



Annual Report 2025–26



We inspected lots of prisons, immigration detention places, and court cells between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. We wrote a report after each inspection saying what needed to change.



We also wrote reports about other things affecting people in prison, like not having enough time out of their cells, problems sorting out their simple requests, and what helps women to cope in prison.



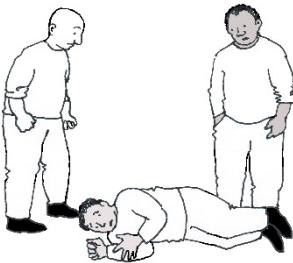
We found out things about the different places by:

- 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 men's prisons?



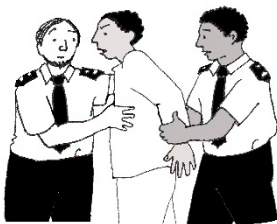
Drugs were a big problem in prisons. It was too easy for prisoners to get drugs. Prisoners did not get enough help to stay off drugs.



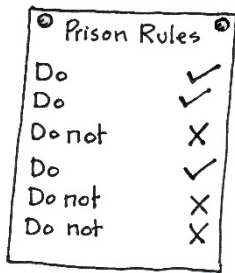
There was too much violence in a lot of prisons. Lots of the violence was because of drugs or gangs, or because prisoners were bored.



In some prisons, prison officers used too much force on prisoners. Sometimes they did not film it or write about it properly.



Prisoners in segregation did not get enough time out of their cells. They did not get enough help to change their behaviour.

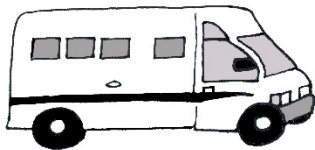


Prison Rules	
Do	✓
Do	✓
Do not	X
Do	✓
Do not	X
Do not	X

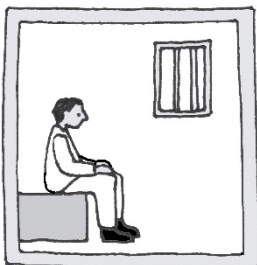
Most prisoners did not get enough help to behave well. Prisoners were not always punished when they did something wrong. Some prisons helped prisoners to do their best.



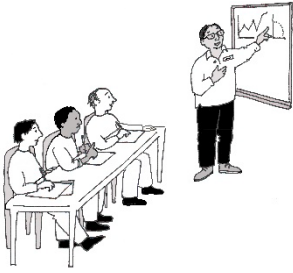
Too many prisoners harmed themselves. Some things helped prisoners to cope, like getting on with staff, having things to do and the prison being clean.



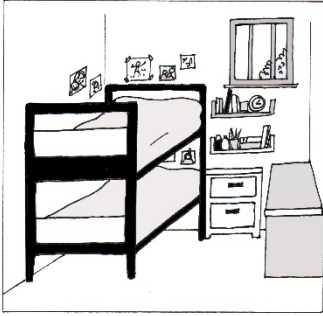
Some prisoners had to travel a long way to prison and arrived late in the evening. They did not always get a shower, meal or phone call home. Prisoners did not always get enough help to settle in.



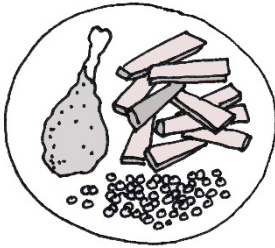
Most prisoners were locked in their cells for too long each day. They did not always have time to do things like have a shower or use the kiosk. When they were unlocked, they did not have enough to do.



Too many prisoners did not go to education or work. A lot of prison work was not very good. There were not enough teachers in some prisons.



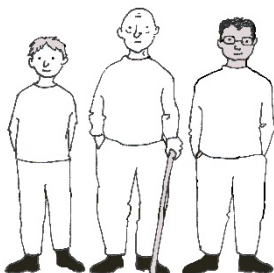
Many prisoners had to share a small cell with another person. Prisons were often dirty and things were broken. Some had problems with rats and cockroaches.



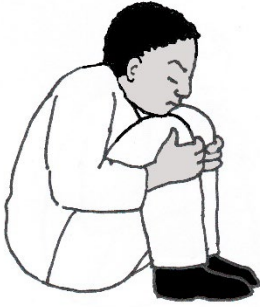
Most prisoners did not think the food in their prison was good.



Most prisoners said staff treated them well, but some said staff were not very helpful. Lots of prisoners had problems with getting complaints and applications sorted out.



Not all prisoners were treated fairly. For example, some prisoners who had a disability, or who were old, young or from ethnic minorities, said things were worse for them than other prisoners.



Prisoners with mental health problems waited too long for treatment. It took long to get prisoners with serious mental illness to secure hospitals.



Prisoners did not always get good health care. Some prisoners could not get to their medical appointments. Medicine was not always given out safely and some health care rooms were not good enough.



Lots of prisoners did not get enough help to get ready for life outside prison. Men on remand did not get good support. Some prisoners did not get enough help with finding somewhere to live.



Some prisons did not do enough to make sure prisoners were safe to be released. This sometimes meant they were a risk to their families, victims and the public.

What did we find in women's prisons?



Lots of women in prison had mental health problems. Lots of women harmed themselves. Prison officers gave women some good support.

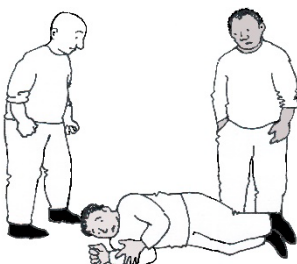


At some prisons, women got good time out of their cells, but at other prisons women were locked up for too long. Lots of women said it was easy to get drugs in their prison.

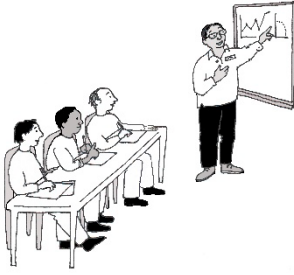


Some women did not have a safe place to stay when they left prison. Very few women got to go out of prison on temporary release.

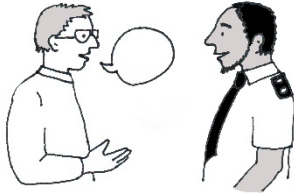
What did we find in children's prisons?



There was a lot of violence in children's prisons. Too many children's prisons were not safe enough.

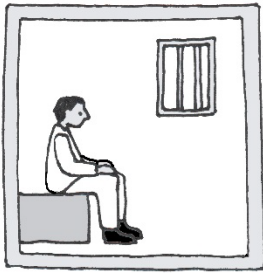


Children did not get enough time out of their cells. They did not get enough time in education.

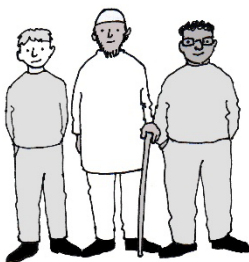


Children often did not get the care they needed or good support from staff.

What did we find in court cells?



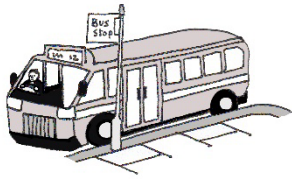
Detainees often arrived late at court and had long waits before they were taken to prison. Some court cells were dirty and needed repairs.



Most people in court cells said staff treated them well. Some people with disabilities and people with extra needs did not get enough help.



Some people in court cells had serious mental illness. They often waited too long to be seen by a doctor or to be moved to a secure hospital.

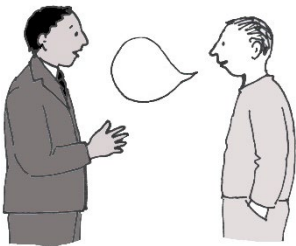


There was not enough help for people being released from court custody, like support to get home or advice about homelessness.

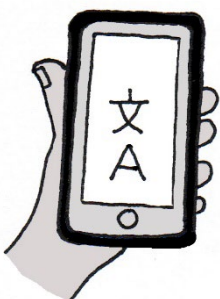
What did we find in immigration detention?



In the immigration removal centres we visited most detainees were cared for well. But some detainees with mental health problems did not get the right support.



Most short-term holding facilities were clean and safe, but some were too small. Most detainees in the holding facilities got good care, but some had to stay there for too long. Detainees in the holding facilities could not use the internet or have time outside.



Most people being removed from the UK were looked after well on their journey. Some detainees did not get enough information in their own language before their flight.

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



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Do you have questions?



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