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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE and
EQUALITY
51 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
Facsimhir/Fax: (01) 661 5461

Lydia Medland
Access Info Europe
Cava de San Miguel 8, 4º centro
28005 Madrid
España

Our ref: 156/389/2013

Dear Ms. Medland

I refer to your Freedom of Information request seeking the following information

- 1) Please provide a complete list of the names and locations of all the facilities that currently are in use for the purpose of confining non-citizens in administrative detention for periods exceeding three days because of immigration-related reasons.¹
- 2) Please provide the total number of people detained for immigration-related reasons during the years 2010, 2011, and 2012.²
- 3) Please provide the total number of asylum seekers who were placed in detention during the years 2010, 2011, and 2012.³

Decision

A decision on your request was made by an Assistant Principal Officer in the Operations Directorate of the Irish Prison Service in accordance with Section 10 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please be advised that Section 5 of The 1996 Immigration Act, and Section 5 of the 2003 Immigration Act make provision for officers of The Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) to commit into custody, any person who is found to be evading deportation or where they have been refused leave to land in this jurisdiction. The committal warrant for such detainees is valid for 56 days only from the date of issue. This process is for deportees only, asylum seekers are not included in this process.

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In relation to the specific queries raised:-

- 1) Persons being detained in respect of immigration issues are or may be detained in any of the following prisons:-

Castlerea Prison

Cork Prison

Cloverhill Prison

Limerick Prison

Mountjoy Prison

Dochas (Mountjoy Women's Prison)

Wheatfield Prison

- 2) The total numbers of persons detained for immigration-related reasons in 2010, 2011 and 2012 are provided in the Irish Prison Service's Annual Reports for those years. The numbers are as follows:-

2010 – 459

2011 – 395

2012 – 385

- 3) The Irish Prison Service does not keep statistics on the specific immigration or residency status of prisoners so it is unable to provide details of 'the total number of asylum-seekers who were placed in detention' during the above years. This part of the request is accordingly refused under Section 10(1)(a) As the records do not exist.

Rights of Appeal

If you are dissatisfied with the above decision you may seek an internal review of same by writing to me within 20 working days of the date of this notification, referring to this decision in your letter. The making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body and the decision will be communicated to you within 15 working days.

Please note that on making an appeal in relation to non personal records under the FOI Act, 1997 to this Department, a fee of € 75 must accompany your application. A reduced fee of € 25 applies if you are covered by a medical card, in which case you should supply details of the medical card registration number and issuing health board together with your consent to the verification of these details with the relevant health board. An appeal request cannot be accepted until the above fee is received. Payment should be made by Bank Draft, Money Order, Postal Order or Cheque made payable to the Department of Justice & Law Reform.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling Brennan
Freedom of Information Officer
14 October 2013