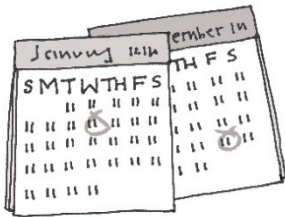
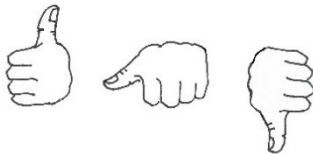




Inspection of HMP High Down



Inspectors visited this prison in June 2026.



We wanted to find out if things were better, the same or worse for prisoners since we last visited in 2023.



Inspectors did this by:

- looking around the prison
- asking prisoners and staff to fill in a paper survey
- speaking to prisoners
- speaking to staff and helpers
- reading documents.

What did we find?



Safety: 3 out of 4

- The prison seemed calm but lots of prisoners said they didn't feel safe.
- There were too many drugs.
- Prisoners who needed extra help got good support.



Respect: 3 out of 4

- Many cells were dirty and did not have curtains.
- Lots of showers and toilets were dirty and needed to be fixed.
- Prisoners got good mental health support.
- Some health care was not safe enough.



Things to do: 2 out of 4

- Prisoners who did not have a job did not get enough time out of their cells.
- Officers did not always make sure prisoners got to education or work.
- Prisoners could go to a range of activities.



Getting ready to leave prison: 2 out of 4

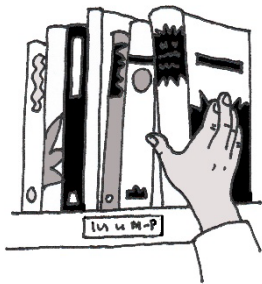
- Prisoners did not get enough help to make good progress in their prison sentence.
- Prisoners got good help to see and speak to their families.
- Prisoners got good help with sorting out benefits and somewhere to live before they left the jail.

What should the prison do?



We want the governor to read the report we wrote about HMP High Down and make a plan.

The plan should tell us how they will fix the problems at HMP High Down and make things better for prisoners.



You can find the report we wrote in the prison library.

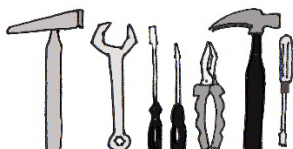
What do we want to happen?



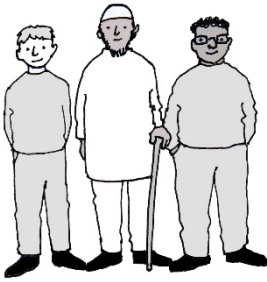
We want the prison to do more to stop drugs getting in.



We want prisoners to feel safe.



We want dirty cells and showers to be cleaned and broken things to be fixed.



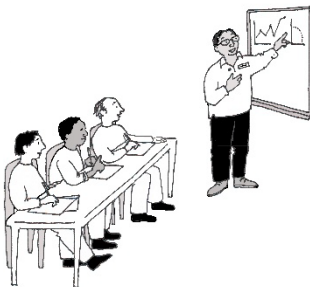
We want all prisoners to be treated fairly and get the support they need.



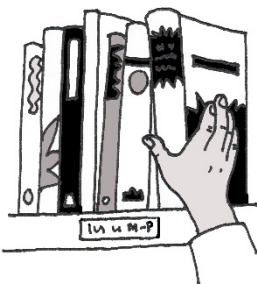
We want health care to be safer.



We want prisoners without a job to get more time out of their cells.



We want staff to make sure prisoners get to education and work on time.



We want the prisoners to be able to get the information they need from the library.

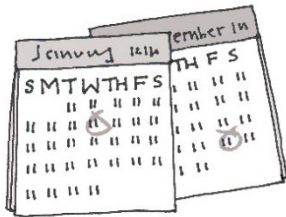


We want prisoners to get more help to make good progress in their prison sentence.

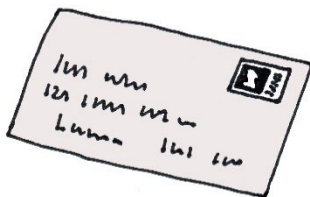


We want prisoners to be able to get onto the programmes and courses they need more quickly.

What will we do?



We will come back in a few years to check how well the prison is doing. We will write a report to tell people what we find.



If you have any questions, please write to us:

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10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
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