

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2025 No. 2
Prisons
England and Wales

The Prison Rules 2025

Made ----- 24 September 2025
Laid before Parliament ---- XX September 2025
Coming into Force ----- 1 January 2026

The Secretary of State, in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 47 of the [Prison Act 1952](#), hereby makes the following Rules:

PART I: GENERAL

Citation and Commencement

1. This instrument may be cited as The Prison Rules 2025 and shall come into force on 1st January 2026.

Interpretation

2. In these rules where the context so admits, the expression -

PART II: INMATES

INMATE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Customised Recovery Regimes

3. (1) Inmates will undergo an evaluation process upon entering the prison to determine their background and needs for their rehabilitation process.

(2) Inmates already in prison who have not gone through this process will do so upon commencement of these regulations.

(3) The evaluation must be performed by a mental health officer, a mental health practitioner, or a counsellor.

(4) The evaluation as meant in sections 3(1) and 4(2) must include, but may not be limited to:

- (a) followed education,
- (b) mental health issues,
- (c) health issues,
- (d) history of drug use,
- (e) friends and family that will support the inmate,
- (f) financial status.

(5) A customised recovery program will be created based upon the results of the evaluation as laid out in section 3(4) to maximise rehabilitation for the inmate. This program may include:

- (a) counselling,
- (b) vocational training suited to their needs and their skills,
- (c) educational programs suited to their needs and their skills,
- (d) labour suited to their needs and their skills.

Counselling and Mental Health

4. (1) A prison must employ one mental health practitioner for at least 37.5 hours per week per 100 inmates.

(2) A prison must employ a counsellor for at least 37.5 hours per week per 50 inmates.

(3) An inmate must have at least one counselling session per month, following their customised recovery program, as laid out in section 3(5), will be reviewed.

Drug Abuse Treatment

5. (1) Inmates that have a history of drug abuse and/or inmates that are addicted to drugs should be able to follow a treatment program in the prison facility or a facility outside of the prison, so long as they are reasonably satisfied that such a request would not compromise the security of the prison, any visitor, or the health and safety of any person, allow them to be visited in consultation with the mental health officer.

(2) The treatment shall be overseen by the medical officer. The treatment shall be carried out by a licensed professional who has worked or works in the drug addiction treatment profession.

EDUCATION

Education

6. (1) Prisons should make sure the necessary physical facilities are in place for inmates to partake in either GCSE, A-Level, BTEC or university or college degrees.

(2) There should be enough computers and internet options for inmates to be able to partake in hybrid and online education if necessary.

(3) All inmates shall be offered the opportunity to partake in any level of education or training qualification throughout the duration of their sentence.

(4) Their education shall not be limited to academic education, and they should be offered the opportunity to partake in social, spiritual, and any other means of education which could improve their quality of life and reduce their chance of reoffending.

Written and submitted by The Right Honourable u/model-willem CMG LVO PC, the Secretary of State for Home Affairs and Justice, on behalf of His Majesty's 33rd Government.

Opening Speech:

I outline in my remarks on the King's Speech that we should focus on our prison system, this includes the current plan on creating more prison places, but we should also ensure that we focus on the humanity side of our prisons. This means focusing on rehabilitation and re-education, instead of punishment. People who are sent to prisons often come from disadvantaged backgrounds, they have been dealt a hard hand in life and we should help them where we can.

When this House debates the issue of prisons, it is all too easy to focus solely on punishment, on containment, and on the need to keep dangerous individuals off our streets. That duty, of course, is fundamental. But if our approach ends there, we fail in our responsibility to deliver long-term safety for the public.

For the truth is simple: the vast majority of those in prison today will one day be released. And the question we must answer is this: do we want them to walk back into society hardened, alienated, and unprepared for a law-abiding life, or do we want them to return equipped with the skills, the discipline, and the support to contribute positively to their communities?

Mr Speaker, I choose the latter. And I urge this House to do the same.

Rehabilitation is not a soft option. It is not a concession to offenders. It is the most practical, cost-effective, and proven way to reduce reoffending. Every time we reduce reoffending, we

prevent future victims, we protect families from the trauma of crime, and we save the taxpayer the enormous costs of repeated imprisonment. The evidence is clear. Where prisoners are given access to education, to vocational training, and to treatment for substance misuse, rates of reoffending fall. Where we provide support in finding stable housing and employment after release, the cycle of crime is broken. And where mentoring, mental health care, and family contact are strengthened, lives are changed for the better. This Statutory Instrument focuses on that option.

The evaluation system put in place ensure that a customised recovery program can be put in place, so that every inmate, whether they are new or not, receives a rehabilitation program that is fitted to their needs and abilities. We believe that rehabilitation is most successful when an inmate receives the education they need, the work that they are good at, and the counselling that they deserve for the things they went through.

We have increased the educational opportunities that people can enjoy while they are in prison, focussing on social, spiritual, and other means of education, such as getting a GCSE, A-Level, BTEC or college degree.

Through the increase in the number of mental health practitioners and counsellors, we want to see more and better help for the inmates that need it. While we are also making sure that every inmate has the opportunity to meet with their counsellor on a monthly basis to see whether the customised recovery program is still up to date and if it needs an update.

The drug abuse program is also necessary to tackle drug use, drug abuse, and drug addiction for inmates who have been addicted, or are still addicted while they are in prison.

We believe that this is a big step forward to making sure that we improve the lives of the inmates of the prisons.