

SECURITY

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Regulations, equipment and personnel

Public safety legislation aims at providing effective protection to society. Changes in criminal legislation have led to an increase in prison population, an extension of the average term of incarceration, and a negative shift in the composition of prison population. The Prison Administration has to find an appropriate response to these challenges. Drawing conclusions, analyzing solutions and adapting to new circumstances require extended and concentrated effort.

This department is particularly affected by the fact that the final text of the new Security Regulations, describing updated rules for every task in the area, was published. Task teams are still waiting for their central regulations, and the approval of a new procedures manual on the legal and proper use of coercive devices is also pending.

The single digital radio network (Tetra) which had been launched in 2008, had a positive impact on our security operation. Communication between central command and task forces improved significantly as a result.

Service dogs and their officers have proved to be extremely useful in securing activities with high prisoner involvement such as prison work, outdoor activities, transport and court hearings. The applicable central regulations have to be updated to account for certain changes in legislation, and as well as to incorporate some practical considerations. This year we will devote more resources to the training and rating of service dogs and K9 officers. In order to facilitate related procurement and training activities, we initiated closer cooperation with some partner organizations.

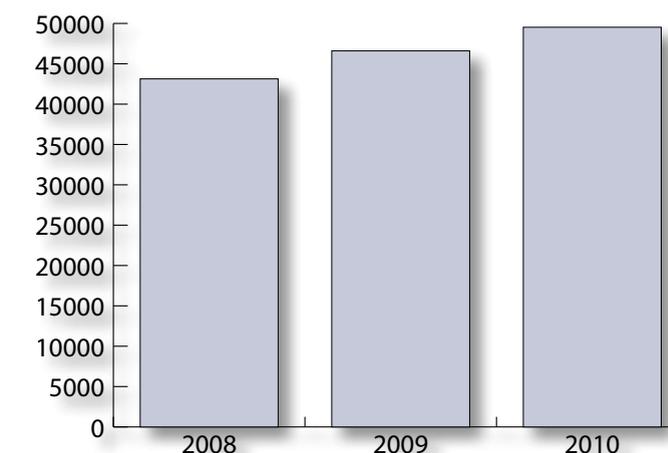


Security of incarceration

Safe incarceration remained our primary concern even at this time of financial difficulty and growing prisoner numbers. Due to this fact there were no extraordinary events to attract the attention of the general public or the media in 2010.

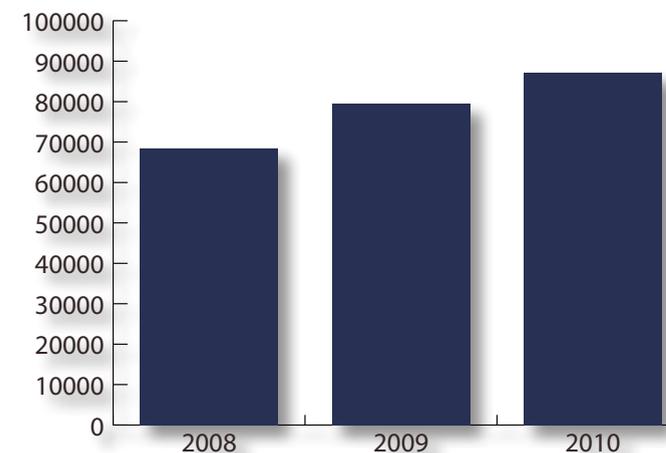
The number of court hearings and prisoner transfers have been increasing continuously for several years now, primarily due to the radical increase in the number of prisoners on remand. The Prison Service, therefore, pays special attention to the safety of prisoner transfers outside its premises. The number of people transferred to prosecutors' offices, criminal courts and external, public health-care institutions increased by 6.3% over the previous year (19704 persons, 49528 occasions).

Court appearances

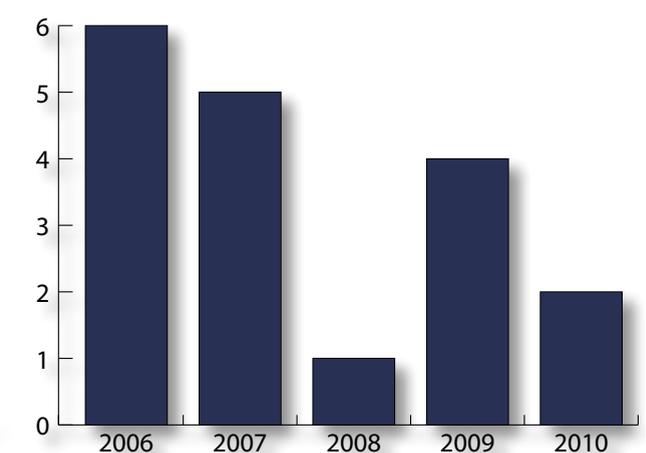


Attempted prisoner escapes decreased from 4 in 2009 to half of that in 2010, due to our increased vigilance and improved procedures. Staff were alert and well-trained in both cases, and managed to recapture the prisoner within minutes.

No. of transfers



Escape of a prisoner

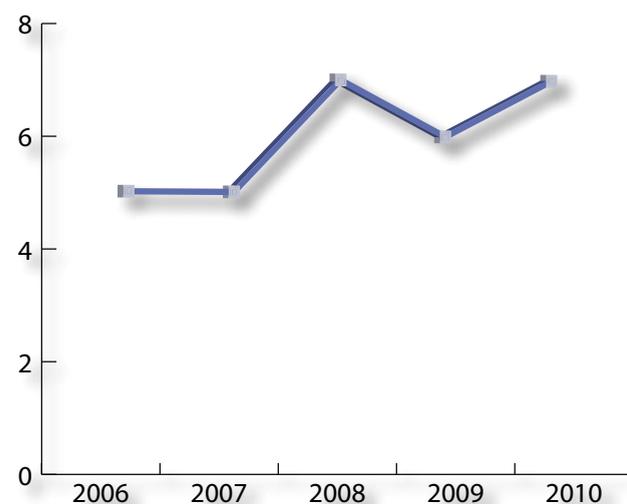


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The number of prisoner suicides increased slightly over the previous year (7 in 2010, 6 in 2009). Each case turned out to be related to either personal relationship issues or desperation over court rulings. Investigations of the responsible department paid particular attention to local prevention practices.

Measures against the inward traffic of banned items improved the statistics last year. The number of confiscated mobile phones decreased by 25%, similarly to 2009, which resulted in the lowest number in seven years. Most phones entered the institutions in packages or were thrown in over prison walls, therefore they could be confiscated before prisoners could have used them.

Successful suicide attempts



Mobile phones found

