Policy Directive 26
Searches

Relevant Instruments:

Prisons Act 1981
Prisons Regulations 1982
Adult Custodial Rule 12 – Designation of Officers as Prison Officers
Policy Directive 5 – Use of Force
Policy Directive 6 – Release of Information
Policy Directive 7 – Religious and Spiritual Activities
Policy Directive 10 – Child Residency and Extended Visits with Children
Policy Directive 11 – Placement of Prisoners in Observation or Medical Observation Cells
Policy Directive 36 – Communications
Policy Directive 41 – Reporting of Incidents and Additional Notifications
Policy Directive 42 – Prisoner Property
Policy Directive 63 – Uniforms and Dress Standards
Policy for Gathering and Preservation of Evidence, Continuity of Exhibits
Procedures for the Preservation of Evidence, Continuity of Exhibits, Drug Movements and Inventory Control

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1. **Purpose**
This policy establishes the principles and procedures to be adopted for the conduct of all searches at or near a prison.

2. **Scope**
This policy applies to all public and privately operated prisons.

3. **Policy**
The presence of drugs or contraband in prisons has the potential to adversely impact the good order and management of the facility. In order to detect contraband and illegal items, searches are conducted of prisoners, visitors, prisoner accommodation and work areas in accordance with associated Procedures.

4. **Appendices**
   - [Policy Directive 26 – Searches – Procedures – Searches of prisoners](#)
   - [Policy Directive 26 – Searches – Procedures – Searches of cells and environs](#)
   - [Policy Directive 26 – Searches – Procedures – Searches of staff](#)
   - [Policy Directive 26 – Searches – Appendix A – Superintendent’s delegation](#)
   - [Policy Directive 26 – Searches – Appendix B – Search of a person entering or leaving a prison pursuant to s 49 of the Prisons Act 1981](#)

5. **Policy review**
This Policy Directive is to be reviewed on a biennial basis. Appendices to this Policy Directive may be amended by the Deputy Commissioner Adult Justice Services as necessary to reflect changes to prison procedures.

6. **Approved**

Commissioner or delegated authority in accordance with PD 26:

Signature:

Date: 8 December 2014
7. **Policy sponsor**  
Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations

8. **Contact person**  
The following persons may be approached on a routine basis in relation to this policy:

Director Security and Response Services  
Principal Operational Policy Officer

9. **Amendment history**

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<th>Effective from</th>
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<td>19 July 2010</td>
<td>23 July 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Amended</td>
<td>8 December 2014</td>
<td>22 December 2014</td>
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