

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

**IRELAND**



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## PRIVILEGES

### Rules for conforming prisoners

One statutory and seven additional letters out per month paid for by the prison; further letters at prisoners' own expense. The receipt of letters in reasonable proportion to those sent.

One statutory and three additional visits a month.

A weekly parcel of reading material, fruit and toilet articles. Special parcels at Christmas, Easter and Halloween.

A variety of civilian-type clothing supplied by the prison authorities. In addition non-prison clothing of an approved type may be worn for visits, and evening and weekend association.

The use of the gymnasium and/or playing pitch for about three hours a week at exercise periods, in addition to normal exercise; statutory exercise period of one hour a day.

Three hours association every evening (to watch television, play indoor games, etc); there is also association during the day on Saturdays and Sundays.

Prisoners serving over two years may keep a personal radio set in their cells.

### Rules for 'dirty' protesting prisoners at Maze

#### Letters

One letter in and out a month (the letter out paid for by the prison). One additional letter in and out in lieu of the monthly statutory visit if this is not taken. Three additional privilege letters in and out a month permitted since March 1980.

#### Visits

One statutory and since March 1980 one privilege visit a month.

#### Parcels

None.

#### Clothing

A variety of civilian-type clothing supplied by the prison authorities. The alternative for certain purposes is to wear the underwear or part of the clothing provided. Towels may be worn inside the wings.

#### Exercise

Not less than one hour's exercise per day in the open air, weather permitting. Protesting prisoners refuse to take this, although they may now use sportswear provided for the purpose. An hour's additional recreation (PT) per week has been on offer since September 1980; again sportswear is available.

#### Association

Evening association has been offered on a limited basis since September 1980; each prisoner may expect to have one period of such association a week. (There are of course other occasions when association takes place - during work, dining and exercise periods, for example - but the protesters refuse these opportunities.)

#### Radio

None.

# OF PRISONERS

## Rules for conforming prisoners (continued)

## Rules for 'dirty' protesting prisoners at Maze (As regards 'clean' protesters and Armagh see below)

### Newspapers and reading material

Access to newspapers supplied by the prison, also use of the prison library and books received in parcels.

A selection of books and newspapers are available in each Wing during weekdays and in the room where the prisoners attend Mass on Sundays. The protesting prisoners can collect a book or paper without putting on prison uniform.

### Use of Earnings

Prisoners may use their earnings from prison work and an equivalent amount of their own funds to make purchases in the prison tuck shop and elsewhere, up to £3.00 per week.

May not make purchases.

### Leave

For certain classes of prisoners short periods of home leave are available at Christmas, in the summer, and towards the end of sentence. Short periods of compassionate leave may also be given in certain circumstances.

Home leave is not available but compassionate leave has been offered since August 1980, subject to the same conditions as apply to conforming prisoners.

### Remission

A prisoner serving a term of more than one month may be granted remission, on the ground of his good conduct, up to one-half of his sentence. Remission may be lost as a disciplinary award, but it is possible for this to be restored after subsequent good behaviour.

Protesting prisoners lose one day's remission for each day they are in breach of Prison Rules. Some protesting prisoners who have subsequently abandoned the protest have had lost remission restored.

## Rules for protesting women prisoners at Armagh

AT ARMAGH, protest behaviour initially involved only refusal to work (clothing was not an issue as the prisoners already wear their own clothes); and there was little overt confrontation. In consequence the level of punishments imposed – in the form of loss of privileges – has been somewhat less than at Maze. The main differences from the protesting prisoners at the Maze have related to letters, which were not restricted, and association, which has been lost only during the evenings at weekends. The protesters also receive monthly clothing parcels, and since June 1980 have been offered a special monthly parcel but have refused to take advantage of

this. Until February 1980, the women took their statutory rights (which are the same as for men) and the privileges given; since then however they, like the male prisoners, have engaged in self deprivation.

## 'Clean' protesting prisoners

IN JANUARY 1981 some privileges were restored for those prisoners protesting by refusing to work or wear prison clothing, but who were not fouling their cells.

This means that such prisoners can have a monthly parcel containing reading material, fruit and toilet articles. Also available is an extra hour's exercise daily. Loss of remission has also been effectively halved i.e. one day is lost for each two-on protest.