



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
DUNDONALD HOUSE  
UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD  
BELFAST BT4 3SU

28 September 1978

S H Hilditch Esq  
Governor  
HM Prison  
MAZE

PRISONERS WHO ARE PERSISTENTLY REFUSING TO CONFORM  
WITH PRISON RULES IN H BLOCKS 3, 4 AND 5

MEASURES TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Following the recent exchange of views between the Chief Medical Officer, the Prison Medical Officers at the Maze, the Governing staff at the Maze and this office it has been agreed that the following arrangements should be introduced at the Maze Prison to assist in the control of health dangers given the difficulties caused by the refusal of some prisoners in H Blocks 3, 4 and 5 to be medically examined or to bathe.

2. It is agreed that -

- (a) Prison Medical Officers will visit every prisoner in his cell at least once a week. This arrangement will provide adequate medical supervision for those cases where, upon adjudication, cellular confinement is not part of the punishment awarded.
- (b) Where, however, a prisoner has been charged with an offence for which cellular confinement is a possible punishment, the Medical Officer will require the Governing staff to secure that the prisoner is bathed to enable the Medical Officer to assess the prisoner's fitness for punishment of cellular confinement.
- (c) If a prisoner refuses to comply where the Medical Officer considers that the prisoner's state of personal hygiene constitutes a risk to the health of other prisoners or to the health of prison staff the Medical Officer will advise the Governing staff that they should bathe the prisoner.



(d) If the prisoner refuses to comply where the Medical Officer advises that the prisoner should take some personal hygiene measures, including bathing, as a pre-requisite to examination or as part of treatment then the Medical Officer will explain to the prisoner that any consequences of not following the advice are solely the responsibility of the prisoner.

3. These arrangements are in accordance with the proposals made by yourself, as Governor, and the Prison Medical Officers to the Chief Medical Officer and to ourselves. The purpose of this memorandum is merely to record, for the avoidance of doubt, the details of the arrangements arrived at.

4. We are agreed that the Chief Medical Officer, the Prison Medical Officers, yourself and this office will continue to keep under review the measures necessary to deal with the problems for health and hygiene which the actions of these prisoners are causing.

E N BARRY