

Annual Rule of Law Report - Council of Europe contribution



2026

Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG I)

Ireland

I Justice System

CEPEJ

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) regularly collects data on judicial systems concerning efficiency and quality of the justice system. In the framework of the CEPEJ Study for the EU Justice Scoreboard, CEPEJ prepares Country profiles annually, including [Ireland](#).

The 2024 data have been collected, quality checked and sent to DG-JUST in the framework of the 2026 EU Justice Scoreboard. The publication of the country profiles based on 2024 data will depend on final acceptance of the CEPEJ Study by DG-JUST. The CEPEJ Secretariat (christel.schurrer@coe.int) remains at the disposal of European Commission for any question related to these data.

EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Official statistics on the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are published in the Committee of Ministers [Annual reports on the execution](#) (next edition to be published in March 2026). The Department for the Execution of Judgments can be consulted for any question on statistics: DGI-Execution@coe.int.

Length of proceedings

[McFarlane](#) group of cases (31333/06) (enhanced supervision) concerns the excessive length of both criminal and civil proceedings and the lack of an effective remedy for these problems (violations of Articles 6 § 1 and 13). At its last examination in September 2024, the Committee welcomed the enactment on 1 May 2024 of the Court Proceedings (Delays) Act 2024, establishing a statutory remedy for excessive length of proceedings in reply to the Committee's previous calls, considering this to be a significant milestone in the full execution of this case; and encouraged the authorities to continue to give the necessary priority to the establishment of the assessment mechanism so that the remedy can become fully operational and accessible without further delay.

Latest decisions: [CM/Del/Dec\(2024\)1507/H46-14](#)

Latest submissions: [DH-DD\(2025\)1092](#)

II Anti-corruption framework

GRECO

[Second Addendum to the Second Compliance Report](#) (5 December 2025)

4th round: Prevention of corruption in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors

III Media pluralism

N/A

IV Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

Continued expert support from the Council of Europe through the joint EU-Council of Europe initiative “Technical Support for More Effective and Resilient National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM)” remains vital. This support can help ensure that the Irish NPM structures, once established, are equipped with the operational framework, capacity-building, and awareness needed to fulfil their mandate effectively and to engage in knowledge-sharing across the EU.

The findings of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) indicate that the situation in Irish prisons remains deeply concerning, with the prison overcrowding posing a particularly serious challenge. Despite these ongoing issues, Ireland has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) and to establish a fully independent NPM.

These delays mean that there is currently no independent body with the mandate to systematically monitor places of detention, leaving significant gaps in the protection of people deprived of their liberty and in accountability for police practices. While previous reports highlighted anticipated progress—such as the transformation of the Office of the Inspector of Prisons (OIP) into the Office for the Inspection of Places of Detention (OIPD) as part of a multi-member NPM—these developments have not yet materialised.

It is urgently necessary for Ireland to accelerate efforts to ratify OPCAT and to set up an effective and independent NPM aligned with international standards. Stronger and targeted measures are needed from both domestic and international stakeholders to ensure that Ireland fulfils these commitments. Such steps are essential to address prison overcrowding, to improve conditions for those detained, and to guarantee independent oversight across all places of deprivation of liberty.