VIDEOLINK - MAXIMISING RESOURCES FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

EuroPris
Online Workshop in ICT in prisons
Tuesday 29 September, 2020

Michael O’Mahony
Governor
Pre-Covid prisoner escort arrangements

All higher courts escorts & lower courts sentenced escorts

All lower courts escorts awaiting trial
Background of videolink in the Irish Prison context


- **2007:** Prisons Act 2007, s33.

- 2009: 19th May first case heard via Videolink

- 2010 – 2016 System gradually gains traction and investment

- 2017 -2018: Seven new Courthouse built incorporating videolink technology

- **2020:** The Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, commenced September 14th

“An evolution, not a revolution”
Videolink in custody cases: Benefits

• Financial savings (subsistence / fleet / victualling)
• Improved security
• Care for vulnerable prisoners
• Less disruption of prison regime
• Minimise risk of escape
• Mitigation of risk of drug/weapon smuggling
• Protection of witnesses and victims in court
• Reduced wear and tear in cells
• Reduced need for cell accommodation in Courts
Videolink: other applications

• Professional Consultations – JABBER/TMS.
• Probation Interviews.
• Vulnerable witness deposition.
• National witness deposition.
• International witness deposition.
• Prisoner Case Conference.
• Inter-Prison family visits.
• Videolink visits to family on home computers.
Videolink escort activity annual totals: pre-Covid
Pandemic Contingency Planning
Emergency Response Planning Team (ERPT)

• Clinical considerations
• Security
• Courts – Constitutional obligations
• Provisions
• Catering
• Waste-management
• Entertainment in lockdown: Netflix, library
• Communications
Pre-Covid prisoner escort arrangements

All higher courts escorts & lower courts sentenced escorts

All lower courts escorts awaiting trial
Covid-19 prisoner escort arrangements

All prisoners escorts

Nil:
Police redeployed to Covid duties
Videolink escort activity annual totals: pre-Covid
Videolink court activity annual totals Covid era
Videolink court appearances carried out in 2020
2019 & 2020 Videolink to Court Comparison
Videolink vs physical appearances 2020
Information for Families of Prisoners
June 2020
Family Visits Via Videolink

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Number of Calls per Service - AM

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No. Of Calls
The technology and the software
PRISONS

• What we do.
• How we do it.
• Why we do it.
“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time”
Thank you for your attention.

Questions?