Inside this Issue:

- ACJRD Annual Conference 2018
- 5th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference
- 11th Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture
- Parole Board Conference
- ACJRD Council - Recent Changes
- Recent Publications
- Public Consultation on Personal Possession of Illegal Drugs
- Upcoming Events

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ACJRD Annual Conference 2018
“Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice”

The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development 21st Annual Conference, entitled “Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice” will take place on Friday, 5th October, 2018.

This year’s Conference will be held in the Hilton Hotel, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 (pictured above).

Opportunities will be provided throughout the day for delegates to share information, exchange views and network with colleagues who engage in similar or complementary areas of expertise.

This conference will appeal to policy makers, those working in government agencies, professionals, practitioners, academics and those involved in community and civil society groups from a wide range of disciplines within the Criminal Justice System.

Bookings are not yet open for this Conference. All those on our mailing list will be notified when bookings open. In addition, information will be available on www.acjrd.ie in due course.

5th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference

The 5th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference will take place on Wednesday, 4th July, 2018, in the Conference Centre at Dublin Castle. The theme for this year’s conference is “Toward a Trauma-Responsive Criminal Justice System: Why, How and What Next?”.

This one day conference is a collaboration of the Irish Prison Service, the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS), the Department of Justice and Equality, An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). The lead partner for 2018 is the Irish Prison Service.

To view the Conference Programme please click here.

Although the Conference is now fully booked up, it is anticipated that some tickets may become available nearer the day. To place your name on the Waiting List for tickets, please click here.
11th Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

Tim Chapman, Chair of the Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ), delivered the 11th Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, entitled “A more humane approach to addressing the harm of criminal behaviour starts with victims.”

This lecture took place on Tuesday, 17th April, 2018, in the Juror Reception Area at the Courts of Criminal Justice.

To view Mr. Chapman’s paper, please click here.

To access further information and papers from the lectures which have taken place since the inaugural event in 2008, please click here.

“The Brexit Impact on Criminal Justice Co-operation in Ireland” Report Launch

David Stanton, TD, Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration, launched the ACJRD Annual Conference Report 2018 “The Brexit Impact on Criminal Justice Co-operation in Ireland” immediately prior to the Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, 17th April, 2018.

The report includes the plenary papers of:
- Charlie Flanagan T.D., Minister for Justice and Equality
- Thérèse Blanchet, Council Legal Service
- Jimmy Martin, Department of Justice and Equality
- Ray Briscoe, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Gemma Davies and Adam Jackson, University of Northumbria, Newcastle
- Marie-Claire Maney, Revenue Commissioners
- Brian Gormally, NI Committee on the Administration of Justice

The report also includes summaries of the eight workshops presented at the conference.

ACJRD wishes to thank Dermot Hearne, Irish Prison Service, for his help with the Conference report cover artwork over the years. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

In addition, ACJRD would like to thank the staff and offenders of the Irish Prison Service and Arbour Hill Prison for their assistance in the printing of the report.

To download a copy of the report, please click here.
On Thursday, 10th May, 2018, the Parole Board hosted a Conference in the Presidents’ Hall at The Law Society. The event was sponsored by Sheehan and Partners (@SheehanPartners) and supported by the ACJRD.

The Conference, which was chaired by Mr. Justice Garrett Sheehan was opened by Charlie Flanagan TD, Minister for Justice and Equality. To view a copy of Minister Flanagan’s speech, please click here.

The following speakers presented at the event: Shane McCarthy, The Parole Board; Michael Lynn SC; Paul Mageean, Commissioner, Parole Commissioners for NI; Martin Jones, CEO, Parole Board for England and Wales; Dr. Laura Janes, Legal Director, The Howard League; Barry Donoghue, Deputy Director, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. To view copies of the Conference presentations, please click here.

ACJRD Council - Recent changes

A number of personnel changes have taken place on the ACJRD Council since the last Annual General Meeting. Before Christmas, we bade farewell to Patricia Flynn who had served for four years on the Council. In the new year, we said goodbye to Asst. Commissioner Eugene Corcoran, the representative for An Garda Síochána, who served for seven years on the Council, latterly as Treasurer of the ACJRD. This summer, Catherine Pierse, representing the Policing Authority, stepped down after eighteen months’ service. ACJRD would like to thank all these former Council members who gave freely of their time and experience to help ACJRD with its work. We wish them all the best in the future.

ACJRD is delighted to announce that Rowena Toomey, Office of the Revenue Commissioners, and Sophia Carey, Policing Authority, are the newest members to join the Council. Deirdre Byrne, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, is currently standing in as an alternate for Deirdre Manninger. We welcome them all and look forward to a long and fruitful association with ACJRD.
Recent Publications

Report on Penal Reform and Sentencing
The Joint Committee on Justice and Equality has published a report on penal reform and sentencing. The report states that imprisonment is overused as a punishment and that conditions in prisons are unacceptable. It also finds that more must be done to rehabilitate offenders, reduce recidivism, and minimise the impact of crime. To view this report, please click here.

Sexual Offending in Ireland: Laws, Procedures and Punishment
This book by Dr. Susan Leahy and Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald-O’Reilly offers an accessible and comprehensive account of the relevant law in relation to sexual offending in Ireland. It incorporates an examination of developments in domestic legislation and case law, detailing the substantive and evidentiary rules, as well as sentencing practice and supervision of sexual offenders. For more information about this book, please click here.

Children, Young People and the Press in a Transitioning Society: Representations, Reactions and Criminalisation
This book by Faith Gordon assesses the implications of how children and young people are represented in print media in Northern Ireland – a post-conflict transitioning society. Gordon analyses how children and young people’s perceived involvement in anti-social and criminal behaviour is constructed and amplified in media, as well as in popular and political discourses. For more information, please click here.

Hearing Every Voice - Towards a New Strategy on Vulnerable Witnesses in Legal Proceedings
To view this report which was published by the Rape Crisis Network Ireland, please click here.

Mental health in prison: A short guide for prison staff
Prisoners have a disproportionately high rate of mental ill-health; research suggests that around one in seven prisoners has a serious mental health condition. This guide focuses on how prison staff can promote and protect mental health and well-being and enable those with existing conditions to function better in the prison environment. To view this report, please click here.

An Inspection of Resettlement in the Northern Ireland Prison Service
The effective delivery of resettlement services to offenders while in prison is key to reducing the risk of reoffending and protecting the community. To view this report by the Criminal Justice Inspection of Northern Ireland, please click here.

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre
To view the CJINI report of an announced inspection of Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, please click here.

Do offender characteristics affect the impact of short custodial sentences and court orders on reoffending?
To view this analytical summary by the UK Ministry of Justice, please click here.

Global Prison Trends 2018
This is the fourth edition in Penal Reform International’s annual series, published in collaboration with the Thailand Institute of Justice. The report explores trends in the use of imprisonment; prison populations; developments and challenges in prison management; the role of technology in criminal justice and prison systems; and the expansion of prison alternatives. Please click here to view this report.
Public Consultation

A public consultation has been launched on the possession of illegal drugs for personal use. The consultation seeks the views of the public on the effectiveness of the current law and on what alternatives could be considered. The purpose of this public consultation is to inform the deliberations of a Government Working Group set up to examine alternative approaches for personal possession of illegal drugs.

The consultation can be accessed via an online questionnaire at https://health.gov.ie/consultations. It can be accessed on smartphone, tablet or computer and should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. The public consultation is open until Friday, 13th July, 2018.

Upcoming Events

4th July, 2018
Dublin
Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference
“Toward a Trauma-Responsive Criminal Justice System: Why, How and What Next?”. To place your name on the Waiting List for tickets, please click here.

12th July, 2018
SAVE THE DATE: Safe Ireland Summer Seminar
9.30 am - 12.45 am
Dublin
A New Response to Domestic Violence in Ireland
This seminar will mark the enactment of the ground-breaking Domestic Violence Act 2018 and will explore the progressive legal changes it will bring about for women and children. Safe Ireland’s Legal Advocacy and Information Unit, a specialist domestic violence legal advice and advocacy service for survivors and those who support them, will also be launched at this event. To book, please email shauna@safeireland.ie before 9th July, 2018.

2nd - 5th Sept, 2018
Prague
22nd ISPCAN International Congress
To book a place at the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect congress, please click here.

6th & 7th Sept, 2018
UCD, Dublin
11th North South Irish Criminology Conference
For further details and to book a place at this conference, please click here. Abstracts (max. 200 words) should be submitted to criminology@ucd.ie by 30th June, 2018. and be accompanied by name and institutional affiliation. For further information, please click here.

6th Sept, 2018
UCD, Dublin
Symposium: Historical Perspectives on Capital Punishment
The symposium will take place in parallel with the North-South Criminology Conference. For further details, please click here.

5th October, 2018
Dublin
ACJRD Annual Conference - SAVE THE DATE

22nd & 23rd Oct, 2018
Dublin
SAFE Ireland - Safe World Summit
Early Bird tickets now on sale. For further information, please click here.