

Classified List of Acts in Force in Ireland

Updated to 1 May 2026 (Act No. 8 of 2026 and S.I. No. 178 of 2026)

30. Prisons and Places of Detention

30.1. General Organisation of Prison Service

Justice	Prisons (Ireland) Act 1826	7 Geo. 4, c. 74
Justice	Prisons (Ireland) Act 1840	3 & 4 Vict., c. 44
Justice	Convict Prisons (Ireland) Act 1854	17 & 18 Vict., c. 76
Justice	Prisons (Ireland) Act 1856	19 & 20 Vict., c. 68
Justice	General Prisons (Ireland) Act 1877	40 & 41 Vict., c. 49
Justice	Prison Service (Ireland) Act 1883	46 & 47 Vict., c. 25
Justice	Prisons (Ireland) Amendment Act 1884	47 & 48 Vict., c. 36
Justice	Prisons Act 1898	61 & 62 Vict., c. 41
Justice	Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-health) Act 1913	3 & 4 Geo. 5, c. 4
Justice ¹	Prisons Act 1933 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galway Prison Closing Order 1939, S.R. & O. No. 87 of 1939² • Waterford Prison Closing Order 1939, S.R. & O. No. 349 of 1939 • Cork Prison Closing Order 1956, S.I. No. 20 of 1956 • Sligo Prison Closing Order 1956, S.I. No. 98 of 1956 • Shanganagh Castle (Place of Detention) (Closure) Order 2002, S.I. No. 620 of 2002 • The Curragh (Closure) Order 2006, S.I. No. 634 of 2006 • Saint Patrick's Institution Partial Closing Order 2013, S.I. No. 459 of 2013 • Wheatfield Prison Partial Closing Order 2013, S.I. No. 512 of 2013 • Saint Patrick's Institution Partial Closing Order 2014, S.I. No. 85 of 2014 	51/1933
Justice	Prisons Act 1956	9/1956
Justice	Prisons Act 1970 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detention of Offenders (Shanganagh Castle) Regulations 1970, S.I. No. 313 of 1970 • Detention of Offenders (Loughan House) Regulations 1973, S.I. No. 60 of 1973 	11/1970

¹ Public Exp (in part): see S.I. No. 418 of 2011.

² The earlier SIs made under this Act are spent and could be revoked.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detention of Offenders (Training Unit) Regulations 1975, S.I. No. 251 of 1975 • Detention of Offenders (Shelton Abbey) Regulations 1976, S.I. No. 293 of 1976 • Detention of Offenders (Fort Mitchel) Regulations 1985, S.I. No. 104 of 1985 • Prisons Act 1970 (Section 7) Order 1991, S.I. No. 158 of 1991³ • Prisons Act 1970 (Section 7) Order 1993, S.I. No. 219 of 1993⁴ • Detention of Offenders (Unit A Castlerea) Regulations 1996, S.I. No. 361 of 1996 • Detention of Offenders (The Curragh) Regulations 1996, S.I. No. 390 of 1996 • Detention of Offenders (Restrictions on Privileges) Regulations 1997, S.I. No. 116 of 1997 • Detention of Offenders (Castlerea) Regulations 1998, S.I. No. 158 of 1998 • Prisons Act 1970 (Section 7) Order 2013, S.I. No. 223 of 2013⁵ • Detention of Offenders (Wheatfield Place of Detention) Regulations 2013, S.I. No. 511 of 2013⁵ 	
Justice	Prisons Act 1972 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prisons Act, 1972 (Military Custody) Regulations 1972, S.I. No. 138 of 1972⁷ • Prisons Act, 1972 (Military Custody) Regulations 1976, S.I. No. 87 of 1976 • Prisons Act 1972 (Section 3) Order 2001, S.I. No. 461 of 2001 	7/1972
Justice	Prisons Act 1977	14/1977
Justice	Prisons Act 1980	6/1980
Justice	Prison Development (Confirmation of Resolutions) Act 2008	10/2008
Justice	Prison Development (Confirmation of Resolutions) Act 2013	28/2013
Justice	Prisons Act 2015 ⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prisons Act 2015 (Section 24) Regulations 2016, S.I. No. 52 of 2016 • Saint Patrick's Institution Closing Order 2017, S.I. No. 135 of 2017 • Prisons Act 2015 (Commencement) Order 2017, S.I. No. 134 of 2017 	57/2015

30.2. Inspector of Prisons

Justice ⁹	Prisons Act 2007	10/2007
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30.3. Prison Rules

Justice ¹⁰	Prisons Act 2007 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prisons Act 2007 (Commencement) Order 2007, S.I. No. 180 of 2007 	10/2007
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³ Expired 28 Jun 1993, this SI should be revoked.

⁴ Expired 28 Jun 1995, this SI should be revoked.

⁵ Expired 28 Dec 2013, this SI should be revoked.

⁶ Revoked S.I. Nos. 135 of 1989 and 218 of 1990.

⁷ Responsibility of Department of Defence.

⁸ Repealed Prevention of Crime Act 1908 (8 Edw. 7, c. 59), subject to commencement order.

⁹ Gaeltacht (in part): S.I. No. 192 of 2011.

¹⁰ Local Gov (in part): S.I. No. 339 of 2020. Gaeltacht (in part): S.I. No. 192 of 2011. Public Exp (in part): see S.I. No. 418 of 2011.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction Under Section 18(1) Of Prisons Act 2007, S.I. No. 251 of 2007 • Prison Rules 2007, S.I. No. 252 of 2007 • Prisons Act 2007 (Commencement) (No. 2) Order 2007, S.I. No. 370 of 2007 • Prisons Act 2007 (Commencement) (No. 3) Order 2007, S.I. No. 650 of 2007 • Prisons Act 2007 (Commencement) Order 2008, S.I. No. 337 of 2008 • Direction under Section 18(1) of Prisons Act 2007, S.I. No. 240 of 2012 • Prison Rules (Amendment) 2013, S.I. No. 11 of 2013 • Prison (Amendment) Rules 2014, S.I. No. 227 of 2014 • Prison (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules 2014, S.I. No. 385 of 2014 • Prison (Amendment) Rules 2017, S.I. No. 276 of 2017 • Prison (Amendment) Rules 2018, S.I. No. 507 of 2018 • Prison (Disciplinary Code for Officers) (Revocation) Rules 2020, S.I. No. 261 of 2020 • Prison (Amendment) Rules 2020, S.I. No. 250 of 2020 	
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30.4. Temporary Release and Parole

Justice	<p>Criminal Justice Act 1960</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prisoners (Temporary Release) Rules 1960, S.I. No. 167 of 1960 • Temporary Release of Offenders (Shanganagh Castle) Rules 1970, S.I. No. 312 of 1970 • Temporary Release of Offenders (Loughan House) Rules 1973, S.I. No. 59 of 1973 • Temporary Release of Offenders (Training Unit) Rules 1975, S.I. No. 250 of 1975 • Temporary Release of Offenders (Shelton Abbey) Regulations 1976, S.I. No. 294 of 1976 • Temporary Release of Offenders (Fort Mitchel) Rules 1985, S.I. No. 103 of 1985 • Temporary Release of Offenders (Wheatfield) Rules 1989, S.I. No. 136 of 1989 • Temporary Release of Offenders (Unit A Castlerea) Rules 1996, S.I. No. 360 of 1996 • Temporary Release of Offenders (The Curragh) Rules 1996, S.I. No. 391 of 1996 • Temporary Release of Offenders (Castlerea) Rules 1998, S.I. No. 157 of 1998 • Prisoners (Temporary Release) Rules 2004, S.I. No. 680 of 2004 	27/1960
Justice	Criminal Justice (Release of Prisoners) Act 1998	36/1998
Justice	<p>Criminal Justice (Temporary Release of Prisoners) Act 2003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice (Temporary Release of Prisoners) Act 2003 (Commencement) Order 2004, S.I. No. 679 of 2004 	34/2003
Justice	<p>Parole Act 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parole Act 2019 (Commencement) Order 2021, S.I. No. 405 of 2021 • Parole Act 2019 (Establishment Day) Order 2021, S.I. No. 406 of 2021 	28/2019

30.5. Visiting Committees

Justice	Prisons (Visiting Committees) Act 1925	11/1925
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prisons (Visiting Committees) Order 1972, S.I. No. 217 of 1972¹¹ 	
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30.6. Transfer of Prisoners Internationally

Justice	Transfer of Sentenced Persons Act 1995	16/1995
Justice	Transfer of Sentenced Persons (Amendment) Act 1997	41/1997
Justice	Transfer of Execution of Sentences Act 2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer of Execution of Sentences Act 2005 (Designated Countries) Order 2007, S.I. No. 659 of 2007 	28/2005

30.7. ECA Section 3 Statutory Instruments

Foreign	European Communities Act 1972	27/1972
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¹¹ Made by the Minister for Defence.