



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Human Rights Committee (CCPR)
Human Rights Treaties Division
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson - 52, rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva
Switzerland
By e-mail to: ccpr@ohchr.org

14 September 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission ('the Commission') is the national human rights institution for Ireland.

On 15 August 2017, the Human Rights Committee published on its website the third reply that it received from the Government of Ireland in respect of follow-up to the Concluding Observations of the Committee that were published in August 2014, in relation to Ireland's fourth periodic report under ICCPR.

In September 2015, the Commission provided its views to the Committee on the State's first reply. While many of the views set out in that submission remain relevant, the Commission carried out further work in 2017 on institutional abuse and prison conditions, which may be of interest to the Committee in its consideration of the State's third reply. This work was carried out in the context of Ireland's examination by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee Against Torture (CAT).

The Committee may also wish to note that yesterday, 13 September 2017, the High Court in Dublin made a significant judgment in the case of *Gary Simpson v Governor of Mountjoy Prison & others*, wherein the Court ruled that a prisoner's Constitutional right to privacy was breached due to the 'slopping out' regime in place during his time in Mountjoy Prison. This judgment is significant, as it is regarded as a 'test case' for a number of similar cases before the courts. The judgment is not yet available, but for information, yesterday's *Irish Times* report of the judgment can be accessed at <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/ex-prisoner-s-right-to-privacy-breached-by-slopping-out-regime-1.3219407/>.

If you have any questions on the attached document, please do not hesitate to make contact. I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt.

Yours sincerely,

Laurence Bond, Director