

Prison: the facts

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Facts and figures provide a better basis than tough political rhetoric or media scaremongering for policy and practice change. The facts chart the extraordinary rise in prison numbers over the last twenty years, inflation in sentencing and the social and economic consequences of overuse of custody. Revealing as they do the state of our overcrowded prisons and the state of people in them, these figures, drawn largely from government sources, indicate the scope for community solutions to crime.

Opinion polls show strong public backing for measures that reduce crime and disorder from better supervision of young people by their parents to making amends to victims, from mental health and social care to treatment for addictions. It's time to put prison back where it belongs – as an important place of absolute last resort in the justice system.

On 10 May 2013, the prison population in England and Wales was 83,151.¹ Between June 1993 and June 2012 the prison population in England and Wales increased by 41,800 prisoners to over 86,000.²

The prison system as a whole has been overcrowded in every year since 1994. At the end of March 2013, 69 of the 124 prisons in England and Wales were overcrowded.³

Prison has a poor record for reducing reoffending – 47% of adults are reconvicted within one year of release. For those serving sentences of less than 12 months this increases to 58%. Nearly three quarters (73%) of under 18 year olds are reconvicted within a year of release.⁴

41,875 people entered prison to serve sentences of less than or equal to six months in the year to September 2012.⁵

Court ordered community sentences are more effective by 8.3% at reducing one-year proven reoffending rates than custodial sentences of less than 12 months for similar offenders.⁶

The proportion of the sentenced prison population serving indeterminate or life sentences increased from 9% in 1993 to 19% in 2012.⁷

The average annual overall cost of a prison place in England and Wales for the financial year 2011-12 was £37,648.⁸

Reoffending by all recent ex-prisoners in 2007-08 cost the economy between £9.5 and £13 billion. As much as three quarters of this cost can be attributed to former short-sentenced prisoners: some £7-10 billion a year.⁹

According to the National Audit Office, there is no consistent correlation between prison numbers and levels of crime.¹⁰ Police recorded crime and Crime Survey for England and Wales figures show that crime rates are around a third lower than in 2002-03.¹¹

Approximately 200,000 children in England and Wales had a parent in prison at some point in 2009.¹² This is more than double the number of children affected in the same year by divorce in the family.¹³

Fewer than 1% of all children in England are in care,¹⁴ but looked after children make up 30% of boys and 44% of girls in custody.¹⁵

8 Table 1, Ministry of Justice (2012) Costs per place and costs per prisoner by individual prison, National Offender Management Service Annual Report and Accounts 2011-12: Management Information Addendum, London: Ministry of Justice

9 National Audit Office (2010) Managing offenders on short custodial sentences, London: The Stationery Office

10 National Audit Office (2012) Comparing International Criminal Justice Systems, London: National Audit Office

11 Office for National Statistics (2013) Crime in England and Wales, year ending September 2012, Fareham: Office for National Statistics

12 Ministry of Justice (2012) Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds, London: Ministry of Justice

13 Office for National Statistics (2011) Divorces in England and Wales 2009, Fareham: Office for National Statistics

14 Department for Education (2012) Children looked after by local authorities in England year ending 31 March 2012, London: DfE, and Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census for England and Wales

15 Murray, R. (2012) Children and Young People in Custody 2011-12, London: HM Inspectorate of Prisons and Youth Justice Board

1 Ministry of Justice (2013) Population and Capacity Briefing for Friday 10 May 2013, London: Ministry of Justice

2 Ministry of Justice (2013) Story of the prison population: 1993 - 2012 England and Wales, London: Ministry of Justice

3 Ministry of Justice (2013) Monthly Population Bulletin March 2013, London: Ministry of Justice

4 Tables 18a, 18b, 19a, Ministry of Justice (2013) Proven re-offending quarterly July to June 2011, London: Ministry of Justice

5 Table 2.1a, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

6 Ministry of Justice (2011) Compendium of reoffending statistics, London: Ministry of Justice

7 Ministry of Justice (2013) Story of the prison population: 1993 - 2012 England and Wales, London: Ministry of Justice

Prison population and sentencing trends

Use of custody

On 10 May 2013, the prison population in England and Wales was 83,151. On the same date Scotland's prison population was 7,798 and Northern Ireland's prison population was 1,848.¹⁶

England and Wales have an imprisonment rate of 150 per 100,000 of the population. Scotland has a rate of 146 per 100,000. France has a rate of 101 per 100,000 and Germany has 80 per 100,000.¹⁷

Between March 2012 and March 2013, the prison population in England and Wales fell by 3,328. Almost all of this decrease comprised reductions in the remand and sentenced young offender (under 21s) prison population.¹⁸

Between June 1993 and June 2012 the prison population in England and Wales increased by 41,800 prisoners to over 86,000. Almost all of this increase took place within those sentenced to immediate custody (85% of the increase) and those recalled to prison for breaking the conditions of their release (13% of the increase).¹⁹

From 1993 to 2002, the immediate custody rate - the proportion of people given a prison sentence for indictable offences - increased from 16% to 28%. Since 2002, the immediate custody rate has stabilised.²⁰

The recall population grew rapidly between 1993 and 2012, increasing by 5,300. This reflected a higher recall rate caused by changes to the law making it easier to recall prisoners, and changes introduced in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 which lengthened the licence period for most offenders.²¹

From 1999 to 2011, the average time served in prison increased from 8.1 to 9.5 months for those released from determinate sentences.²²

16 Ministry of Justice (2013) Population and Capacity Briefing for Friday 10 May 2013, London: Ministry of Justice, Scottish Prison Service website at <http://www.sps.gov.uk/Publications/ScottishPrisonPopulation.aspx>, and Northern Ireland Prison Service website at <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/ni-prison-service/situation-reports/nips-may-2013/situation-report-10-may-2013.htm>

17 <http://www.prisonstudies.org/info/worldbrief/>

18 Ministry of Justice (2013) Population and Capacity Briefing for Friday 15 March 2013, London: Ministry of Justice, and Table 1.1a Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, England and Wales, London: Ministry of Justice

19 Ministry of Justice (2013) Story of the prison population: 1993 - 2012 England and Wales, London: Ministry of Justice

20 Ibid.

21 Ibid.

22 Ibid.

41,875 people entered prison to serve sentences of less than or equal to six months in the year to September 2012.²³

Taking determinate sentences of 4 years or more together with indeterminate sentences, the population serving these long sentences increased by 26,600 between 1993 and 2012, representing 66% of the total population increase over the period.²⁴

Life and indeterminate sentences

The proportion of the sentenced prison population serving a life or indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) increased from 9% in 1993 to 19% in 2012.²⁵

The average time spent in custody for people serving mandatory life sentences for murder increased from 13 years in 2001 to 16 years in 2011.²⁶

At the end of December 2012 there were 13,577 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences.²⁷ Within the indeterminate sentenced population, 44% were serving an IPP (5,920) while 56% were serving life sentences (7,657).²⁸

Among those serving IPPs, most had a tariff length of four years or less (1,139 had a tariff of less than two years).²⁹

A total of 3,538 (60%) IPP prisoners had passed their tariff expiry date as at 31 December 2012.³⁰

There were 43 prisoners serving a whole life sentence as at 31 December 2012.³¹

People on remand

On 31 December 2012 there were 10,661 people in prison on remand. During 2012, 50,227 people were remanded into custody to await trial.³²

23 Table 2.1a, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

24 Ministry of Justice (2013) Story of the prison population: 1993 - 2012 England and Wales, London: Ministry of Justice

25 Ministry of Justice (2013) Story of the prison population: 1993 - 2012 England and Wales, London: Ministry of Justice

26 Hansard HC, 19 October 2012 c485W

27 Table 1.1a, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

28 Table 1.4 Ibid.

29 Ibid.

30 Ibid.

31 Ibid.

32 Table 1.1a Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice, and Table 2.1a Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin October to December 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

In the 12 months ending September 2012, only 15% (7,600) of those defendants remanded in custody went on to receive a custodial sentence at magistrates' courts. 26% (13,100) were given a non-custodial sentence and 13% (6,300) were acquitted or not proceeded against. 41% (20,500) were committed to the crown court for sentence or trial.³³

At the crown court, 39,000 defendants were remanded in custody in the 12 months to September 2012. 74% (28,900) of these defendants went on to receive a custodial sentence and 12% (4,700) were acquitted or not proceeded against.³⁴

The remand population fell by 1,513, or 12%, in 2012.³⁵ This is partly due to measures introduced by the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (2012) Act, enacted in December 2012, to restrict the use of remand.³⁶

People in prison - a snapshot

Children and young adults

The number of children in custody has fallen by just over 50% in the last five years.³⁷

At the end of February 2013 there were 1,320 children (under-18s) in custody in England and Wales – a decrease of 553 from the same point last year. There were 54 children aged 14 and under in the secure estate.³⁸

The minimum age of criminal responsibility in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is 10 years. It compares to, for example, 12 years in Canada, 13 years in France, 14 years in Germany and China, and 15 years in Sweden. In Scotland the age of criminal responsibility is eight years, but the minimum age for prosecution is now 12.³⁹

At the end of December 2012 there were 6,683 young adults aged 18-20 in prison in England and Wales - 15% fewer than the previous year.⁴⁰

³³ Table Q3a, Ministry of Justice (2013) Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly update to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Table 1.1a Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

³⁶ Table 2.1a Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice, and full report text.

³⁷ Table 2.1 Youth Justice Board (2013) Monthly Youth Custody Report - January 2013, London: Ministry of Justice

³⁸ Figure 1.0 Youth Justice Board (2013) Monthly Youth Custody Report - February 2013, London: Youth Justice Board

³⁹ Jacobson, J. and Talbot, J. (2009) Vulnerable Defendants in the Criminal Courts: a review of provision for adults and children, London: Prison Reform Trust; and <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/03/27140804>

⁴⁰ Table 1.1a, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

According to Crime in England and Wales (formerly the British Crime Survey), 16-24 year-olds are more likely than any other age group to become a victim of crime.⁴¹

47% of children in custody in 2011-12 were there for non-violent crimes. 16% were there for a breach offence.⁴²

25% of children in the youth justice system have identified special educational needs, 46% are rated as underachieving at school and 29% have difficulties with literacy and numeracy.⁴³

Of children interviewed in prison, 13% reported being regular crack users, and 11% had used heroin daily.⁴⁴

In March 2011, 30% of children were held over 50 miles from their home, including 10% held over 100 miles away.⁴⁵

Fewer than 1% of all children in England are in care,⁴⁶ but looked after children make up 30% of boys and 44% of girls in custody.⁴⁷

Use of restrictive physical interventions (or restraint) on children is intended 'as a last resort, for example to prevent them causing harm to themselves or others.' There were 8,419 incidents of restraint used in the youth secure estate in 2011-12, up 17% since 2010-11.⁴⁸

Prison Reform Trust research found that one in eight children in prison had experienced the death of a parent or sibling. 76% had an absent father, 33% an absent mother. 39% had been on the child protection register or had experienced neglect or abuse.⁴⁹

200 young people have died in penal custody in the ten years between 2002 and 2012.⁵⁰

⁴¹ Table 2.05, Chaplin, R. et al (2011) Crime in England and Wales 2010, London: Home Office

⁴² Table 7.5, Ministry of Justice (2013) Youth Justice Statistics 2011-12 England and Wales, London: Ministry of Justice

⁴³ Youth Justice Board (2006) Barriers to engaging in education, training and employment, London: Youth Justice Board

⁴⁴ Youth Justice Board (2004) Substance misuse and juvenile offenders, London: Youth Justice Board

⁴⁵ Summerfield, A. (2011) Children and Young People in Custody 2010-11, London: HM Inspectorate of Prisons and Youth Justice Board

⁴⁶ Department for Education (2012) Children looked after by local authorities in England year ending 31 March 2012, London: DfE, and Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census for England and Wales

⁴⁷ Murray, R. (2012) Children and Young People in Custody 2011-12, London: HM Inspectorate of Prisons and Youth Justice Board

⁴⁸ Youth Justice Board (2013) Youth Justice Statistics 2011/12 England and Wales, London: Ministry of Justice

⁴⁹ Jacobson J. et al (2010) Punishing Disadvantage: a profile of children in custody, London: Prison Reform Trust

⁵⁰ Prison Reform Trust and Inquest (2012) Fatally Flawed: has the state learned lessons from the deaths of children and young people in prison? London: Prison Reform Trust

Women

On 10 May 2013 there were 3,893 women in prison in England and Wales, 354 fewer than the previous year.⁵¹ In 1995 the mid-year female prison population was 1,979 and in 2010 it was 4,267, a 115% increase in 15 years. A total of 10,024 women were received into custody in the 12 months to the end of September 2012, a fall of 4% from the previous year.⁵²

Most women entering prison serve very short sentences. In the year ending September 2012, 59% of sentenced women (4,544) entering prison were serving six months or less. This is an increase of 2% from the previous year.⁵³ In 1993 only a third of women entering custody were sentenced to six months or less.⁵⁴

On 31 December 2012 there were 565 women in prison on remand.⁵⁵ In the 12 months to September 2012, 6,410 women were remanded to custody.⁵⁶

Most women entering prison under sentence (81%) have committed a non-violent offence. Theft and handling stolen goods accounted for 37% of women entering custody under sentence.⁵⁷

The average distance adult women in prison are held from their home or committal court address is 60 miles.⁵⁸ In 2009, 753 women were held over 100 miles away.⁵⁹

49% of women prisoners in a Ministry of Justice study were assessed as suffering from anxiety and depression. This can be compared with 19% of the female UK population who were estimated to be suffering from different types of anxiety and depression.⁶⁰

46% of women in prison have been identified as having suffered a history of domestic abuse.⁶¹

53% of women in prison reported having experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a child, compared to 27% of men.⁶²

If alternatives to prison were to achieve an additional reduction of just 6% in reoffending by women, the state would recoup the investment required to achieve this in just one year.⁶³

Mothers and fathers, prisoners' children

Approximately 200,000 children in England and Wales had a parent in prison at some point in 2009.⁶⁴ In the same year more than double the numbers of children were affected by the imprisonment of a parent than by divorce in the family.⁶⁵

During their time at school 7% of children experience their father's imprisonment.⁶⁶

It is estimated that more than 17,240 children were separated from their mother in 2010 by imprisonment.⁶⁷

Only 9% of children whose mothers are in prison are cared for by their fathers in their mothers' absence.⁶⁸

Adult children of imprisoned mothers are more likely to be convicted of a crime than adult children with imprisoned fathers.⁶⁹

Children of prisoners have about three times the risk of mental health problems and/or anti-social behaviour compared to other children.⁷⁰

51 Ministry of Justice (2013) Population and Capacity Briefing for Friday 10 May 2013, London: Ministry of Justice

52 Table 2.1c Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

53 Ibid.

54 Hedderman, C. (2012) Empty cells or empty words, government policy on reducing the number of women going to prison, London: Criminal Justice Alliance

55 Table 1.1c, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

56 Table 2.1c Ibid.

57 Table 2.2b Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin October to December 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

58 Women in Prison (2013) State of the estate - Women in Prison's report on the women's custodial estate 2011-12, London: Women in Prison

59 Hansard HC, 25 November 2009, c238W

60 Ministry of Justice (2013) Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

61 Baroness Corston (2007) A Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System, London: Home Office

62 Ministry of Justice (2012) Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds, London: Ministry of Justice

63 new economics foundation (2008) Unlocking value: How we all benefit from investing in alternatives to prison for women offenders, London: new economics foundation

64 Ministry of Justice (2012) Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds, London: Ministry of Justice

65 Office for National Statistics (2011) Divorces in England and Wales 2009, Fareham: Office for National Statistics

66 Department for Education and Skills (2003) Every Child Matters, London: The Stationery Office

67 Wilks-Wiffen, S. (2011) Voice of a Child, London: Howard League for Penal Reform

68 Baroness Corston (2007) A Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System, London: Home Office

69 Dallaire, D. H. (2007) Incarcerated mothers and fathers: a comparison of risks for children and families. Family Relations, 56, 440-53, cited in Ministry of Justice (2012) Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds, London: Ministry of Justice

70 Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing reoffending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit, and Murray, J., & Farrington, D. P. (2008) 'The effects of parental imprisonment on children'. In M. Tonry (Ed.), Crime and justice: A review of research (Vol. 37, pp. 133-206). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Over half (54%) of the 1,435 prisoners interviewed for a Ministry of Justice study had children under the age of 18 at the time they entered prison. The vast majority felt they had let their family down by being sent to prison (82%).⁷¹

40% of prisoners stated that support from their family, and 36% that seeing their children, would help them stop reoffending in the future.⁷²

Research indicates that the likelihood of reoffending was 39% higher for prisoners who had not received visits whilst in prison compared to those who had.⁷³

Foreign national prisoners

At the end of December 2012 there were 10,592 foreign nationals (defined as non-UK passport holders) held in prisons in England and Wales, 13% of the overall prison population.⁷⁴

These prisoners come from 157 countries, but over half are from 10 countries (Jamaica, Poland, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Nigeria, Lithuania, Pakistan, India, Somalia and Vietnam).⁷⁵

Currently 15% of women in prison, 617, are foreign nationals, some of whom are known to have been coerced or trafficked into offending.⁷⁶

One in seven foreign national women in prison are there for fraud and forgery offences (usually possession of false documents).⁷⁷

4,649 foreign national offenders were removed or deported in 2011.⁷⁸

As at 8 October 2012, there were 557 immigration detainees held in prison.⁷⁹

Black, Asian and minority ethnic people

On 31 March 2013, 26% of the prison population, 21,462 prisoners, was from a minority ethnic

group.⁸⁰ This compares to around one in 10 of the general population.⁸¹

Out of the British national prison population, 10% are black and 6% are Asian.⁸² For black Britons this is significantly higher than the 2.8% of the general population they represent.⁸³

There is now greater disproportionality in the number of black people in prisons in the UK than in the United States.⁸⁴

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons has said that “one issue not sufficiently addressed was the strikingly high proportion of prisoners who described themselves in our surveys as being of Gypsy, Romany or Traveller background - almost one in 10 in Wormwood Scrubs and frequently as high as 5% elsewhere.”⁸⁵

Older people

On 31 December 2012, there were 9,880 prisoners aged 50 and over in England and Wales, including 3,377 aged 60 and over. This group makes up 12% of the total prison population.⁸⁶

People aged 60 and over are now the fastest growing age group in the prison estate. The number of sentenced prisoners aged 60 and over rose by 103% between 2002 and 2011.⁸⁷

42% of men in prison aged over 50 have been convicted of sex offences. The next highest offence category is violence against the person (26%) followed by drug offences (12%).⁸⁸

Some older prisoners will have a physical health status of 10 years older than their contemporaries in the community.⁸⁹

80 Table 1.7, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, October to December 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

81 Table A3.5.2, Equality and Human Rights Commission (2010) How fair is Britain? Equality, Human Rights and Good Relations in 2010, London: Equality and Human Rights Commission

82 Table A1.19, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2011, London: Ministry of Justice

83 Table 4, Office for National Statistics (2011) Population Estimates by Ethnic Group 2002 – 2009, London: Office for National Statistics

84 Equality and Human Rights Commission (2010) How fair is Britain? London: Equality and Human Rights Commission

85 HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales (2012) Annual Report 2011-12, London: The Stationery Office

86 Table A1.8, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

87 Table A1.11, Ministry of Justice (2012) Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2011, London: Ministry of Justice

88 Table A1.7, Ministry of Justice (2012) Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2011, London: Ministry of Justice

89 Cooney, F. with Braggins, J. (2010) Doing Time: Good practice with older people in prison – the views of prison staff, London: Prison Reform Trust.

71 Ministry of Justice (2012) Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds, London: Ministry of Justice

72 Ibid.

73 May, C. et al. (2008) Factors linked to reoffending: a one-year follow-up of prisoners who took part in the Resettlement Surveys 2001, 2003 and 2004, London: Ministry of Justice

74 Table 1.6, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

75 Ibid.

76 Table 1.6, Ibid

77 Table A1.21, Ministry of Justice (2011) Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2010, London: Ministry of Justice

78 Hansard HC, 18 September 2012, c767

79 Hansard HL, 19 October 2012, WA492

Health and wellbeing

Disability

An estimate of 36% of prisoners interviewed in a Ministry of Justice study were considered to have a disability when survey answers about disability and health, including mental health, were screened.⁹⁰

18% of prisoners interviewed were considered to have a physical disability.⁹¹

In 2010-11, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons “remained concerned that while some prisons had clearly identified schemes for assisting disabled prisoners in wheelchairs, in some cases, staff still declined to do so.”⁹²

People with learning disabilities and difficulties

20–30% of all offenders have learning disabilities or difficulties that interfere with their ability to cope with the criminal justice system.⁹³

23% of young offenders have learning difficulties (IQs of below 70) and a further 36% have borderline learning difficulties (IQ 70-80).⁹⁴

Over half of prison staff believe that prisoners with learning disabilities or difficulties are more likely to be victimised and bullied than other prisoners.⁹⁵

Prisoners with learning disabilities or difficulties are more likely than other prisoners to have broken a prison rule, five times as likely to have been subject to control and restraint, and over three times as likely to report having spent time in segregation.⁹⁶

Prisoners with learning disabilities are frequently excluded from elements of the prison regime including opportunities to address their offending behaviour.⁹⁷

90 Ministry of Justice (2012) Estimating the prevalence of disability amongst prisoners: results from the Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR) survey, London: Ministry of Justice

91 Ibid.

92 HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales (2011) Annual Report 2010-11, London: The Stationery Office

93 Loucks, N. (2007) No One Knows: Offenders with Learning Difficulties and Learning Disabilities. Review of prevalence and associated needs, London: Prison Reform Trust

94 Harrington, R., and Bailey, S. (2005) Mental health needs and effectiveness of provision for young offenders in custody and in the community. London: Youth Justice Board

95 Talbot, J. (2007) No One Knows: Identifying and supporting prisoners with learning difficulties and learning disabilities: the views of prison staff, London: Prison Reform Trust

96 Talbot, J. (2008) Prisoners' Voices: Experiences of the criminal justice system by prisoners with learning disabilities and difficulties, London: Prison Reform Trust

97 Ibid.

The government is investing £50 million by 2014 in liaison and diversion services at police stations and courts wherever possible to divert offenders with mental health needs and learning disabilities away from the justice system and into treatment and care.⁹⁸

Mental health

49% of women and 23% of male prisoners in a Ministry of Justice study were assessed as suffering from anxiety and depression. This can be compared with 16% of the general UK population (12% of men and 19% of women).⁹⁹

25% of women and 15% of men in prison reported symptoms indicative of psychosis.¹⁰⁰ The rate among the general public is about 4%.¹⁰¹

26% of women and 16% of men said they had received treatment for a mental health problem in the year before custody.¹⁰²

In the 12 months ending September 2012, there were a total of 23,134 incidents of self-harm in prisons, a decrease of 8% compared with the previous 12 months.¹⁰³

23% of self-harm incidents occurred within the first month of arriving in a prison - 6% on the day of arrival.¹⁰⁴

Women accounted for 30% of all incidents of self-harm despite representing just 5% of the total prison population.¹⁰⁵

46% of women prisoners reported having attempted suicide at some point in their lives. This is more than twice the rate of male prisoners (21%) and higher than in the general UK population amongst whom around 6% report having ever attempted suicide.¹⁰⁶

98 Hansard HC, 15 February 2011, c811

99 Ministry of Justice (2013) Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

100 Ibid.

101 Wiles, N., et al. (2006) Self-reported psychotic symptoms in the general population, The British Journal of Psychiatry, 188: 519-526

102 Ministry of Justice (2013) Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

103 Table 3, Ministry of Justice (2013) Safety in Custody Statistics, Quarterly Update to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

104 Table 2.5, Ibid.

105 Ibid.

106 Ministry of Justice (2013) Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

Deaths in custody

For the 12 months ending September 2012 there were 56 self-inflicted deaths in prisons in England and Wales, the lowest level in any 12 month period to September in the last 10 years.¹⁰⁷

In 2011, 39% of self-inflicted deaths were by prisoners held on remand, despite comprising 15% of the prison population.¹⁰⁸

A Prisons and Probation Ombudsman study found that in the 92 cases of prisoners dying from natural causes studied, restraints were used during final inpatient stays in outside hospitals on 29 out of 52 occasions.¹⁰⁹

Boys aged 15-17 are 18 times more likely to take their own lives in prison than boys in the community.¹¹⁰

Men recently released from prison are eight times more likely, and women 36 times more likely, than the general population to take their own lives.¹¹¹

Drugs

Levels of drug use are high amongst offenders, with the highest levels of use found amongst the most prolific offenders. 64% of prisoners reported having used drugs in the four weeks before custody.¹¹²

At the end of December 2012, 14% of men and 15% of women in prison were serving sentences for drug offences.¹¹³

Over half of prisoners (55%) report committing offences connected to their drug taking, with the need for money to buy drugs the most commonly cited factor. 48% of women prisoners

said they committed their offence in order to support the drug use of someone else, compared to 22% of men in prison.¹¹⁴

Of those prisoners who had used heroin on a daily basis, on average women spent £50 per day on heroin compared to £30 for men.¹¹⁵

19% of those prisoners who said they had ever used heroin reported having used heroin for the first time in a prison.¹¹⁶

Men who return to live with their partners are less likely to relapse to substance misuse and reoffend, while the opposite is true for women.¹¹⁷ Women prisoners are more likely to be in relationships with partners who use drugs, commit crime and trigger relapse and reoffending.¹¹⁸

Alcohol

Of prisoners who reported consuming alcohol in the previous year, more men (87%) reported drinking alcohol in the four weeks before custody compared with women (75%). Of those prisoners who reported drinking in the four weeks before custody, 32% said they drank on a daily basis.¹¹⁹

The proportion of the general UK population who reported drinking on a daily basis during the previous year was considerably lower than amongst prisoners - 16% of men and 10% of women.¹²⁰

Men and women prisoners who reported drinking daily drank an average of 20 units per day. This was equivalent to drinking four bottles of wine or ten pints of beer in a single day.¹²¹

In 44% of violent crimes the victim believed the offender or offenders to be under the influence of alcohol.¹²²

107 Table 2, Ministry of Justice (2013) Safety in Custody Statistics, Quarterly Update to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

108 Table 1.8 (2012) Safety in Custody 2011, London: Ministry of Justice, and Table A1.1, Ministry of Justice (2012) Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2011, London: Ministry of Justice

109 Ryan-Mills, D. (2010) Review: fatal incidents reports from September 2008 to August 2009, London: Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales

110 Fazel, Seena et al, (2005) Suicides in male prisons in England and Wales, 1978-2003, The Lancet, Vol. 366

111 Pratt, D. Piper, M., Appleby, L. Webb, R. Shaw, J. Suicide in recently released prisoners: a population-based cohort study, The Lancet - Vol. 368, Issue 9530, 8 July 2006

112 Ministry of Justice (2013) Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners, Results from the Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR) longitudinal cohort study of prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

113 Table 1.3a, Ministry of Justice (2013) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, July to September 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

114 Ministry of Justice (2013) Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

115 Ibid.

116 Ibid.

117 Walitzer, K. and Dearing, R. (2006) Gender differences in alcohol and substance misuse relapse. Clinical Psychology Review, 26, cited in Ibid.

118 Hollin, C. R. and Palmer, E. J. (2006) Criminogenic need and women offenders: a critique of literature. *Legal and Criminological Psychology*, 11, and, Hser, Y. I., Huang, D., Teruya, C., and Anglin, M D. (2003) Gender comparisons of drug abuse treatment outcomes and predictors. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 72(3), cited in Ibid.

119 Ministry of Justice (2013) Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

120 Ibid.

121 Ibid.

122 Table 7.10, Home Office (2011) Nature of Violent Crime, London: Home Office

Social and economic disadvantage

Education and skills

47% of prisoners say they have no qualifications.

This compares to 15% of the working age general population in the UK.¹²³

21% of prisoners reported needing help with reading and writing or ability with numbers, 41% with education, and 40% to improve work-related skills.¹²⁴

41% of men, 30% of women and 52% of young offenders were permanently excluded from school.¹²⁵

At present some 9,000 prisoners are employed in industrial workshops across the prison estate from printing to commercial laundry, textile production, manufacturing and distribution, supported by 1,000 trained instructors. The National Offender Management Service aims to at least double that number over the next decade.¹²⁶ Even at that higher number, only around 20% of the prison population would be employed.

Housing and employment

15% of newly sentenced prisoners reported being homeless before custody. 9% were sleeping rough. 44% of prisoners reported living in their accommodation prior to custody for less than a year and 28% had lived there for less than six months.¹²⁷

32% of prisoners reported being in paid employment in the four weeks before custody. 13% reported never having had a job.¹²⁸

37% of prisoners did not expect to return to their jobs upon release. A quarter of these job losses were because of a reason connected with offending (being sent to prison or because of their criminal record).¹²⁹

123 Ministry of Justice (2012) The pre-custody employment, training and education status of newly sentenced prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

124 Ibid.

125 Stewart, D. (2008) The problems and needs of newly sentenced prisoners: results from a national survey, London: Ministry of Justice

126 Ministry of Justice (2012) National Offender Management Service Annual Report 2011/12: Management Information Addendum, London: Ministry of Justice

127 Ministry of Justice (2012) Research Summary 3/12, Accommodation, homelessness and reoffending of prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

128 Ministry of Justice (2012) The pre-custody employment, training and education status of newly sentenced prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

129 Ibid

In 2011-12, just 27% of prisoners entered employment on release from prison. 89% of prisoners had settled accommodation on release.¹³⁰ HM Chief Inspector of Prisons remains “concerned that in too many cases release addresses were not stable and that prisons made insufficient attempts to interrogate arrangements prior to release.”¹³¹

Financial exclusion and debt

Assessments for 2005 suggest over 23,000 offenders had financial problems linked to their offending.¹³² 48% of people in prison have a history of debt.¹³³

Almost three-quarters (72%) of prisoners interviewed for a 2010 report by Prison Reform Trust and UNLOCK said they had not been asked about their finances while in prison. A third said they did not have a bank account; of whom 31% had never had one.¹³⁴

Seventeen of the 29 families interviewed for *Time is Money* said they were in debt, of whom two thirds said their debts had increased since the imprisonment of their relative.¹³⁵

Over four in five former prisoners surveyed in *Time is Money* said their conviction made it harder to get insurance and four-fifths said that when they did get insurance, they were charged more. The inability to obtain insurance can prevent access to mortgages and many forms of employment or self-employment.¹³⁶

The amount of discharge grant has remained fixed at £46 since 1997.¹³⁷

Performance and outcomes

Reoffending

Prison has a poor record for reducing reoffending – 47% of adults are reconvicted within one year of being released. For those serving sentences of less than 12 months this

130 Tables 13 and 15, Ministry of Justice (2012) National Offender Management Service Annual Report 2011-12: Management Information Addendum, London: Ministry of Justice

131 HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (2012) Annual Report 2011-12, London: The Stationery Office

132 Home Office (2005) The National Reducing Re-offending Delivery Plan, London: Home Office

133 National Offender Management Service (2007) Signposting Offenders to Financial Capability Training, Debt Advice and Financial Services, London: Ministry of Justice

134 Bath, C., and Edgar, K. (2010) *Time is Money: Financial responsibility after prison*, London: Prison Reform Trust

135 Ibid.

136 Ibid.

137 Prison Service Instruction 72/2011 Discharge, Annex B

increases to 58% – an increase of 3.9 percentage points from 2000.¹³⁸

Figures for 2010 show that 45% of women leaving prison are reconvicted within one year.¹³⁹ Figures for 2009 show that for those women who have served sentences of 12 months or less the rate increases to 62%.¹⁴⁰

58% of young adults (18-20) released from custody in the first quarter of 2008 were reconvicted within a year.¹⁴¹

73% of children (10-17) are reconvicted within a year of release from custody.¹⁴²

Prisoners who reported being homeless before custody were more likely to be reconvicted upon release than prisoners who didn't report being homeless (79% compared to 47% in the first year and 84% compared to 60% in the second year after release).¹⁴³

Prisoners who reported having been employed at some point in the year before custody were less likely to be reconvicted in the year after release than those who didn't report having been employed (40% compared with 65%).¹⁴⁴

68% of prisoners thought that 'having a job' was important in stopping reoffending.¹⁴⁵

Prisoners who reported having a qualification were less likely to be reconvicted in the year after release from custody (45% compared to 60%) than those who had no qualifications.¹⁴⁶

Costs

The overall cost of public order and safety in 2009 was 2.8% of GDP, this was higher than the US or any EU country.¹⁴⁷

Following the 2010-11 spending review the National Offender Management Service has to make overall resource savings of almost 25% in real terms by 2014-15.¹⁴⁸ A consequence of earlier budget cuts is that prisoners have been locked up for half-a-day more per week thus reducing constructive activity and time outside cells.¹⁴⁹

The average annual overall cost of a prison place in England and Wales for the financial year 2011-12 is £37,648. This includes prison related costs met by the National Offender Management Service, but excludes expenditure met by other government departments such as health and education.¹⁵⁰

For the year 2012-13 the cost per place per year in a secure children's home is £212,000; in a secure training centre it is £178,000 and in an under-18 young offender institution it is £60,000.¹⁵¹

In 2008-09, the cost of looking after short-sentenced prisoners (sentences of less than 12 months), not including education and healthcare, was £286 million.¹⁵²

In 2011-12 there was a reduction of 2,714 directly employed NOMS staff and a reduction of 655 staff employed by probation trusts.¹⁵³

Imprisoning mothers for non-violent offences carries a cost to children and the state of more than £17 million over a 10 year period.¹⁵⁴

In 2007-08, reoffending by all recent ex-prisoners cost the economy between £9.5 and £13 billion. As much as three quarters of this cost can be attributed to former short-sentenced prisoners: some £7-10 billion a year.¹⁵⁵

138 Table 18a, 19a, Ministry of Justice (2013) Proven re-offending quarterly July 2010 to June 2011, London: Ministry of Justice
139 Table S5.28 Ministry of Justice (2012) Women and the Criminal Justice System, London: Ministry of Justice

140 Table A5(F) Ministry of Justice (2010) Adult re-convictions results from the 2009 cohort, London: Ministry of Justice

141 Hansard HC, 17 January 2011, c653W

142 Table 18b, Ministry of Justice (2013) Proven re-offending quarterly July 2010 to June 2011, London: Ministry of Justice
143 Ministry of Justice (2012) Research Summary 3/12, Accommodation, homelessness and reoffending of prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

144 Ministry of Justice (2012) The pre-custody employment, training and education status of newly sentenced prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

145 Ibid.

146 Ibid.

147 OECD (2011) OECD Factbook 2011-2012: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, Law, order and defence expenditure, Paris: OECD Publishing

148 National Offender Management Service (2013) NOMS Business Plan 2013-14, London: NOMS

149 Paul Tidball, Prison Governors' Association, Justice Select Committee, Oral evidence, Towards effective sentencing Vol. 2, 12 December 2007

150 Table 1, Ministry of Justice (2012) Costs per place and costs per prisoner by individual prison, National Offender Management Service Annual Report and Accounts 2011-12: Management Information Addendum, London: Ministry of Justice

151 Hansard HC, 20 June 2012 c1008W

152 National Audit Office (2010) Managing offenders on short custodial sentences, London: The Stationery Office

153 Ministry of Justice (2012) National Offender Management Service Annual Report 2011/12: Management Information Addendum, London: Ministry of Justice

154 new economics foundation (2008) Unlocking value: How we all benefit from investing in alternatives to prison for women offenders, London: new economics foundation

155 National Audit Office (2010) Managing offenders on short custodial sentences, London: The Stationery Office

Prison overcrowding and pressure on resources

The prison population was 108% of the 'in use Certified Normal Accommodation' (83,852) at the end of March 2013.¹⁵⁶

In 2011-12 an average of 21,027 prisoners were held in overcrowded accommodation, accounting for 24% of the total prison population. Within this total the average number of prisoners doubling up in cells designed for one occupant was 20,157.¹⁵⁷

Private prisons have held a higher percentage of their prisoners in overcrowded accommodation than public sector prisons every year for the past 14 years. In 2011-12 the private prisons average was 30%, compared to an average of 23% in the public sector. Forest Bank, Doncaster and Altcourse have particularly high rates of overcrowding, with 40%, 59% and 70% of prisoners held in overcrowded accommodation respectively.¹⁵⁸

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons found that the establishments they inspected in 2011-12 were less overcrowded than the year before. However, he emphasised that "the issue was whether there were the resources available to hold all detainees safely and securely and do anything useful with them when they were there. Resources are now stretched very thinly [...] there is a pretty clear choice for politicians and policy makers - reduce prison populations or increase prison budgets."¹⁵⁹

Estimates of future prison numbers vary widely. By the end of June 2018 the demand for prison spaces is projected to be between 80,300 and 90,900.¹⁶⁰ These figures do not take account of the projected impact of the Offender Rehabilitation Bill (2013).

Prison performance and staffing

The UK has the most privatised prison system in Europe. In England and Wales there were 13,076 prisoners (16% of the prisoner population) held in private prisons at the end of February 2013. The United States holds 8.2% of its prisoners in private prison facilities.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁶ Ministry of Justice (2013) Monthly Population Bulletin March 2013, London: Ministry of Justice

¹⁵⁷ Hansard HC, 20 November 2012, c428W and Table 1.1a Ministry of Justice (2012) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin January to March 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (2012) Annual Report 2011-12, London: The Stationery Office

¹⁶⁰ Table 1, Ministry of Justice (2012) Prison Population Projections 2012-2018, London: Ministry of Justice

¹⁶¹ Ministry of Justice (2013) Prison Population Monthly Bulletin 22 February 2013, London: Ministry of Justice, and US Department of Justice (2012) Prisoners in 2011: <http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4559>

In 2011 there were 12,328 recorded prisoner on prisoner assaults, a rise of 41% since 2002. The prison population has risen 21% over the same period. In 2011 there were 2,684 recorded prisoner on officer assaults.¹⁶²

Prisoners in large prisons were more likely to say that they had been assaulted or insulted by a member of staff or by another prisoner than those held in small prisons.¹⁶³

In 2011-12 there was a reduction of 2,714 directly employed NOMS staff and a reduction of 655 staff employed by probation trusts.¹⁶⁴

Between 31 August 2010 and 31 August 2012 the number of prison officers employed throughout the prison estate fell by 7%. During the same period the total prison population remained at the same level. In 1997 the ratio of officers to prisoners was one officer per 2.4 prisoners; falling to one officer per 3.3 prisoners in 2012.¹⁶⁵

The Prison Service is faced with high sickness levels amongst prison officers. The average number of working days lost due to staff sickness in 2011-12 was 9.75 days.¹⁶⁶

The average tenure for governing governors in an establishment is 2.4 years.¹⁶⁷

In 2011 the average gross salary for a private sector prison officer was 23% less than public sector equivalents.¹⁶⁸

In March 2004 the European Court of Human Rights ruled in the Hirst case that the UK's current ban on all serving prisoners from voting contravenes Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. On 22 November 2012 the Lord Chancellor, Chris Grayling, announced the publication of the *Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Draft Bill* which is being considered by a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶² Table 3.8, Ministry of Justice (2012) Safety in Custody Statistics Quarterly Update to June 2012, London: Ministry of Justice, and House of Commons Justice Committee (2009) Role of the Prison Officer, London: The Stationery Office

¹⁶³ Prison Reform Trust (2008) Titan prisons: a gigantic mistake, London: Prison Reform Trust

¹⁶⁴ Ministry of Justice (2012) National Offender Management Service Annual Report 2011/12: Management Information Addendum, London: Ministry of Justice

¹⁶⁵ Hansard HC, 22 October 2012, c687W, and Ministry of Justice (2012) Prison Population Monthly Bulletin 31 August 2012, London: Ministry of Justice

¹⁶⁶ Ministry of Justice (2012) National Offender Management Service Annual Report 2011/12: Management Information Addendum, London: Ministry of Justice

¹⁶⁷ Hansard HC, 2 November 2009 c746W

¹⁶⁸ Hansard HC, 9 November 2011, c393W

¹⁶⁹ White, I. (2013) Prisoners' Voting Rights, Standard note: SN/PC/01764, London: House of Commons Library

Good practice in prisons

A 2004 Prison Reform Trust report found that about one in six had a prison council.¹⁷⁰ By 2010 more than half of prisons had a council, and the number is growing each year.¹⁷¹

Two examples of peer support schemes in which prisoners offer direct practical and/or emotional help to other prisoners include the Peer Advice Project of the St Giles Trust which offers training and a recognised qualification to prisoners who deliver housing advice in a number of prisons in London and the south-east of England; and the Toe by Toe reading plan run by the Shannon Trust in a large number of establishments, under which prisoners act as peer mentors to support other prisoners who are learning to read.¹⁷²

The National Grid-led offender training and employment programme works with prisoners coming to the end of their sentences and provides training and a job on release for those who pass a rigorous selection. Over 2,000 prisoners have passed through the scheme which has a reoffending rate of just 6%.¹⁷³

Timpson actively recruit ex-offenders to work for them, and they have also set up a full time training facility at HMP Liverpool and HMP Blantyre House in the South East. Timpson colleagues train prisoners in a prison workshop environment.¹⁷⁴

The Samaritans' Listener Scheme was active in 141 prisons across the UK in 2011. During the year approximately 1,750 Listeners were selected and trained and there were at least 1,600 active listeners in place. Listeners play an invaluable role in making prisons safer by offering emotional support to fellow prisoners in crisis. Listeners were contacted almost 90,000 times during 2011.¹⁷⁵

Solutions to crime

Community sentences

Court ordered community sentences are more effective (by over eight percentage points) at reducing one-year proven reoffending rates than

170 Solomon, E., and Edgar, K. (2004) Having Their Say: The Work of Prisoner Councils, London: Prison Reform Trust

171 Edgar, K. et al (2011) Time Well Spent: A practical guide to active citizenship and volunteering in prison, London: Prison Reform Trust

172 Ibid.

173 <http://www.nationalgrid.com/corporate/Media+Centre/Press+Releases/Global+Press+Releases/2000th+YO.htm>

174 <http://www.timpson.co.uk/about/80/timpson-foundation>

175 Information from the Samaritans

custodial sentences of less than 12 months for similar offenders. In 2008 offenders discharged from immediate custodial sentences also committed more reoffences than matched offenders given a Community Order, with a difference of 80.3 reoffences per 100 offenders.¹⁷⁶

In 2011 a greater proportion of women than men completed both community orders (70% vs 65%) and suspended sentence orders (74% vs 66%).¹⁷⁷

In 2011-12, 65,587 people successfully completed community payback sentences, 76% of those sentenced. This amounts to over 8.3 million hours of unpaid work, which was used to benefit the community.¹⁷⁸

An evaluation of three Transition to Adulthood pilot projects working with young adult offenders in the community and prior to release from prison found that, over a six month period, only 9% were reconvicted of a new offence (all non-violent); 9% breached the terms of their community order or licence; the number in employment trebled; and the number classified as not in education, employment and training halved.¹⁷⁹

In the intensive alternative to custody (IAC) pilots in Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, for young people aged 18-25 reoffending rates are significantly lower and many of the young men engaged have been helped into education, training and employment, widely acknowledged as being crucial to successful rehabilitation.¹⁸⁰

Restorative justice

The Crime and Courts Act (2013) allows courts to defer at pre-sentence stage in order for the victim and offender to be offered restorative justice at the earliest opportunity. This is the biggest development for restorative justice in England and Wales since legislation introducing referral order panels to the youth justice system.¹⁸¹

176 Ministry of Justice (2010) Compendium of reoffending statistics, London: Ministry of Justice

177 Ministry of Justice (2012) Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System 2011, London: Ministry of Justice

178 Ministry of Justice (2012) National Offender Management Service Annual Report 2011-12: Management Information Addendum, London: Ministry of Justice

179 Catch 22 (2012) Supporting Transitions, A summative evaluation of the Transition to Adulthood pilots, London: Catch 22

180 Prison Reform Trust (2012) Briefing on community sentences: <http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk>, and Ministry of Justice (2012) Process Evaluation of Manchester and Salford Intensive Alternatives to Custody Pilot, London: Ministry of Justice

181 Prison Reform Trust (2012) Crime and Courts Bill, House of Lords Committee Stage briefing - October 2012, London: PRT

The government funded a £7 million seven year research programme, published in 2007, looking into restorative justice. 85% of victims surveyed as part of the research were either 'very' or 'quite' satisfied with their experience of the restorative conference. 80% of offenders in the Justice Research Consortium's (JRC) conferences were 'very' or 'quite' satisfied.¹⁸²

27% fewer crimes were committed by offenders who had experienced restorative conferencing, compared with those offenders who did not.¹⁸³

Restorative justice approaches are cost-effective. As a result of reductions in the frequency of offending the JRC restorative justice projects saved the criminal justice system nine times what it cost to deliver.¹⁸⁴

Public opinion

In an ICM survey commissioned by of the Prison Reform Trust conducted one month after the riots in August 2011 the overwhelming majority of those surveyed (94%) supported opportunities for offenders who have committed offences such as theft or vandalism to do unpaid work in the community, as part of their sentence, to pay back for what they have done.¹⁸⁵

Almost three quarters (71%) believe victims should have a say in how the offender can best make amends for the harm they have caused.¹⁸⁶

Offered a range of measures to prevent crime and disorder, most people (84%) consider that better supervision of young people by parents would be effective.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸² Shapland, J et al (2007) Restorative Justice: the views of victims. The third report from the evaluation of three schemes. Ministry of Justice Research Series 3/07. London: Ministry of Justice

¹⁸³ Restorative Justice Council (2011) What does the Ministry of Justice RJ research tell us? London: RJC, available at http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/resource/ministry_of_justice_evaluation_of_restorative_justice/

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

¹⁸⁵ Prison Reform Trust (2011) Public want offenders to make amends briefing paper, London: Prison Reform Trust

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

There is widespread support for 'better mental health care' (80%); 'making amends to victims' (79%); 'unpaid community work' (76%); and 'treatment to tackle drug addiction' (74%). Around two-thirds (65%) consider that a prison sentence would be effective in preventing crime and disorder.¹⁸⁸

Ipsos MORI reported that 57% of those who think crime is rising say it is because of what they see on television, and 48% because of what they read in newspapers.¹⁸⁹

Only 11% of people surveyed in a public opinion poll believe that increasing the number of offenders in prisons would 'do most' to reduce crime in Britain. The public is more focused on intervening at the level of families and young people, with 55% thinking that better parenting, and 42% thinking that more constructive activities for young people would have most effect.¹⁹⁰

A YouGov opinion poll conducted in November 2012 reveals strong public support for effective community and public health measures to prevent crime and disorder. Nearly seven out of 10 (67%) people thought treatment for drug addiction would be effective at preventing crime and disorder. Nearly two thirds (63%) thought intensive supervision of community orders would be effective, and six out of 10 (60%) thought mental health care would be effective.¹⁹¹

In August 2012 a Populus poll of victims of lower level crime showed that 70% support community sentences as an alternative to prison for lower level offenders.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Ipsos MORI (2008) Closing the Gaps, crime and public perceptions, London: Ipsos MORI

¹⁹⁰ Gottschalk, E. (2009) Public perceptions of organized crime - results from an opinion poll, London: Home Office

¹⁹¹ <http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/PressPolicy/News/ItemId/170/vw/1>

¹⁹² Victim Support and Make Justice Work (2012) *Out in the open: What victims really think about community sentencing*, London: Victim Support

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