



Annual Report 2023–24



We inspected lots of prisons, immigration detention places, and court cells between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. We wrote a report after each inspection saying what needed to change.



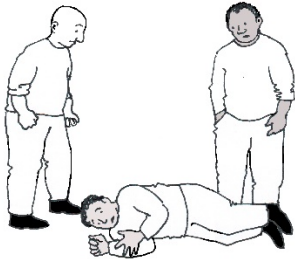
We also wrote reports about other things affecting people in prison, like what it is like for them at weekends, and delays getting prisoners with serious mental illness into secure hospitals.



We found out things about the different places by:

- looking around them
- asking prisoners, detainees and staff to fill in questionnaires
- speaking to prisoners and detainees
- speaking to staff and helpers
- reading documents.

What did we find in adult prisons?



There was too much violence in prisons and there were lots of drugs, especially in local and training prisons.



Too many prisoners were harming themselves, but some women in prison were getting good support to help them cope.



Prisoners did not always get enough help when they first arrived in prison.



Prisoners were not able to see doctors and nurses quickly or get mental health care when they needed it.



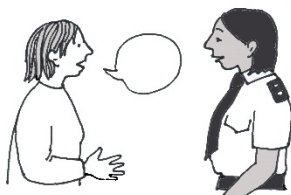
Lots of prisons were dirty and needed repairs.



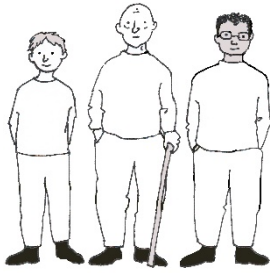
Many prisons were too crowded. Prisoners often shared cells that were too small.



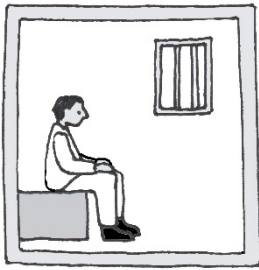
Prison staff did not always give prisoners enough information or help. Some officers used too much force on prisoners.



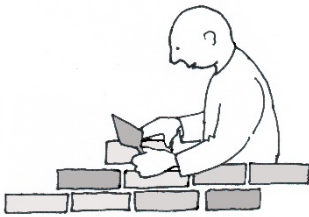
Prisoners got good support in prisons where staff had extra training, like women's prisons or therapeutic communities.



Prisoners from different backgrounds or with special needs, like black or disabled prisoners, were not always treated fairly.



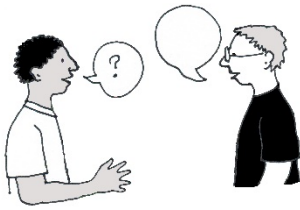
Prisoners were locked in their cells for too long each day.



Lots of prisoners did not go to education, training or work. They did not get the skills they needed to help them stop offending.



Prisoners had to wait too long to do special courses to help them change their behaviour.



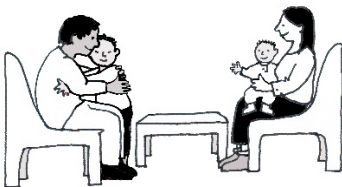
Prisoners did not get enough help to do the things in their sentence plan.



There were delays sorting out plans for public protection before prisoners left prison.

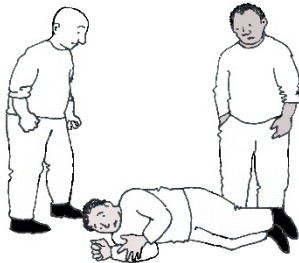


Many prisoners did not get enough help and advice before they left prison, with things like finding somewhere to live.

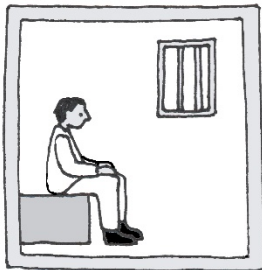


There was not always enough support for prisoners to see and speak to family and friends.

What did we find in children's prisons?



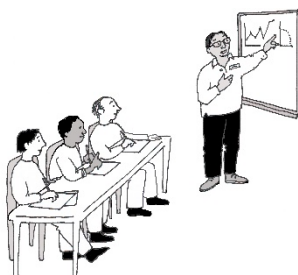
A lot of boys felt unsafe in children's prisons. Staff did not do enough to stop bad behaviour and fighting.



Because of fighting, children were often kept apart from each other. This meant they did not get enough time out of their cells.



Children often did not get the care they needed or good support from staff. Most children did not get to speak to an officer in private each week.

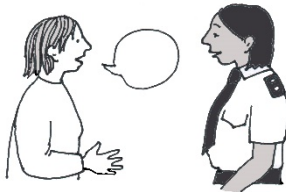


Children did not get enough time in education. They often missed classes or were taken to classes late. Teaching was not good enough.

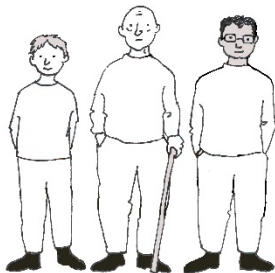
What did we find in court cells?



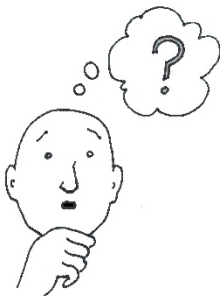
Detainees often arrived late at court and had long waits before they were taken to prison.



Most people in court cells said staff treated them well.

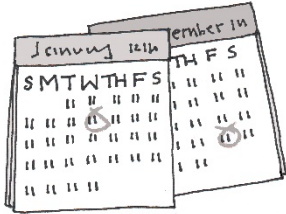


Some disabled people and people with special needs did not get enough help.



There was not enough help for people being released from courts, like support to get home or advice about homelessness.

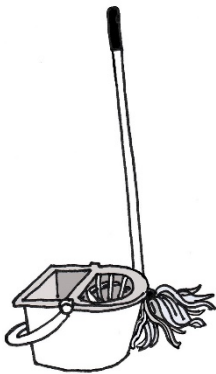
What did we find in immigration detention?



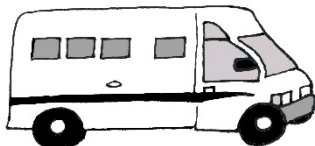
Many people in immigration removal centres were upset because they did not know when they would be able to leave.



There were a lot of people in the immigration removal centres and they did not always feel safe.



Short-term holding facilities were mostly clean and safe, but some were not managed well enough.



Most people being removed from the UK were looked after well on their journey.

Do you want to find out more?



You can read reports about each prison, immigration detention place, and court cell on our website:

www.hmprisons.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk



You can follow us on X (Twitter) at:

www.twitter.com/HMIPrisonsnews

Do you have questions?



You can write to us at:

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