

Memorandum of understanding between the Irish Prison Service, the Probation Service and the Central Statistics Office (CSO)

Statement of purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to ensure that there is effective co-operation between the Irish Prison Service (henceforth termed PRISON SERVICE), the Probation Service (henceforth termed PROBATION SERVICE) and the Central Statistics Office (henceforth CSO) so that all three organisations may co-operate for the production of crime statistics in accordance with the procedures and requirements of the Statistics Act, 1993.

Relationship between operational and statistical needs

The CSO recognises that the primary purpose of the PRISON and PROBATION information systems is to support the case management requirements of the PRISON SERVICE and the PROBATION SERVICE, but that where practicable and resources permit, the information systems will also support statistical needs. When data is sought, the CSO, the PRISON SERVICE and the PROBATION SERVICE will aim, in so far as is possible, to balance the need to accurately collect and report statistics and the burden it imposes on the PRISON SERVICE and PROBATION SERVICE information systems.

Provision of data from the PRISON Service to the CSO

The PRISON SERVICE and the PROBATION SERVICE will provide micro-data from their information systems where it is necessary for the production of statistics. Aggregate data will also be supplied from some information systems where it is agreed that the provision of micro-data is unnecessary. The content of these data files and the timing of their transfer to CSO will be agreed and updated periodically by the PRISON SERVICE, the PROBATION SERVICE and the CSO. The transfer of such data will be in line with best data confidentiality and security practice.

Use of micro-data for statistical compilation and analysis purposes

The CSO will use the micro-data from PRISON and PROBATION information systems to generate and publicly disseminate annual recidivism statistics. Subject to the approval of the Directors of the Irish PRISON SERVICE and the PROBATION SERVICE, the CSO may also use the data in conjunction with its other demographic sources or other administrative sources from the criminal justice system to provide additional aggregate statistical information.

Confidentiality

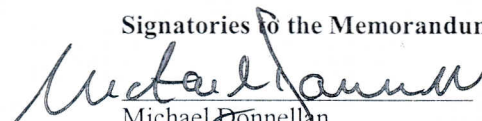
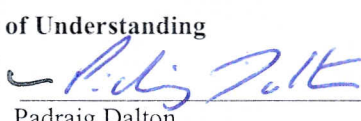
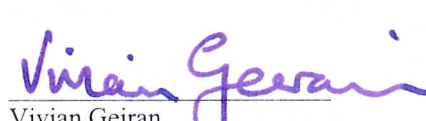
All PRISON and PROBATION data supplied to the CSO will be subject to the highest standards of protection and confidentiality. These datasets shall not be disseminated, shown or communicated to any other person or body in a form that can be related to an identifiable person or undertaking, in line with the provisions of the Statistics Act 1993.

External user access to micro-data

No access shall be granted to external users of the micro-data without the express written permission of the Directors of the PROBATION SERVICE and the PRISON SERVICE, with such conditions as the Directors and the CSO deem appropriate.

If requests are made for micro-datasets that include linked data from An Garda Siochana administrative data sources, then the CSO may only provide the data with the additional consent of the Commissioner of An Garda Siochana.

Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding

		
Michael Donnellan	Padraig Dalton	Vivian Geiran
Director, Irish Prison Service	Director General, CSO	Director, Probation Service
Date 11/11/2013	Date 5/12/13	Date 07/11/13