

## **Cost of Juvenile Secure Unit**



### ***What is justice for children?***

We recently submitted a Freedom of Information request regarding the cost of running the Isle of Man Secure Unit for juvenile criminal offenders. This detention centre *Cronk Sollysh*, White Hoe, Braddan is run on behalf of the IOM Government by *St. Christopher's* charity.

By a FOI response dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Manx Care (which has statutory responsibility for the institution) confirmed that the financial cost of running the Juvenile Secure Unit in the Year 2022 was a huge **£1,212,500.00.**

The Secure Unit is effectively a jail, with juveniles (classed in the IOM as persons under the age of 17) locked inside following remand or sentencing in Court. Detained children have their own room and during the day can socialise in the lounge/kitchen area and there is access to a small garden area for outdoor exercise. However, the facility is not like an open prison and the unit is surrounded by a high perimeter security fence with detained children generally not permitted to leave the premises.

But should children, many of whom are vulnerable with difficult and complicated backgrounds, be incarcerated in a potentially damaging environment and is spending over £1 million per year a proportionate use of Manx taxpayers money?

Or would some of that money be more appropriately spent on diverting troubled school children away from the Juvenile Court and addressing complex child needs by prioritising education, health and rehabilitation?

See link below for Manx Care's FOI response dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

<https://www.ik.im/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/16.10.23-Cost-of-Juvenile-Secure-Unit.pdf>