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## POA - Hot meals for Irish prison officers a reason for concern?



Marc Mac Sharry, TD (Member of the Irish Parliament), raised questions about the destination of surplus funds generated by canteens in Irish prisons and submitted the question at the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee.

He stated that nobody could explain where the funds go and if they are audited and accountable.

**Gabriel Keaveny, deputy general secretary of the Irish Prison Officers' Association, member of Eurofedop,** reacted to Mr Mac Sharry's statements by cautioning that they could be used by the bosses of the Irish Prison Service to put an end to canteen services, among which the possibility for prison officers to have a hot meal while on duty.



He referred to the working conditions for prison officers, which he called "atrocious". Prison officers do 12 hour shifts and, apart from bread, jam and butter, there are other matters which deserve to be put more under attention such as the lack of protective clothing and equipment for prison staff and maintaining numbers in prison that are viable. The last time that they were at the Workplace Relations Committee, they delivered for the prison staff and had to fight for it, without any TD defending them.

TD Mac Sharry ensured Mr Keaveny that he would fight against any move of the Irish Prison Service to undermine facilities available to hard working prison officers.

