed the impact on penal policy by bodies outside of the Justice arena itself, e.g. housing, health, social protection, education and training, statistics etc.



The workshop was chaired by Dr Mary Rogan Head of Law at Dublin Institute of Technology, and featured inputs from Jimmy Martin (Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice and Equality), Vivian Geiran (Director, Probation Service), Michael Donnellan (Director General, Irish Prison Service), and Neil Rennick (Director, Justice Directorate, Scottish Government). The focus of the discussions on the day was to consider how other key aspects of social policy and programmes might contribute to advancing penal policy objectives and to promote such inter-departmental and interagency co-operation.

More information is available on the [Department of Justice and Equality](#) website or at the following link: [Penal Policy Implementation Oversight Group Workshop](#)

## Final Report of Offender Supervision in Europe: COST Action 1106 published

The final report of Offender Supervision in Europe (COST Action 1106) was published on 15th March 2016 and can be accessed by clicking on the icon below.



Offender Supervision in Europe comprises a network of researchers across 23 countries which has worked for the four years since the inception of the Action in March 2012 to promote co-operation between institutions and individuals in different European states (and with different disciplinary perspectives) carrying out research on offender supervision.

The final Conference, titled *Bridging Research, Policy and Practice*, featured presentations and responses from leading academics, policymakers and probation leaders from European institutions and jurisdictions and people with lived experience of supervision. The presentations reported on the findings of the work of the Offender Supervision in Europe Action and explored the future of offender supervision and the crucial role of relationships between research, policy and practice in building that future. True to the spirit of COST Action, the Conference provided opportunities for engagement, dialogue and exchange between researchers, policy makers and practitioners from across Europe as well as for the development and promotion of pan-European research projects on offender supervision and probation related issues.

The Probation Service was represented at the Offender Supervision in Europe (COST Action 1106) Conference by Ita Burke, Una Doyle and Gerry McNally. Also available are a number of informative podcasts in relation to offender supervision which are available by clicking on the relevant icon below.



Offender Supervision in Europe (COST Action 1106) Final Report



Offender Supervision Closing Session



Practising Supervision Podcast (Gwen Robinson and Jake Phillips)



Supervisable Podcast (Wendy Fitzgibbon and Deirdre Healy)

## Launch of PBNI Consultation on Corporate Plan, 2017-2020

Vivian Geiran (Director) attended the launch of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland's (PBNI) consultation on its new Corporate Plan on 11th March 2016. At the launch seminar, held in Malone House, Belfast, a range of speakers reflected on the achievements of probation in Northern Ireland and considered the opportunities for PBNI to develop its services over the period of the new corporate plan.



Speakers at the event included Mr. David Ford MLA, Minister of Justice; Mr. Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Dr. John Devaney, Queen's University Belfast; and Mr. Keir Starmer MP; as well as Ms. Vilma Patterson, PBNI Board Chairman. The seminar was facilitated by Donna Traynor of the BBC. Following the guest speakers' contributions, the seminar facilitator chaired a lively and engaging Q&A and discussion.



## Probation in numbers

At the start of the current month (March), there were:

**8,190** – people being assessed and/or supervised by the Probation Service in the community;

**2,109** – of those were on Community Service Orders.

**1,264** – were on supervision in the community, post-release from custody;

**90** – of these were on Community Return programme,

**79** – are life sentence prisoners, and

**176** – are sex offenders on post-release supervision orders.

The latest figures, representing the Probation Service 'caseload' at the start of March 2016, are available by clicking on the icon below.

Probation Service: Monthly Offender Population Report (March 2016)							
Caseload	Community Supervision (Post Release from Custody)					In Custody	Total
	Female	Male	Total	Probation	Other		
Female	1,050	1,050	2,100	1,050	1,050	4,200	4,200
Male	1,050	1,050	2,100	1,050	1,050	4,200	4,200
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>8,400</b>
<b>Total Caseload, in custody: 1,527</b>							
<b>Grand Total, national Probation Service caseload: 9,927</b>							
The following are the major community supervision categories:							
Probation Type Supervision <sup>1</sup> : 3,512							
Community Service: 2,378							
Supervision in the Community Post Release from Custody <sup>2</sup> : 1,264							
Life sentence prisoners on supervision in the community <sup>3</sup> : 90							
Sex offenders on supervision post release from custody <sup>4</sup> : 176							

Probation related  
**PUBLICATIONS**



**Justice-Cooperation-Network (JCN): European Treatment, Transition Management, and Re-Integration of High Risk Offenders findings published.**

The project team of the University of Greifswald and Jörg Jesse (JCN project leader) have announced the publication of the findings from the recent JCN conference. The book, currently available on Amazon, is titled “*European Treatment, Transition Management, and Re-Integration of High Risk Offenders*” and it incorporates the results of the Final JCN Conference and the final Evaluation Report of the Justice-Cooperation-Network (JCN) Project.



The objective of the project was to address the questions of transition management and to develop effective and efficient management principles, processes and practices for high-risk offenders leaving custody that can be shared and used by the project partners and across Europe.

All over Europe, the question of how best to manage and implement the resettlement and reintegration of released prisoners in society has become increasingly important. Transition management requires work in custody, as well as cooperation and co-ordination between criminal justice agencies, statutory and voluntary providers and other partners involved in the offender’s resettlement and re-integration. The book is available on Amazon and can be accessed by clicking on the icon above.

**Dates for your Diary**

**ACJRD announce 9th Annual Martin Tansley Memorial Lecture**

The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) is pleased to announce that the **9th Annual Martin Tansley Memorial Lecture** will take place on **Thursday, 7th April, 2016**, in the Jurors' Area of the **Criminal Courts of Justice, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8**. Registration is from 5.30pm and the lecture will begin at 6.00pm.



This year's lecture will be delivered by Dr. Anne-Marie McAlinden, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast, who will speak on "*The Reintegration of Sexual Offenders*".

Dr. Anne-Marie McAlinden's research is in the areas of sexual offences, restorative justice and penal policy where she has published widely. Her first book, *The Shaming of Sexual Offenders: Risk, Retribution and Reintegration* (Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2007), was awarded the British Society of Criminology Book Prize 2008. Dr. McAlinden has also acted as a consultant to government on a number of projects related to sex offender reintegration, including public attitudes to sex offenders. 'Grooming' and the Sexual Abuse of Children: Institutional, Internet, and Familial Dimensions (Clarendon Studies in Criminology) Oxford University Press was published in 2012.

This is a free event but registration is essential. Please email Katherine at [admin@acjrd.ie](mailto:admin@acjrd.ie) to confirm your place.

**Third Irish Criminal Justice Agencies conference**

The third Irish Criminal Justice Agencies conference, organised in partnership with the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD), will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in Dublin Castle. The conference theme will be: *Evidence-Informed Decision Making: Putting research into practice in Criminal Justice*. More information will be available on [www.probation.ie](http://www.probation.ie) and [www.acjrd.ie](http://www.acjrd.ie).

**Scottish Justice Matters**

The latest edition of Scottish Justice Matters has recently been published and is available by clicking on the icon above.



**CEP newsletter published**

The newsletter of the CEP has recently been published and is available by clicking on the icon above.



**EuroPris newsletter published**

The March edition of the EuroPris newsletter has been published and is available by clicking on the icon above.



**Courts Service Newsletter published**

The February edition of the Courts Service newsletter has been published. The newsletter is available by clicking on the icon above.



### Out on the Inside: The Rights, Experiences and Needs of LBT People in Prison

IPRT launched a new report on the rights, needs and experiences of LBT people in prison in Ireland on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 in the Wood Quay Venue, Christchurch, Dublin 8.

Speakers were:

- **Dr Nicola Carr**, who introduced the key findings and recommendations of the report;
- **Broden Giambone**, Chief Executive of TENI (Transgender Equality Network Ireland); and
- **Brian Sheehan**, Executive Director of GLEN (Gay and Lesbian Equality Network).



The [44-page report](#) is based on research conducted by Dr Nicola Carr, Dr Siobhán McAlister and Dr Tanya Serisier of Queen's University Belfast for IPRT.

The qualitative study examines: the policy and practice context in Ireland; LBT people in prison; transgender prisoners; and the consequences of heterosexism, homophobia, and transphobia. The report is available for download by clicking on the report icon above.

### International Women's Day Luncheon - GLEN

Glen Diversity Champions annual women's day luncheon was hosted by Trinity College this year on International Women's Day - 8th March. The Probation Service was represented at the event alongside many others from both the Private and Public Sector.



The keynote address was delivered by Ruth Hunt, CEO, Stonewall, UK, with a follow up "fire side chat" with representation from LGBT women who are each successful in their own field. The chat included discussion on their experiences and the challenges they have encountered at work.



The event celebrated LGBT women in the workplace, supporting LGBT women in business.

### Probation Service Communication

Communication with all our stakeholders continues to be one of our priorities. We are currently redeveloping our website and plan to 'go live' with the new version in the coming weeks. The Probation Service is also on Twitter now - [@probation\\_irl](#) and we encourage as many of you as possible to follow us there.



Pictured Above: Probation Officers Niamh Dooley and Darren Ferguson with four of the five graduates from the programme.

### Probation funded RESOLVE Programme has first graduates

On 10th March 2016 the first group of men to complete the RESOLVE programme, a Joint Agency Response to Crime initiative, graduated in the Bridge Project. The NOMS accredited programme is delivered to men convicted of violent offences who are undertaking the *Changeworks* programme in the Bridge Project.

Six men started the twenty nine session programme and five completed with one participant restarting in group two after hospitalisation. The response of those completing the programme was hugely positive, both in terms of the programme content and learning but also of the experience and the work of the group facilitators.

The next group of participants will commence at the end of April 2016.

## Community Based Organisation Profile - **Tus Nua**

by Carmen Iordache, Deputy Manager, Depaul Ireland

Tus Nua is a specialised service supporting women who are homeless upon their release from prison or women with an offending background who are homeless in the community. The main aim of the service is to prevent re-offending and facilitate resettlement and reintegration in the community. The service is managed by Depaul an organisation set up in 2002 to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Tus Nua is funded by the Probation Service and works in close partnership with the Dóchas prison and the Probation Service.



**Pictured Above:** Carmen Iordache, Deputy Manager, Depaul Ireland

Tus Nua was opened in 2003, the first service of its kind in Ireland supporting women leaving prison. In December 2014 Tus Nua increased its capacity from 6 to 15 accommodation places when it relocated to the Abigail Women's Centre in Finglas. The Abigail Women's Centre is a 55-bed residential facility comprised of services for vulnerable, homeless women run by Novas Initiatives and Depaul.

Tus Nua is a low threshold harm reduction service which accommodates a maximum of 15 women in single rooms for 6 to 9 months. The service aims to prevent the risk of re-offending by supporting women to recognise their short-term and long-term needs. Each woman is appointed a keyworker. Together they identify a support plan for their stay which covers life skills, budgeting, alcohol harm reduction, detox access, and physical and mental health support. The professionally trained staff members also assist the residents to access more suitable long-term accommodation. Tus Nua aims to provide time and space during which women can address the problems which led to their housing crisis and prison sentence, and positive changes in their lives.



**Pictured Above:** Members of the Public Protection Advisory Group meeting recently in Probation HQ

### PPAG meet in Probation Service Headquarters

On 21st March 2016, the Public Protection Advisory Group PPAG held their first of two scheduled meetings for this year in Probation Service Headquarters, Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7. The high level North/South group brings together Police, Prisons, Probation and Justice Ministry officials from both sides of the border to work collaboratively on solutions to issues of public protection.

Safer communities and fewer victims through offender rehabilitation