

**PRISONS.****Powers and Duties of Boards of Visitors for Convict Prisons in Northern Ireland.**

MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR AND PRIVY COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER SECTION 2 (1) OF THE PRISONS ACT, 1898 (61 & 62 VICT., C. 41), AS AMENDED AND EXTENDED BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION ACT, 1914 (4 & 5 GEO. 5, C. 58), THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND ACT, 1920 (10 & 11 GEO. 5, C. 67), THE MINISTRIES OF NORTHERN IRELAND ACT, 1921, (12 GEO. 5, (N.I.) C. 6), THE ORDERS MADE THEREUNDER AND THE IRISH FREE STATE (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1922 (13 GEO. 5, C. 2.)

1925. No. 85.

WHEREAS by Section 2 (1) of the PRISON ACT, 1898, the Secretary of State was empowered to make rules (in said Act called Prison Rules) for the government of Convict Prisons and by Section 3 of said Act the Secretary of State was directed and empowered to appoint for every Convict Prison a Board of Visitors of whom not less than two should be Justices of the Peace with such powers and duties as might be prescribed by Prison Rules which said Act did not extend to Ireland ;

And Whereas by the Criminal Justice Administration Act, 1914, the said Section 3 of the said Prison Act, 1898, was extended to Ireland subject to the following modifications :—

References to the Lord Lieutenant were to be substituted for references to the Secretary of State ;

References to rules made by the General Prisons Board for Ireland with the approval of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council under the General Prisons (Ireland) Act, 1877, were to be substituted for any references to Prison Rules or Special Prison Rules.

And Whereas by the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, the Ministries of Northern Ireland Act, 1921 (Northern Ireland) and the Orders made thereunder and the Irish Free State (Consequential Provisions) Act, 1922, the hereinbefore recited power of making rules prescribing the powers and duties of Boards of Visitors for Convict Prisons in Northern Ireland has now become vested in the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") with the approval of the Governor of Northern Ireland and the Privy Council of Northern Ireland.

And Whereas it is necessary on account of urgency that these Rules should come into immediate operation :

Now, therefore the Ministry hereby certifies under Section 2 of the Rules Publication Act, 1893, that on account of urgency these Rules should come into immediate operation, and in pursuance of the powers vested in the Ministry by the above Acts and all other powers it thereunto enabling Does hereby make the following Rules prescribing the powers and duties of the Board of Visitors for each Convict Prison in Northern Ireland to come into operation forthwith as Provisional Rules :—

1. The Board of Visitors appointed by the Governor of Northern Ireland shall hold office for such period as may be approved by the Governor.
2. The Board of Visitors shall, at their first meeting, appoint a Chairman.
3. Their powers shall not be affected by vacancies. The Governor of Northern Ireland shall, as soon as possible, fill any vacancy by making a new appointment.
4. They shall keep a book of Minutes of their proceedings.
5. One or more of them shall, if possible, visit the prison once a month, and they shall meet as a Board as often as practicable.
6. They shall co-operate with the Ministry in promoting the efficient working of the prison, and shall make inquiry into any matter specially referred to them by the Governor of Northern Ireland or the Ministry and report their opinion thereon.
7. They shall take care that any abuses in connection with the prison which come to their knowledge are brought to the notice of the Ministry immediately, and in case of urgent necessity they may suspend any officer of the prison staff until the decision of the Ministry is made known.
8. They or one of them shall hear and adjudicate on such prison offences as may be referred to them by the Ministry.
9. They or one of them shall for the purpose of punishment have all the powers of the Ministry in respect of offences referred to them.
10. They shall hear and investigate any complaint which any prisoner may desire to make to them, and, if necessary, report the same, with their opinion, to the Ministry. They shall have free access to all parts of the prison, and to all prisoners, and may see any such prisoners as they desire, either in their cells or in a room out of sight and hearing of prison officers.

11. They shall occasionally inspect the diets of the prisoners, and if they find that the quality of any article does not fulfil the terms of the contract under which it is supplied, they shall report the circumstances to the Ministry, and note the same in their minute book, and the governor shall thereupon take such steps as may be immediately necessary to provide the prisoners with suitable food.
12. They may inspect any of the books of the prison
13. They shall make an annual report at the end of each year to the Governor of Northern Ireland with regard to all or any of the matters referred to in these rules or to any other matters appertaining to the prison, and they shall make such reports to the Ministry as they consider necessary concerning any matter to which, in their opinion, the attention of the Ministry should be called.
14. They are requested to devote special attention to prisoners about to be discharged, and to co-operate with the governor and chaplain with the object of securing that all reasonable steps are taken, so far as possible, to provide against a relapse into crime on the part of any prisoner where it might be averted, either by judicious expenditure of his gratuity, or by communication with the Aid Society of the district to which the prisoner is going, or by correspondence with any charitable person or agency who, or which, appears likely, after personal communication with the prisoner, to assist him in his attempt to gain an honest living.
15. It will also be their duty to interest themselves especially in such classification of prisoners as may from time to time be established by the rules, and to co-operate with the governor in this and all other matters when their assistance and advice is likely to be of use to him.

The foregoing Rules shall apply to the several Convict Prisons in Northern Ireland, and shall come into operation upon the expiration of forty days after the same having been settled and approved by the Governor and Privy Council of Northern Ireland, shall have been laid before the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

Given under the Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 15th day of December, 1924.

*A. P. Magill,*

(L.S.)

Assistant Secretary.

By the Governor and Privy Council of Northern Ireland.

(Signed),                      ABERCORN.

In pursuance of the Statutes in that behalf, I, James Albert Edward Duke of Abercorn, the Governor of Northern Ireland, with the approval, advice, and consent of the Privy Council of Northern Ireland, have settled and hereby approve of the foregoing Rules made by the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland.

Given at Belfast this 20th day of January, 1925.

(Signed), James Craig.  
H. M. Pollock.  
R. Dawson Bates.  
Herbert Dixon.

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### Joint Visiting Committees.

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ORDER MADE BY THE GOVERNOR OF NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER THE PRISONS (IRELAND) AMENDMENT ACT, 1884, THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND ACT, 1920 AND THE IRISH FREE STATE (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1922.

1925. No. 31.

Whereas by an Order made by the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland on the 29th June, 1922, it was ordered that the Joint Visiting Committee of the several Prisons set out in the first column of the Schedule to the said Order should be appointed by the several Grand Juries respectively specified in the second column of such Schedule, in respect of each such Prison, and such Committees should consist of the number of Justices of the Peace specified in the third column of the same Schedule, and should be appointed at the respective times for appointment in each year specified in the fourth column of the same Schedule :

Now I, James Albert Edward, Duke of Abercorn, Governor of Northern Ireland, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon me by the General Prisons (Ireland) Act, 1877, the Prisons (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1884, the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, the Irish Free State (Consequential Provisions) Act, 1922, and the Orders made thereunder and of every other power enabling me in this behalf and having regard to the locality and use of the Prisons set out in the Schedule to this Order and the class of prisoners to be confined in such Prisons, do hereby order and direct as follows (that is to say) :—

1. The Schedule to the Order of 29th June, 1922, is hereby revoked and the following Schedule is hereby substituted therefor.
2. Subject to said substitution the said Order of 29th June, 1922, shall remain in full force and effect.

Given at Belfast this 10th day of March, 1925.

*R. Dawson Bates.*