

## If asked what is happening with the recommendations of the High-level Taskforce

- Prisons are a very important component of the overall response to addiction problems in Irish society.
- The prison environment provides a unique opportunity to support individuals to address addiction and so it is essential to have a range of treatment and intervention options available to ensure the best possibility of a positive outcome.
- In fulfilment of a Programme for Government commitment, the Final Report and Recommendations of the High Level Task Force to consider the mental health and addiction challenges of those who come into contact with the criminal justice sector was published in September 2022.
- The report identifies over 60 recommendations which capture the entirety of an individual's interactions with the criminal justice system.
- As part of one of the recommendations of the Task Force Report, the Irish Prison Service and HSE will work together on the development of a Dual Diagnosis service within prisons.
- The IPS are also supportive of the development of a collaborative approach in the area of addiction in prisons which would mirror the existing collaboration which exists with the National Forensic Mental Health Service.
- In addition to the work of the High Level Task Force, the commitment to better mental care within the criminal justice system was reflected in the provision of over €2m in additional funding under Budget 2022 for the Prison Service to improve mental health services.