

**PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PRISON OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

# **PRISON OFFICER**

**AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018**



## **Winners of Irelands Got Talent RDC perform at the Family Summer Camp run by Cork Prison Staff**

See pages 13-14 for more information on this event.



## **Well done to all who participated in the National Services Day on the 1st September 2018**

See page 18 for photos of this event



## **Over 10,000 people attended the ICTU sponsored rally outside Leinster House on the 3rd October 2018**

See pages 20-22 for details of this rally and photos of the event

# EDITORIAL

Members,

On the first of October we received a further 1% in our pay which is part of the ongoing pay restoration agenda, this is not just for Prison Officers but for the entire public service. On the first of January there is a further 1% for those earning less than €30,000, the pension contributions will cease on non-pensionable pay and for non-fast accrual grades the pension threshold rises to €32,000. Please see page 17 re: the PSSA 2018-2020.

While some will feel that this is too little and not fast enough, many others will remember the massive pay hikes through the 'Celtic Tiger' years complete with all the excesses that accompanied that particular time, when successive Governments rode the high tide of growth that turned out to be a bubble. Many believed the good times were going to last forever. Well they didn't and Prison Officers along with every other Public Servant bore the brunt of the hubris of others and all our pay was slashed so Ireland Inc. could survive. The pay increases secured under the present pay agreement are sustainable and coupled with the amalgamation into pay of the rent allowance has made the Union position stronger than it had been previously.

Next Spring the reality of Brexit whether it's Soft or Hard should be known, One thing is for sure everyone will be affected and with a successor to the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018-2020 scheduled for negotiation

between the Government and the Trade Unions in early Summer 2019 nothing other than a difficult set of talks can be anticipated.

A warm welcome to our new President, Tony Power, who won the recent Presidential Election. Tony took up office on the 29th August 2018 and we wish him the best of luck.

Meanwhile on the staffing front there have been three classes passed out this year so far with two more before the end of the year. While it is slow growth with a number of staff retiring, however it is going in the right direction following the restrictions imposed by the Government moratorium on recruitment and promotions. In the following paragraphs there are brief updates on the various areas where we have engaged on your behalf.

## Housing Protest 3rd October 2018

The POA were represented at the Raise the Roof rally which took place on Wednesday, 3rd October, outside Leinster House.

This rally was supported by an unprecedented number of civil society bodies, from housing advocates and expert agencies, to community and campaign groups, student organisations and a range of political parties.

The rally took place on the same day that an agreed opposition party motion on the housing crisis was been debated in the Dail. The motion

closely reflected Congress policy on this issue, as set out in our Charter for Housing Rights. Crucially, the rally presented a significant opportunity to send a clear message to government from all sectors of society that we must see urgent and radical change in housing policy, if the crisis is to be properly addressed and resolved.

## Congress Pre-budget Submission

Congress's pre-budget submission set out the priorities to ensure that workers and their families receive a fairer share of the economic expansion now taking place and forecast to continue over the short-term, and to ensure that the people who suffered more than most during the crisis years are supported to live a flourishing life of dignity. In particular, ICTU believe that Budget 2019 should prioritise investment in housing, childcare, education, and health and avoid populist tax cuts.

## Travel Voucher Winner-Sign up for email access

The draw for the winner of the travel voucher took place in POA Headquarters on Wednesday 5th September 2018. Mr Eugene Dunne, the Staff Side Secretary to General Council kindly agreed to draw out the winner. On behalf of the NEC,



I would like to congratulate Kevin Naughton Wheatfield Prison who won the €1,500 travel voucher. I also would like to thank all those new members who signed up for email access and report that there are in excess of 1,600 members currently on the email listing. However I would strongly encourage all members who are not on our email system to sign up so all information sent from POA Headquarters can be received without delay.

## European Cross Country Championship

This year Ireland has been chosen to host the European Prison Service Cross Country Championship. This competition has been running for well over two decades with countries from all over Europe entering teams. This year's competition will be taking place in Emo Court on Saturday 17th November. The competition will consist of a 5k and 10k race through the scenic grounds of Emo Court. The Irish team both male and female has been chosen from a selection event. The European Prison Service Cross Country Championship will need the assistance of volunteers so the organisers are requesting anyone available to assist in this prestigious event please contact Tom Curtis at [txcurtis@irishprisons.ie](mailto:txcurtis@irishprisons.ie) or Mick Dooley at [mjdooley@irishprisons.ie](mailto:mjdooley@irishprisons.ie)

## EAP/Inspire

On page 23 of this newsletter you will find an article in relation to Inspire which is a 24/7 counselling service that is available to all Irish Prison Service Staff. The Counselling Service is a confidential employee support service designed to support employees resolve personal or work related concerns, through telephone and on-line support or face to face

counselling (up to 6 sessions) free of charge to all serving Prison Service Staff.

To access counselling or telephone support from Inspire Workplaces, you can contact them 24/7 on their helpline number at: 1800 817 433

## National Services Day

On Saturday 1st September 2018, Prison Officers formed part of a parade from the Garden of Remembrance to Dublin Castle as part of the Frontline Emergency and Security Services Eire Forum. In Dublin Castle there was an impressive display of each organisation represented under the FESSEF umbrella.

## Branch News

I would like to thank the Branches that have contributed to this newsletter and I would encourage more Branches to submit articles for inclusion in the Prison Officer magazine. Please pass on your articles through your Branch Secretary.

## Website and Email Access to POA Information

I would like once again to take the opportunity to stress the importance for Members to sign up for information access. Any member who wishes to sign up for Website and Email Access please email [admin@poa.ie](mailto:admin@poa.ie) and an username and password for the Members Section will be issued and your personal email address will be added to the 1,600 other Members who regularly receive updates from Headquarters.

**Paul Purcell Editor**

## Winner Sign Up for Email Access



**The National Executive Council would like to congratulate Kevin Naughton Wheatfield Prison as the winner of the €1,500 travel voucher. This competition was a great success in that there are now over 1,600 members signed up for email access. Kevin was presented with the travel voucher by President POA Tony Power in one of his first official acts as POA President. The National Executive Council would also like to thank Mr Eugene Dunne the Staff Side Secretary to General Council in conducting the draw for the POA.**



“We need more investment than the amount envisaged under the Ireland 2040 Strategy.”

## Foreword

The years of austerity did immense damage to Ireland's people and Ireland's economy and infrastructure. Now is the time to reinvest. Congress agrees with the European Commission view outlined in its 2018 country report for Ireland that addressing emerging infrastructural bottlenecks is 'essential' for sustainable and balanced growth in the future.<sup>1</sup>

Repairing public services, overcoming infrastructural shortcomings, addressing the consequences of a growing and ageing population, responding to the impact of new technologies, and responding to the challenges of Brexit and other emerging risks require a substantial increase in productive investment over the coming years. We need more investment than the amount envisaged under the Ireland 2040 Strategy. We will need to invest more in a wide range of areas including in social and affordable housing, in healthcare, in childcare and education, in training and upskilling, in water infrastructure and rural broadband, in clean and renewable energy, in public transport and the motorway network, and in R&D and innovation.

Given the many challenges facing Ireland, it is Congress's clear view that tax cuts are simply not affordable and run counter to the ideal of universal public services. The Government tax cutting agenda is reckless and it should not proceed. Tax cuts would prevent Ireland from achieving the sound and sustainable public finances that are necessary to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century Ireland. Tax cuts would also risk over-heating the economy. As recommended by the European Commission, Budget 2019 should '*limit the scope and the number of tax expenditures, and broaden the tax base,*' in particular by abolishing the 9% VAT rate for the hospitality sector, which is no longer justified by any measure.

Congress's pre-budget submission sets out our priorities to ensure that workers and their families receive a fairer share of the economic expansion now taking place and forecast to continue over the short-term, and to ensure that the people who suffered more than most during the crisis years are supported to live a flourishing life of dignity. In particular, we believe that Budget 2019 should prioritise investment in housing, childcare, education, and health and avoid populist tax cuts.



Patricia King,  
General Secretary, Congress

<sup>1</sup>. European Commission: *Country Report - Ireland*, 7.3.2018.

# Key Priorities

## The Fiscal Context

The Government's proposed increase in public spending in 2019 is inadequate given the current underspend compared to other high-income western European countries, the ongoing crises in health, housing and early years care and education, as well as the growing and ageing population.

The existing plans to cut taxes should not proceed and all of the net fiscal space for 2019 should go towards public spending.

While the concept of a 'Rainy Day Fund' is one that has merit, it is not clear why Ireland should be investing in foreign equity stakes – as would presumably happen – when the same resources could be better deployed boosting the productive capacity of the economy; if the Government is concerned about overheating in the economy, then the appropriate response is to increase taxes, not cut them.

## Raise additional revenue

Congress is proposing a number of measures to raise additional revenue of €1.3 billion (Table 3). For example, the abolition of the 'temporary' 9% VAT rate for the hospitality sector – bringing the applicable rate back to 13.5% - could raise €520 million while the reform of capital taxation and the system of tax expenditures (including the introduction of a wealth tax) could raise €375 million.

## Support Workers and Families

The Government should prioritise greater support for workers and families, including by boosting the social wage in the form of better collective childcare, education, health, housing and transport services; by aligning the National Minimum Wage with the Living Wage as quickly as possible; and by increasing welfare payments by at least a higher percentage than prices are projected to rise next year, thereby helping to protect people who receive social transfers, including pensions, from poverty and to live in dignity and as equal members of society.

01

02

03





## Meet the challenges of Brexit now

Brexit poses a major risk for Ireland, particularly to specific regions and sectors. The jobs of between 20,000-40,000 workers could go by 2030 under a 'hard' Brexit outcome while real wages could be up to 3.5% lower for some workers (both compared to a 'no-Brexit' scenario).

Congress is calling for the establishment of a Brexit Adjustment Assistance Fund (BAAF) to support the workers whose jobs are most at risk. This should happen now, not after the UK leaves or half-leaves. The BAAF could be modelled on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund and the US Trade Adjustment Assistance Programme and initiatives in other European countries that effectively anticipate and manage restructuring and labour market change, including by involving trade unions'.

04

05

## Invest

Overcoming infrastructural deficits, addressing the consequences of demographic change, responding to the impact of new technology, preparing for the risks of Brexit as well as other emerging risks require us to invest much more than is planned under the Ireland 2040 Strategy. This includes greater investment in social and affordable housing, childcare, health, education, training and upskilling, water, broadband, clean and renewable energy, ports, public transport, motorways, R&D and innovation etc.

06

## Meet our global commitments

Budget 2019 should mark a substantial increase in Ireland's official Overseas Development Aid allocation, putting us on a path to meeting our commitment to allocate (at least) 0.7% of national income by 2025 (compared to 0.3% in 2018).

Budget 2019 should also prioritise investment in measures that enable Ireland to meet our commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to increase renewable energy and to improve energy efficiency.

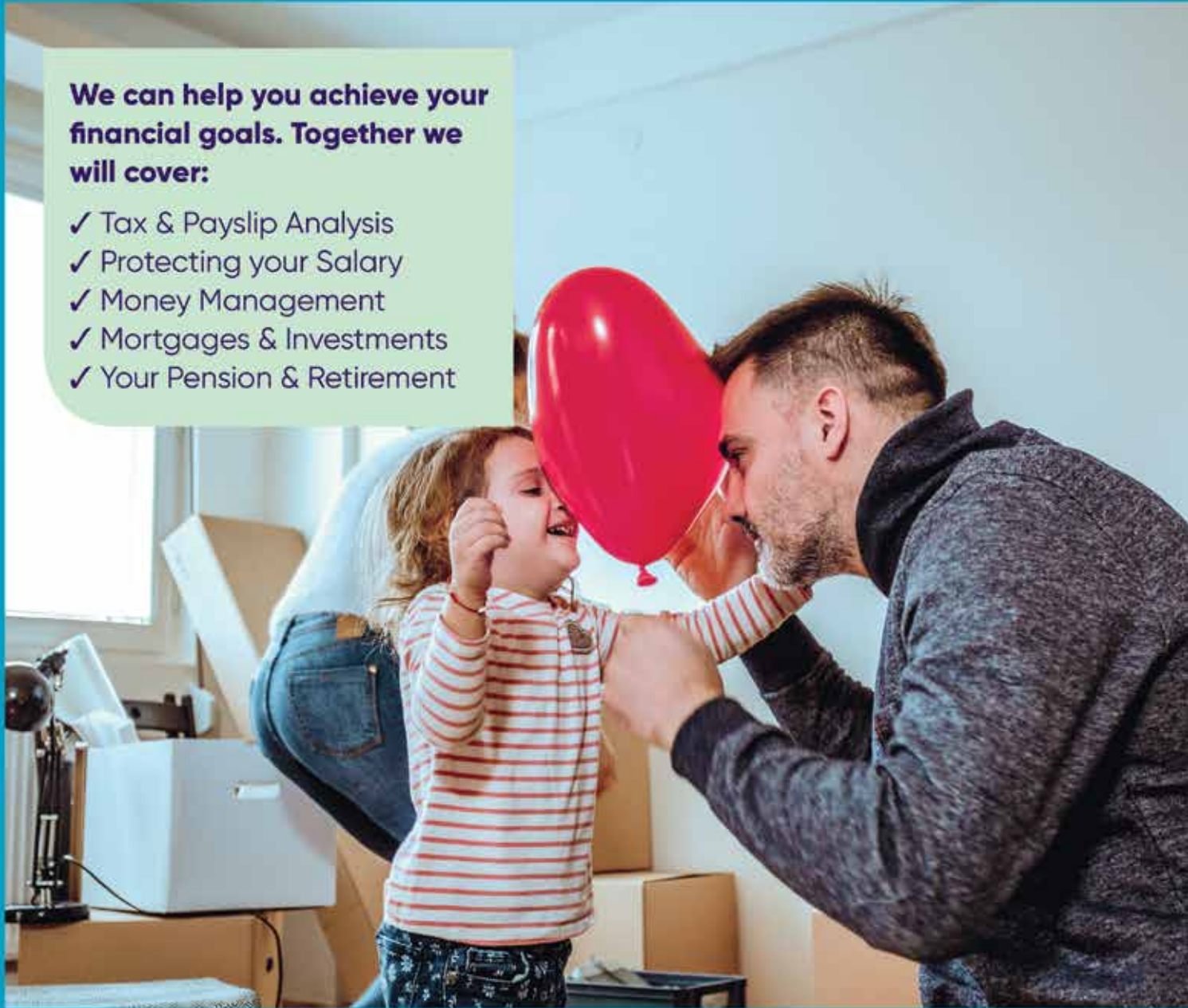
Since the transition to a low-carbon economy does have consequences for workers, particularly in energy and transport, Congress calls for the establishment of a just transition instrument to enable workers acquire the skills to thrive in a changing industrial context.

# Financial Planning

Do something today that you will thank your future self for...

**We can help you achieve your financial goals. Together we will cover:**

- ✓ Tax & Payslip Analysis
- ✓ Protecting your Salary
- ✓ Money Management
- ✓ Mortgages & Investments
- ✓ Your Pension & Retirement



For a Free Financial Planning Appointment,  
call us on **(01) 408 6277**

Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. A member of the Irish Life Group Ltd. which is part of the Great West Lifeco Group of companies. Telephone calls may be recorded for quality control and training purposes.



## RUSTY RAMBLERS

Hello all, another magazine, another article. So what have we been up to? Our annual Wildcamp took place on the 25th/26th of June at Coumshingaun Lough in the Comeraghs. Our usual bunch of pretend outdoorsmen and woman dragged as many of our indoor creature comforts outdoor to "rough it" for the night. Tents were set up, deck chairs were unfurled, fire lit and as much food as a well-stocked fridge was consumed overnight. Stories were told and lies were created and in the morning we packed up (leaving no trace) and headed home.

July saw us take a bus trip to Fermanagh and walk the "Stairway to Heaven". A purpose built track through a beautiful UNESCO protected parkland. A long day trip for all involved but rewarded with some spectacular scenery and great weather. A well-travelled and maintained track and stairway led to a plateau where many people gathered and took in the surroundings.

August found us on Galtymore at 919mtrs its Irelands tallest inland mountain. As is always the case in Ireland we had some bright weather at the start followed by wind and mist at the



summit followed by bright and clear weather as we descended. Little or no views were had from the summit owing to the mist and Fergus hurrying our coffee break. A thank you has to go out to my fellow Rusties for getting me up and down as it wasn't in the legs on the day.

As I write this we're looking forward to our September walk in Wales. Snowdon will be our target next week and our group of 15 hikers are

excited about going international again.

As always we like to see our members taking on challenges for themselves. So we would like to wish Billy, Godspeed as he heads to Nepal for the trek of a lifetime to Everest basecamp.

Our calendar is in place for the next few months so why not look us up on our Facebook page and join us for a hike, you never know you might like it.

Regards, Derek

## CLOVERHILL BRANCH NEWS



Cloverhill once again has seen some personnel changes, and for the first time in many years we have an ongoing recruitment campaign. On that note the branch would like to welcome all the new recruits and transfers who have joined us in recent months. Unfortunately with the addition of all our new Staff it means old friends move on to pastures new, as they begin a new chapter in their career we wish them well.

With the Public Service Stability Agreement we have seen the restoration of some of our terms

and conditions and with it the benefits of collective bargaining. As we approach 2020 and the lifetime of the deal, the impending Brexit looms large. This has potential far reaching ramifications that have not been seen since Gunter Schabowski miss read an East German memo and sparked the fall of the Berlin wall. Despite this I have no doubt, with pay restoration now back in full swing that we will continue firmly on the road to achieving a full restoration of all that was eroded from us during the recessionary times.

On a local front we would like to thank anyone who has assisted the branch in any way so far this year, and to any of the new Staff in Cloverhill, our door is always open and we are happy to assist in any way we can.

Finally we would like to congratulate the new President of the Association Tony Power and look forward to working with him during his term.

Neil Brady,  
Branch Secretary.



## MIDLANDS BRANCH NEWS

### 'El Presidente'

The local branch would like to congratulate our former Chairperson Tony Power on his recent election to President of the POA and we wish him well and continued success in the future.

We would like to thank Tony for his tireless efforts as Chairperson on behalf of the staff in the Midlands and look forward to working with him in his new role.

### Retiree's and Transfers

We welcome the many new staff that have arrived to join us here in the Midlands. To the staff who have left we wish you all the best. To our recently retired colleagues, it's been a pleasure working with you, don't be strangers.

### Midlands News

As we approach the Christmas period we reflect on another difficult year that has gone by. We think

of our injured colleagues, especially those injured on duty, and wish you all a speedy recovery.

There is no doubt that there remains troublesome and challenging issues amongst members throughout the country. Nothing can be dealt with or challenged from the outside. We encourage all members to attend all meetings, contribute and get involved, fill the vacancies on branches. This is your union, our union. Together we are strong.



## CORK BRANCH NEWS

### CORK PRISON OFFICERS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Rehearsals are back underway after our summer break and I would like to welcome a couple of new members who have joined us. We are getting ready for a number of events we have been asked to take part in. First up is early October, where along with a number of other Choirs we are recording a CD under the name Cork Harbour Voices. Each individual Choir will record a single track for the CD, we are singing our own version of "Spanish Girl" which was written by our own

member Eamon Breen. Should this venture prove to be successful it is hoped by the organisers to make it an annual event. For those of you on Facebook, Cork Harbour Voices has its own page if you want to check it out.

In November along with our Deceased Members Mass, we also have a wedding and we are hosting our own Concert in the Church in the Old Marymount Hospice, where we will be joined by the HFC Brass Band, New Ross. All proceeds from this concert will be going to Pieta House.

We were involved with Loudest Whisper earlier on this year in Children of Lir in the Opera

House and they are celebrating 50 years together this year. They are singing in the Rory Gallagher Library (City Library) and they have asked us to join them to sing a few songs from Lir and also a couple of other tunes. Again this will be different to our usual concerts and something to look forward to.

We are then into the Christmas season where we have a few invites and we have already started practising our Christmas songs so it is a busy time again for us.

Gerry O'Dwyer.



## PORTLAOISE BRANCH NEWS

### 2 Marathons in 1 Week

Hi, my name is Phil Keogh I'm a prison officer in Portlaoise Prison and I'm currently training for my biggest challenge to date, I will be running the Dublin City marathon on the 28th of October and a couple of days later I will fly out to run the New York City marathon on the 4th of November. I will be running both marathons in memory of Rory Hyland son of A.C.O Mick Hyland of the Midlands Prison. Rory passed away in February 2017 seven

months after been diagnosed with a rare form of Leukaemia. I will be running these marathons to raise much needed funds for the **Bone marrow for Leukaemia trust**. This charity is close to Mick and the Hyland family and it receives no funding from the HSE or any other state agency. I am asking for every member of the prison service to donate as **much** or as **little** as you can, I have set up a page on **everydayhero.com** you will be able to donate through this site on the link

below or sponsor cards myself and Mick will have in Portlaoise and Midlands Prisons. I would really appreciate your support for this worthy cause. If anybody wishes to contact me at any stage in relation to my challenge and fund-raising issues, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me @ Portlaoise Prison email or phone me on 0851675777 <https://give.everydayhero.com/ie/2-marathons-1-week-dublin-new-york>



## Recruit Prison Officers Passing Out

On Friday 13th July and Friday 14th September 2018 Recruit Prison Officers passed out from Brian Stack House. After 12 weeks of training these men and women have been posted to their assigned prisons for further training and development. Best of luck to one and all.











## Recruit Prison Officers Passing Out





In collaboration with

**Irish Association for the Social Integration of Offenders  
Cork Sports Partnership & The Dillons Cross Project**

## **KIDS SUMMER SPORTS CAMP**

*Connecting families and communities through sports and physical activity*



And In partnership with Football Association of Ireland, Munster Rugby, Basketball Ireland & Gaelic Athletic Association of Ireland



**The annual Children's Summer Camp took place in the Glen Resource Centre from August 7th to 10th inclusive. The camp is for the benefit of children who have, or have had, a relative in custody. This was the second year of the camp and it was inspired by the startling statistic that 60% of male children who have a parent in custody will themselves end up in custody.**

The camp is a partnership between the IPS (Cork Prison), IASIO, Cork Sports Partnership (CSP), Cork ETB and the Dillon's Cross Project.

The camp comprised of activities for children aged between 6 and 14 years and an average of 50 children (daily) attended the four days of the camp.

The activities consisted of

- Soccer (FAI)
- Rugby (Munster Rugby)
- Basketball (Basketball Ireland)
- Gymnastics
- Gaelic Football (GAA)
- Volleyball
- Arts & Crafts
- Dance
- Tug of War (CSP)
- Disability Football (FAI)
- Athletics (CSP)

This week long summer sports camp successfully runs like any other similar commercial camp in the community with all the children receiving certificates and medals, healthy snacks and drinks. The medals

and certificates were presented this year by the Lord Mayor of Cork City Cllr. Mick Finn. The format for each day (10am – 2pm) is that four different activities take place at the same time for 45 minute sessions and





Winners of Ireland's Got Talent 2018 RDC

then each group of kids (50 in total) will then rotate and move on to the next activity or workshop so that by the end of each day they will have experienced and participated in all four activities available on that day. The family fun day which took place on the Friday with the kids getting to avail of the great facilities in The Glen Resource and Sports Centre free of charge. These facilities included Zorbing, trampolines, bouncy castles, cargo nets and face painting. One

of the highlights of the Friday was a special performance from this year's 'Ireland's Got Talent' winners RDC Dance and Music group from East Cork.

This programme highlights the importance of interagency collaborations with continuing support from the Prison Officers Association (POA) vitally important in assuring that the project continues to be a success. This point was acknowledged both by the Lord

Mayor of Cork City Cllr. Mick Finn and Governor of Cork Prison Pat Dawson in their addresses to invited guests on the Friday. The ISM supported by other staff members in Cork Prison coordinate the running of the camp with the community based agencies and their role, support and commitment ensures the camp runs without any issues and allows the participant's to see prison officers in a different light. The main purpose of running this project is ultimately about trying to make communities safer and encourages children and their families to get active and play sports. It supports community based family projects and potentially in a small indirect way, helps reduce the risk of intergenerational offending.

Plans are already underway for the next camp in August 2019.

## Tuesday:

1. FAI
2. Athletics Ireland
3. Munster Rugby
4. Orienteering

## Wednesday:

1. Arts & Crafts
2. Gymnastics
3. Disability Sports
4. Music & Dance Workshop

## Thursday:

1. Basketball Ireland
2. Tug of War
3. Cork GAA
4. Volleyball

## Friday:

1. Family Fun Day





# **IPS ATHLETICS**

## **John Sheehan Memorial Race 2018**

On September 6th the annual John Sheehan 5K run took place in Portlaoise. This event run by Prison Service staff for Prison Service staff looked to build on the success of previous years. This year it included the qualifying race for the Irish team due to compete in the European Prison Service Cross Country Championships taking place in Emo Court on the 17th Of November this year.

The route this year was amended from previous years as St Fintan's hospital was not available to us due to road works taking place. Instead following an extensive risk assessment the route was extended down the Stradbally Rd and around SS Peter and Paul's church before turning back up the Dublin Rd. This then moved the finish line from opposite IPSC to halfway down the Stradbally Rd making the run a lap and a half rather than the usual two lap circuit.

Although numbers were down from last year's event it was great to see 24 runners lacing up on a dreary evening in September. A notable aspect of this year's run was that there was staff taking part from almost all the institutions across the estate from IPSHQ all the way down to Cork Prison including a number of retired staff and recruits. It was also noticeable just how high the standard of runner was leading to some very fast times over this 5 kilometre lap and a half course. The course is quite flat overall with only a small gradient in parts. The start line was in the grounds of IPSC before

the athletes crossed the Dublin road and headed up towards the Block Rd. At the Block Rd the route turned right along the Block Rd to the junction with the Stradbally Rd, there it turned right and went down the Stradbally Rd to SS Peter and Paul's Church. There it turned back up the Dublin Rd to repeat the route just described with the new finish line at the back entrance to St Fintan's Hospital. It became very obvious from the start that there was a very high standard at the front of the field with Mick O'Brien passing the finish line in 17.04.

The ladies event was no less interesting with Deirdre Delaney from the Midlands leading the ladies home in a time of 20.47.

As ever with this type of event it is the runners in the rest of the field that make it a sporting occasion with every place being challenged for. Thanks to the IPSC who provided the staff to steward and run the race and who provided post-race refreshments to all participants. Special thanks too to the all in the Irish Prison Service for supporting this event as an event for all staff and also to Mick Dooley who provides much of the drive and energy behind the event.

As a group of ordinary people who do a very difficult, stressful and undervalued job it is important that ways are found to support each other and deal with the stresses that our working lives place upon us. It is well recognised that healthy living and

exercise is vital in maintaining both mental and physical health and so it is the wish of the organising committee that more members of staff will take up the challenge next year.

As already mentioned Ireland is hosting this year European Prison Service Cross Country Championships in Emo Court on the 17th of November this year. Ten countries from all over Europe will be sending both male and female teams to compete in the event. It promises to be a fantastic event with athletes of the highest standard taking part. In order to make this event a success we will need as many volunteers as possible to help out in running the event. If you think you can spare a few hours on either the 16th, 17th or 18th of November and would like to be part of this top class event please contact any of the following below.

**Simon Duffy Loughan House**  
**[spduffy@irishprisons.ie](mailto:spduffy@irishprisons.ie)**

**Qona Monahan Castlerea Prison**  
**[Qmonahan@irishprisons.ie](mailto:Qmonahan@irishprisons.ie)**

**Gavin Hyland Midlands Prison**  
**[gphyland@irishprisons.ie](mailto:gphyland@irishprisons.ie)**

**Mick Dooley Cork Prison**  
**[mjdooley@irishprisons.ie](mailto:mjdooley@irishprisons.ie)**

**Tom Curtis Cork Prison**  
**[txcurtis@irishprisons.ie](mailto:txcurtis@irishprisons.ie)**

# 2018 European Prison Service Cross Country Championship



Ireland has been chosen to host the 2018 European Prison Service Cross Country Championship for the first time since 2009. This competition has been running for well over two decades with countries from all over Europe entering teams. This year's competition will be taking place in Emo Court on the 17th of November and will consist of a 5k and 10k race through the scenic grounds of Emo Court. The Irish team both male and female will be chosen from a selection event which will be run later in the year (details to be announced).

**If you want to be part of this Europe-wide event and would like the opportunity to meet with Prison Officers from other jurisdictions we are looking for volunteers to help run the event. Participants will be arriving on the 16th, competing on the 17th and returning home on the 18th. If you can spare any time on any of those dates please contact us.**

If you have any questions or would like to be part of this occasion please contact either myself at [txcurtis@irishprisons.ie](mailto:txcurtis@irishprisons.ie) or Mick Dooley at [mjdooley@irishprisons.ie](mailto:mjdooley@irishprisons.ie). Alternatively your local IPSSLA rep will have more details as they emerge.

Yours in sport  
Tom Curtis (Cork Prison)  
Secretary Irish Prison Service Athletics Club.



# PAY

**Public Service Stability Agreement  
(PSSA) 2018 - 2020**

**FOR CERTAINTY, FOR SECURITY,  
FOR PROGRESS -**

## PAY UPDATE

The Pay and Pension levy adjustments contained in the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018 – 2020 are as follows:

- **1st January 2018: 1% pay adjustment (Now received)**
- **1st October 2018: 1% pay adjustment (Now received)**
- **1st January 2019: Pension levy threshold up from €28,750 to €32,000 (worth €325pa). This is for non-fast accrual grades and all grades in the new Single Public Service Pension Scheme**
- **1st January 2019: Pension Contribution will cease on non-pensionable pay for example additional hours and overtime payments**
- **1st January 2019: 1% pay adjustment for those earning less than €30,000**
- **1st September 2019: 1.75% pay adjustment**
- **1st January 2020: Pension levy threshold increased to €34,500 (worth €250pa) for non-fast accrual grades and all grades in the new Single Public Service Pension Scheme**
- **1st October 2020: 2% pay adjustment.**



# National Services Day 1st September 2018

On Saturday 1st September 2018 Frontline and Voluntary Services participated in a parade that left the Garden of Remembrance, marched down O'Connell Street, Dame Street and into Dublin Castle. An abundance of emergency vehicles were on parade with brass and pipe bands from the many services adding the musical element on a glorious sunny day. It was a great family day out with the different services displaying their own specific equipment in Dublin Castle. Great credit must go to the organisers of this entire event which was well received by the many spectators on the parade route. The Prison Service was well represented at this parade with a guard of honour and the pipe band.





# Public Sector Car Insurance



You could WIN

**€500\***

Off your car or  
home insurance

When you get a quote  
between 01/05/2018  
and 31/12/2018



To get a quote call **(01) 408 6222**  
visit **[cornmarket.ie](http://cornmarket.ie)**

\* Competition is subject to Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd. terms and conditions and normal acceptance criteria. Eligibility criteria, terms and conditions apply. See [Cornmarket.ie/car-and-home-get-a-quote-competition-tcs](http://Cornmarket.ie/car-and-home-get-a-quote-competition-tcs) for full terms and conditions. Allianz p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. A member of the Irish Life Group Ltd. which is part of the Great-West Lifeco Group of companies. Telephone calls may be recorded for quality control and training purposes.





**Irish Congress of Trade Unions President Sheila Nunan, Fr. Peter McVerry of the Peter McVerry Trust, Orla O'Connor of the National Women's Council, Michelle Byrne of USI and Aisling Bruen of the National Homeless & Housing Coalition launched the Raise the Roof Rally for Housing, on Thursday, September 6th at 11:30am, in Buswells Hotel, Dublin.**

The Raise the Roof initiative sees trade unions, political parties, students' unions, housing agencies & community and campaign groups join forces to demand radical new action on the housing crisis, including support for a rally that took place outside Leinster House on Wednesday 3rd October in advance of the budget.

Participating groups called for support for the lunchtime rally outside Leinster House, which has been organised by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Over 10,000 people answered the

call with various speakers addressing the rally with music from Frances Black and Damien Dempsey. The rally has been called in support of an opposition party motion on housing that is scheduled to be debated in the Dáil that day.

The motion calls for radical new action on the housing crisis and is supported by Sinn Féin, People Before Profit, the Labour Party, the Social Democrats and the Green Party, with others expected to add their support.





# THE HOUSING CRISIS IS AN ISSUE FOR EVERYONE

Most workers now struggle to buy a home of their own as house prices have spiralled beyond the reach of those on low and average incomes.

Soaring rents have put huge financial strain on workers, students and their families, often paying for poor quality accommodation with little or no security of tenure.

It is a key issue for women as our rate of female homelessness is now double that of other EU states and more than 60% of homeless families are headed by lone parents, the majority of whom are women.

Meanwhile, housing waiting lists grow ever longer and homeless numbers are at record levels. Thousands are now crowded into unsuitable accommodation, with families forced to raise children in hotel rooms and other emergency dwellings. Government policy to date has failed to solve the crisis.

But on October 3rd there is a chance to change course, when an opposition party motion on the crisis is debated in the Dáil.

The motion demands radical new action on the crisis, including the construction of quality, affordable public housing, preventing people from being evicted into homelessness and enshrining the right to housing in the constitution.

It is supported by Sinn Féin, People Before Profit, the Labour Party, Solidarity, the Social Democrats, the Green Party and Independents4Change, with others expected to add their backing. The motion also has the support of a wide range of trade unions,

housing agencies, and community and campaign groups representing tens of thousands of people across all sectors of our society.

A special rally has been called for outside Leinster House at lunchtime on Wednesday October 3rd by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, in conjunction with the National Homeless & Housing Coalition, the Union of Students in Ireland, the National Women's Council of Ireland and key housing and homeless agencies.

**So join us on  
Oct 3rd and help  
us Raise the Roof  
for change**

[www.ictu.ie/raisetherooft](http://www.ictu.ie/raisetherooft)



#RaiseTheRoof #HomesforAll #Oct3rd



[https://www.facebook.com/  
NationalHomelessandHousingCoalition/](https://www.facebook.com/NationalHomelessandHousingCoalition/)



*Printed and produced by trade union labour.*









## Inspire Workplaces - On line Resources

Inspire Workplaces 24/7 counselling service is available to all Irish Prison Staff (formerly Carecall). This is an important enhancement of the Irish Prison Service EAP, Prison staff still have full access to local SSO's and centrally based EAO's and are encouraged to continue to engage with local SSO's and EAO's who are available to provide advice and support on a range of issues and may well suggest a referral to Inspire Workplaces where more focused emotional support is considered to be helpful. The EAP can be contacted at 043-333 5316 or at [eapsupport@irishprisons.ie](mailto:eapsupport@irishprisons.ie)

The Counselling Service is a confidential employee support service designed to support employees resolve personal or work related concerns, through telephone and on-line support and telephone or face to face counselling (up to 6 sessions) free of charge to all serving Prison staff.

Attendance at counselling sessions must be undertaken when off duty. Appointments are available in the evenings and at week-ends. However, once counselling sessions are scheduled for you, any cancellations within 24 hours or non-attendances for whatever reason will be included in the 6 sessions allowed. Should you cancel your appointment within 24 hours or indeed not turn up for one of your scheduled sessions this incurs a financial cost but more importantly your benefit from the course of 6 sessions provided is reduced as a consequence. You are strongly encouraged to attend all scheduled sessions and when it is necessary, to provide more than 24 hours' notice to your counsellor in the event you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment

In addition to the counselling service proved by Inspire Workplaces, prison staff also have access to extensive on-line support provided by Inspire Workplaces via their website, [www.inspirewellbeing.org](http://www.inspirewellbeing.org).

When you are browsing the website, Inspire Workplaces have a menu of options on the top right hand corner, one of which is a login option. The log in details for this service, for prison staff are:

**Login: [irishprisonservice](#) Password: [ips@eap](#) (all lower case)**

There are 3 options to choose from on the left of the home page:

1. On-line tests – This section includes optional self-report tests on Stress and Alcohol consumption and may well provide an indication that further support is warranted.
2. Self-help library – This sections includes advice and support on topics including amongst others anger, anxiety, bereavement, my family, sleep, stress, and my work. Under each of these topics there is a number of sub-categories. For example, if you click on My Family, you are directed to advice on 'empty nest syndrome' and 'single parenthood' and the advice and guidelines contained in these sections are certainly well worth a look.
3. Useful reports – this section lists reports on key topics like Mindfulness and Mental Health and Work and also includes reports from the World Health Organisation report.

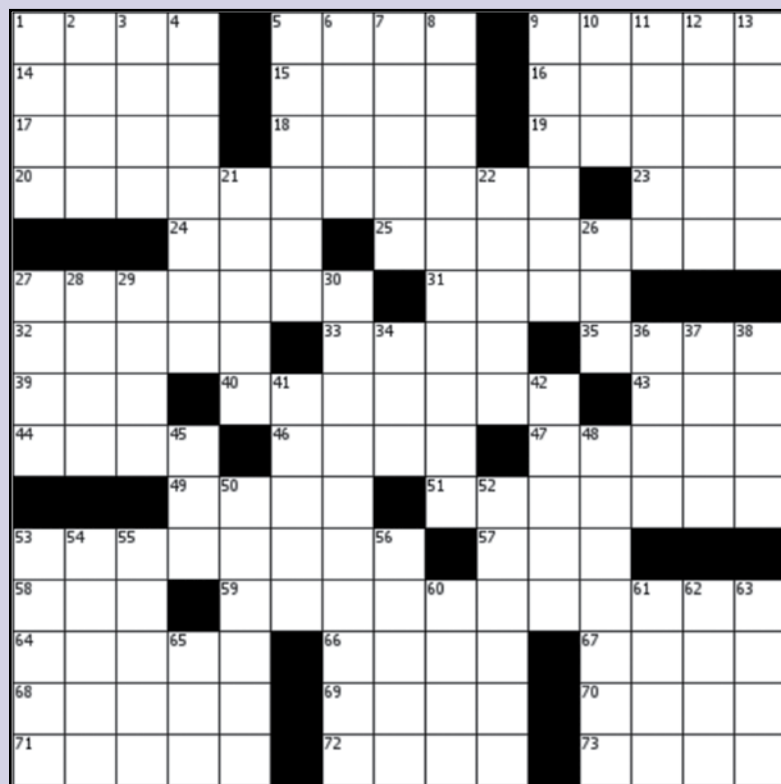
The website also has a section to support students, either yourself if you are studying or one of your children.

If you would like to keep in touch with Inspire Workplaces, you can enter your email address. They can also be followed via Facebook, Twitter and you may wish to view recommended YouTube videos.

**To access counselling or telephone support from Inspire Workplaces, you can contact them 24/7 on their helpline number at: 1800 817 433**

## BRAIN EXERCISES

### CROSSWORD



Please send completed  
Crossword Entries by  
Friday 30th November  
2018 to  
The Editor,  
Prison Officer Magazine,  
18, Merrion Square,  
Dublin 2.  
5 prizes of €25 will be  
awarded to winning  
entries.

#### ACROSS

1. Drinks slowly
5. Aide: Abbr.
9. Machu Picchu builders
14. Correct mistakes in
15. Ness, for one
16. Ship's load
17. Unassisted
18. Miles away
19. Web correspondence
20. London press locale
23. Sunshine State: Abbr.
24. Water\_\_: dental gadget
25. School term
27. Adam's apparel?
31. "Shoo, Tabby!"
32. Bordeaux bye-bye
33. Lariat material

#### DOWN

35. Once around the sun
39. Court arbiter
40. Little tykes
43. Lager kin
44. Spouse
46. Artist Magritte
47. Welles or Bean
49. Hearing organs
51. Gave to charity
53. Seafood selection
57. Set afire
58. Rainbow shape
59. Pre-color computer display
64. Game with numbered balls
66. Gen. Robert \_\_
67. Mystical glow
68. Take an oath

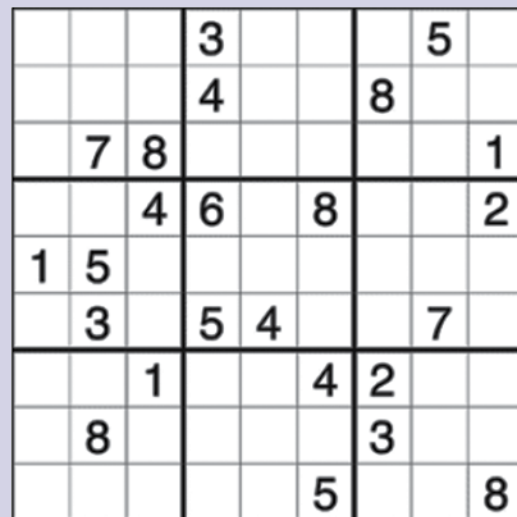
#### ACROSS

69. "Gimme a break!"
70. Bed with bars
71. Conductor Previn
72. Author \_\_ Christian Andersen
73. A loooooong time

#### DOWN

1. Women's fitness magazine
2. Fan club's focus
3. Knotty wood
4. Bell tower
5. "Seward's Folly" purchase
6. Lenient, as on crime
7. Surgery souvenirs
8. Like some old bikes
9. Summer cooler
10. '60s conflict site

### SUDOKU



Please send completed Sudoku Entries by  
Friday 30th November 2018 to  
The Editor

Prison Officer Magazine,  
18, Merrion Square, Dublin 2.  
5 prizes of €25 will be awarded to the winning entries.

11. Manual skill
12. Like a gymnast
13. Alternative power type
21. Traffic jam
22. Show host
26. Pig's place
27. Old MacDonald's place
28. Notion
29. Special talent
30. First Amendment guarantee
34. Hold the deed to
36. Word after Near, Middle or Far
37. Burn balm
38. Rip apart
41.  $2 + 2 = 5$ , e.g.
42. Part of SST

45. Moray, e.g.
48. Daily grind
50. 2000 presidential candidate
52. Mary-Kate and Ashley
53. Cancún condiment
54. Sovereign's headpiece
55. Played a role
56. 1965 civil rights march site
60. Broadway gas
61. Currency on the Continent
62. "\_\_\_ Brockovich"
63. Runs in, as a perp
65. Roofing material

## — SUMMER WINNERS —

### CROSSWORD WINNERS

Christy Maguire	Portlaoise	€25
Aidan McGowan	Castlereagh	€25
Eamonn Niland	Wheatfield	€25
Paul Brennan	Arbour Hill	€25
Noel McGivney	PSEC	€25

### SUDOKU WINNERS

Pat Delaney	Portlaoise	€25
Olive O Connor	Limerick	€25
Martin Casey	Cork	€25
Terence O Mahoney	Limerick	€25
JT Dunne	Arbour Hill	€25

PRIZES KINDLY SPONSORED BY AXA INSURANCE