

# Obtaining and Retaining Data across the Irish Prison Service

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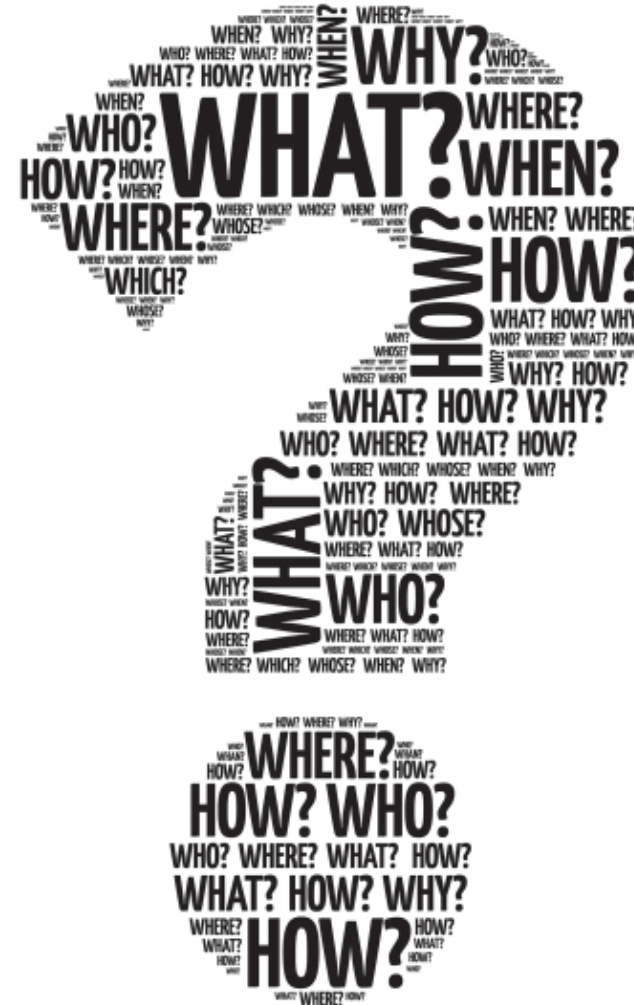


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# Context



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# Irish Prison Service Data



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- Breadth of data gathered:
  - **On Prisoners:** Demographics; criminal histories; pending charges and warrants; physical and mental health records; treatment and program records;; risk and needs assessment; visitor records; security threat group affiliations; misconduct reports; movement histories; property records; grievances and complaints; release data
  - **Staff:** post assignments; use of overtime; sick leave and annual leave; training and certification records; performance evaluation records

## Legislative Context



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- Myriad of legislation and standards to which IPS must comply and provide assurances under to a variety of Stakeholders.
- Official secrets Act 1953; National Archives Act 1986; Freedom of Information Act 2014; Data Protection Act 2018
- Wider legal context outside of privacy

# How is IPS data used?



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- BAU purposes (e.g. operational needs, PQs, FOIs, SARs, briefings etc.)
- Privacy & Security – data classification exercise
- To serve the organisation more effectively and efficiently – data-driven organisation
- Data analytics developments in IPS – Operational Dashboards

## Applying data analytics across key areas

- Business planning and projections
- Enhancing the execution of audits
- Identification and management of risk
- Supporting broader policy objectives of the CJS through provision of quality data and metrics that also informs and supports broader policy decision-making.



## Challenges in obtaining and using data

- Sparse information upon committal
- Data quality – self-reporting, legacy systems, staff training and awareness
- Static computer basis of data entry at prison level
- Lack of clarity around data sharing arrangements



## Impact of these challenges

- Limitations around sharing data with the overall aim of achieving offender stability and rehabilitation
- Lack of data sharing with post-release stakeholders i.e. housing services, health services, addiction services, social welfare etc.
- No potential for tracking factors contributing to break down in stability post release and re-offending
- Presently relying on anecdotal evidence or information on new charge sheets
- Criminal Justice Operational Hub; National Data Infrastructure





## Challenges in Retaining Data

- The National Archives Act 1986 requirement to preserve data
- Cost of storage and retention;
- Duplication of records
- Risk of cyberattacks and data breaches
- Retrieval issues
- Great liabilities on the service in retaining data

## Concluding Remarks



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- Data is an asset but also a liability - more that we collect, more that we are at risk
- Sharing data – need to balance the benefits of enhanced data sharing with the risks, while considering both private and public interests
- Sharing data – need to harness the potential of the wealth of information collected by IPS.
- Clarity around data sharing and Data linking are key.

Thank you for  
your  
attention!!

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