

February 2018, 'Point in Time' Analysis

1. Introduction

The Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and the Communications and Engagement Strategy 2017-2020 of Oberstown Children Detention Campus contain a commitment to collate and analyse good quality data to support the quality of care provided to young people. Following on from the publication of a detailed Q1 snapshot of the circumstances of young people, and continuing our commitment to publish timely and relevant statistics on young people in detention, a 'point-in-time' statistical report will now be published on a monthly basis.

The data captured here reflects a snapshot of young people in Oberstown on a given day each month. The bulletin provides an overview of the population in terms of offending, background, health and well-being, education and care.

2. Overview of population

There were 50 young people - 48 were male and 2 were female - in detention on the date in question in February 2018.

Of those, 27 were on committal, 23 were on remand.

The offences for which young people were detained included:

- Theft and Fraud – 22 young people had multiple charges of this offence.
- Assault – 17 young people.
- Criminal damage – 12 young people.
- Road Traffic Offences – 10 young people.

Of those remanded:

- 1 young people was on remand in Oberstown for between 1 and 10 days.
- 21 young people were on remand in Oberstown for 11 to 90 days.
- 1 young people was on remand for more than 100 days.

Of those sentenced:

- 20 young people had a sentence of between 1 and 10 months.
- 4 young people had a sentence of between 11 and 18 months.
- 3 young people had a sentence of between 2 and 6 years.

Of the total, 39 young people had been in detention previously.

3. Origins/background

Of the young people:

- 16 were from Dublin, 8 were from Cork, 4 were from Galway, 4 were from Louth, 3 were from Meath, and the rest came from counties: Carlow; Cavan; Longford; Offaly; Westmeath; Wicklow and Wexford.
- 35 were Irish nationals, 12 were Travellers, 2 were EU Nationals and 1 other young person was of another ethnicity.

4. Health and Well-being

Regarding health, young people's files recorded the following data:

- There were concerns for 18 young people in respect of their mental health, 10 of which were related to ADHD.
- 4 young people were on medication for mental health concerns.
- 6 young people were previously on medication for mental health concerns.
- 5 young people had physical health concerns.
- 10 young people had a history of self-harm.
- 31 young people were recorded as having misused alcohol and/or drugs prior to detention.

5. Education

Regarding education, young people's files recorded the following data:

- 33 young people had not been engaging in education prior to admission.
- For a further 10 young people, it was not clear from their files if they had been in education prior to detention.
- 5 young people had learning difficulties/disabilities.

6. Children in Care¹

Of the 43 young people in Oberstown:

- 14 young people were in care prior to detention.²
- 1 young people was under a Special Care order prior to detention.³
- Files indicated that there were child protection concerns⁴ in respect of 11 young people, 10 of which were from within their own families.
- 21 young people had a social worker.
- 5 young people had a Guardian Ad Litem.⁵

¹ This covers all forms of care as outlined in the *Child Care Act, 1991*, namely voluntary, foster, residential, special care or emergency care

² Care placements may not always have been active immediately prior to detention.

In some cases, the young people in question had multiple placements over a number of years, while in others young people were under long-term full care orders. Others still had just recently come to the attention of the care services.

³ Special Care is short term, stabilising and safe care in a secured therapeutic environment. A placement in Special Care can only be made pursuant to an Order of the High Court.

⁴ Child protection concerns refers to young people who are at risk of abuse/neglect. See Tusla, <http://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/>.

⁵ A GAL is a court appointed representative who advocates for a young person during court proceedings.