**COVID 19**

**Prisoner Information**

Friday, 25 September 2020 (Edition 20)  
Irish Prison Service

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**Important Updates regarding VISITS and the ‘Living with COVID-19’ Government plan!**

As you may have heard by now, the Government has released a ‘Resilience and Recovery plan for living with COVID-19’ over the next few months.

**How will these levels affect me and my visitors?**

**Dublin Prisons:** Due to the risks posed to you and your family at this time and because of the restrictions in place, **visits will be suspended** while Dublin remains at Level 3. **We are not accepting prisoner property in Dublin prisons at this time.** This will be reviewed in 3 weeks in line with Government decisions.

**All other Prisons:** Physical Visits will remain in place and will be enhanced to allow up to **2 Adults or 1 Adult and 1 Child** to visit every second week from Monday 28th of September. **Visitors from Dublin should not book visits in prisons outside Dublin.** This will be kept under review in line with Public Health Advice.

**Visiting Committees:** Despite the COVID restrictions, the Visiting Committees continue to visit prisons and are available to meet with you if you wish to raise any matters with them.

**Video Calls:** Video Calls with your family and friends will remain in operation and will be extended to **20 minutes in all prisons from Monday 28th September.**

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**SCHOOLS will remain open in Dublin and in all other prisons!**
GOVERNMENT PLAN:

In this plan, there are 5 levels of restrictions that aim to help us go about our daily lives as much as possible, while managing the spread of the virus.

These Levels are applied to each county based on the current COVID-19 situation in each county.

At Present, County Dublin is at LEVEL 3 while the rest of the Country is at LEVEL 2.

New Directions- Supporting Families of people in Prison

New Directions is a new initiative which aims to offer a free, confidential information and support service for families affected by imprisonment. It offers a listening ear and emotional support to help families with the challenges they face.

New Directions Services include:

- One-to-one support and counselling to family members
- Group support and counselling for the family
- Practical information about the operation of the prison system
- Provision of restorative justice opportunities for families
- Advocate on behalf of families to highlight the impact of parental imprisonment and for enhanced services to meet their needs

New Directions is situated in Clondalkin, Dublin 22 and is available nationwide to all families seeking support.

Phone: 087 609 7686
Email: familynewd@gmail.com

STRESS BUSTERS!