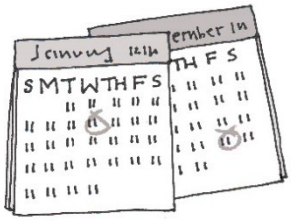
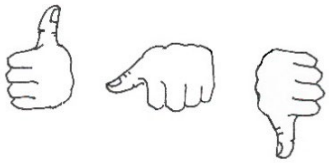
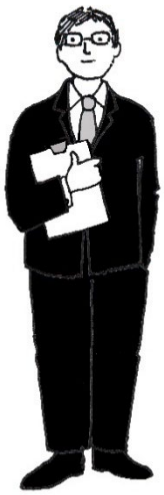
Inspection of HMP Gartree



Inspectors visited this prison in August 2026.



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



We did this by:

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

What did we find?



Safety: 2 out of 4

- There were too many drugs in the prison.
- There was too much violence. Prisoners did not get enough help to behave well.
- There was not enough help for prisoners to stop harming themselves.



Respect: 2 out of 4

- Many parts of the prison were dirty and needed repairs.
- The segregation unit was in a bad condition.
- Health care was not good enough.



Things to do: 2 out of 4

- Teaching in education and work was not good enough.
- Prisoners could not learn things that interested them or that would be useful to them.
- It took too long for new prisoners to start doing activities.



Getting ready to leave prison: 3 out of 4

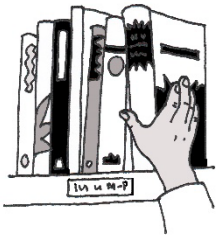
- Prisoners on the specialist units got good help to make progress in their sentence.
- It was easy for prisoners' families to book visits.

What should the prison do?



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

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

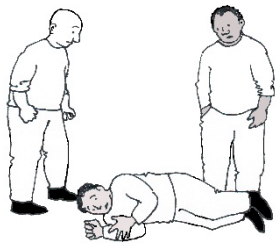


You can find the report we wrote in the prison library.

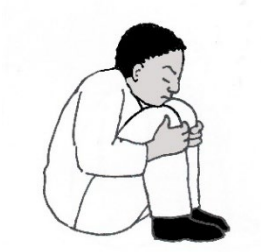
What do we want to happen?



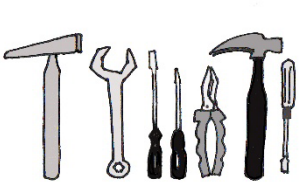
We want the prison to do more to stop drugs getting in.



We want the prison to do more to sort out the problems with violence. We want staff to do more to help prisoners behave better.



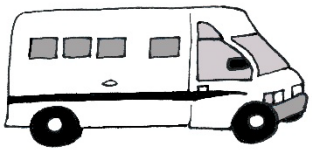
We want the prison to do more to stop prisoners harming themselves. We want prisoners to get therapy if they need it.



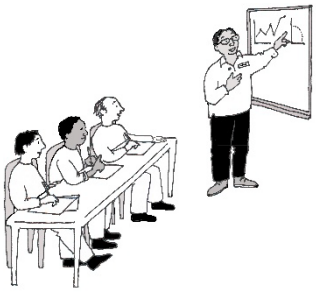
We want the prison to be cleaner. We want broken things to be fixed and cells to have enough furniture.



We want prisoners to get their medication when they need it.



We want seriously mentally ill prisoners to be taken to secure hospitals more quickly.



We want prisoners to go to work and education activities. We want them to learn things that will be useful.

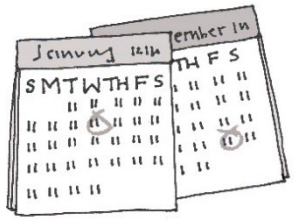


We want prisoners to get more help with their reading.

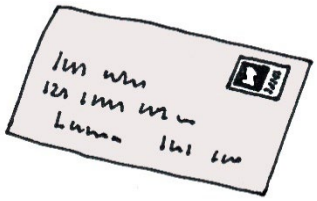


We want prisoners to be able to take part in other activities, like competitions, music or games.

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
E14 4PU