



JICS

Judicial Inspectorate for
Correctional Services

MEDIA RESPONSE

16 April 2020 JICS Official Media Response to SpotlightNSP

Given the recent developments, of the increase in COVID-19 cases in East London and possibly other prisons, I would just like to follow up with a few more questions for the Inspectorate.

1. Has the Inspectorate been receiving any complaints from prisoners so far during the lock-down period? And if how many of these have been related to COVID-19?

We are aware of several complaints from inmates including those relating to COVID 19. In each case, the Regional Management communicates with the head of the particular centre in an effort to resolve the complaint.

2. Do you have any concerns regarding the operational plan put in place by DCS, particularly given these recent COVID-19 cases? If so what are they, and how has DCS responded to these concerns?

This question has been answered in your previous enquiry. This is a global pandemic and countries around the world are currently facing the same situation at their various correctional facilities. JICS is cognisant of the fact that overcrowding at correctional centres remains a potential risk for the spread of the virus, and continues to engage with DCS during this crisis to ensure that JICS mandate is being fulfilled under these COVID-19 restrictions.

3. Has the DCS to your knowledge made use of the recommendations outlined by the "Advice of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to States Parties and National Preventive Mechanisms relating to the Coronavirus Pandemic" in their operations plan?

The DCS plan seems to be in line with the procedures set out by other jurisdictions and international recommendations, provided that they are implemented properly. An example of this would be when providing PPEs, that this should be followed up with training (mentioned in the plan) on how to correctly wear it and dispose of it, as this may pose a greater threat than if they were not being used at all.

4. Prisoners from the Sun City correctional centre have been quite vocal to the media about inadequate safety measures in this facility. Have any official complaints been made to the Inspectorate regarding this? And if so are these complaints being investigated?

JICS has not received complaints from inmates incarcerated at the Johannesburg Correctional Centre about inadequate COVID-19 safety measures.

We continue to enquire on every complaint that we receive, whether it is Covid-19 related or not, as per response to Question 1.