



# Annual Report 2024–25



We inspected lots of prisons, immigration detention places, and court cells between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. We wrote a report after each inspection saying what needed to change.



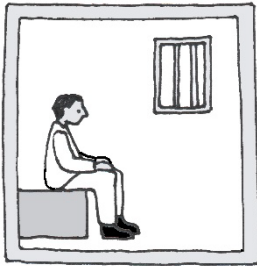
We also wrote reports about other things affecting people in prison, like not having enough time out of their cells, problems sorting out their simple requests, and what helps women to cope in prison.



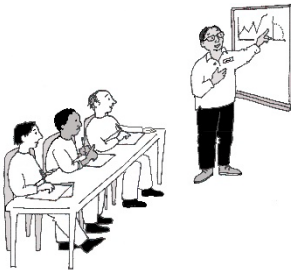
We found out things about the different places by:

- 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 adult prisons?



Prisoners were locked in their cells for too long each day. When they were unlocked they did not have enough to do. Sometimes they were not able to go outside.



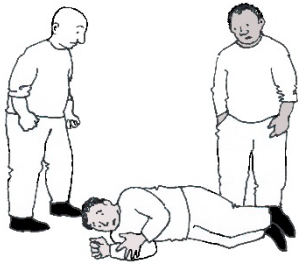
Too many prisoners did not go to education or work. A lot of prison work was not very good. Prisoners did not get enough help with reading.



Drugs were a big problem in prisons. It was too easy for prisoners to get drugs. Lots of prisoners said they had started to have a problem with drugs in prison.



Drones were being used to deliver things like drugs and mobile phones to prisons. The prison service was not doing enough to stop drones getting in.



There was too much violence in some prisons. Most prisoners did not get enough help to behave well, but some prisons helped prisoners to do their best.



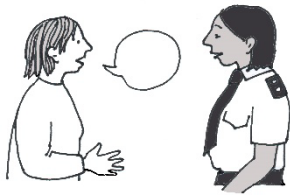
Prison officers used too much force on prisoners in some prisons. Sometimes they did not film it or write about it properly.



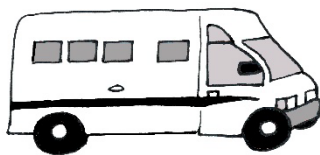
Prisoners in segregation did not get enough time out of their cells. They did not get enough help to go back to normal cells.



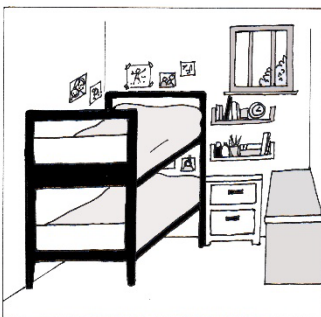
In some prisons lots of prisoners harmed themselves. Some things helped prisoners to cope, like getting on with staff, having things to do and the prison being clean.



Women's prisons did not do enough to help the women cope. Women did not get enough help from officers. It was too difficult for them to see their families.



Some prisoners had to travel a long way to prison and arrived late in the evening. Sometimes this left little time for important safety and health checks. Prisoners did not always get enough help to settle in.



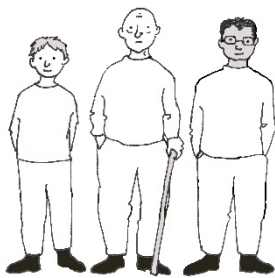
Many prisoners had to share a small cell with another person. Prisons were often dirty and things were broken. Some had problems with rats, flies and cockroaches.



Most prisoners got the health care they needed. They could not always get to medical appointments. Prisoners with serious mental illness waited too long to go to secure hospitals.



Prisoners did not always get enough help from staff to sort out basic things. They had lots of problems with getting complaints and applications sorted out which made them frustrated.



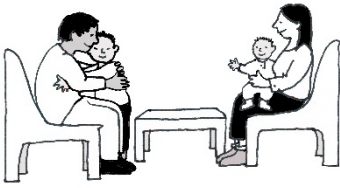
Not all prisoners were treated fairly. For example, some prisoners who had a disability, or who were old, young or from ethnic minorities, said things were worse for them than other prisoners.



Prisoners mostly got good help to get ready to leave prison. But prisoners on remand did not get enough support. Some prisoners did not get enough help with finding somewhere to live.

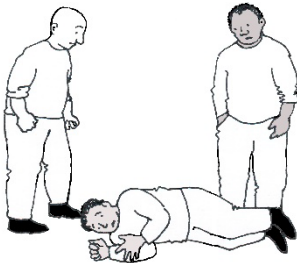


Some prisoners were not moved to a local prison before they were released. Some were not in the right prison to do the programmes they needed to do.

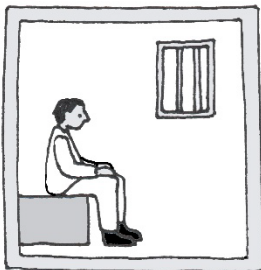


Most prisoners were able to get visits from their families. Some prisoners had in-cell phones and most prisoners could have video visits.

## What did we find in children's prisons?



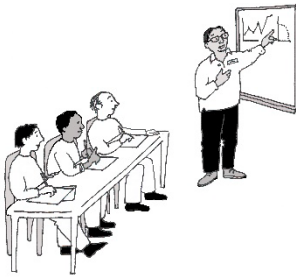
There was too much violence in children's prisons. Staff did not do enough to stop bad behaviour and fighting.



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.

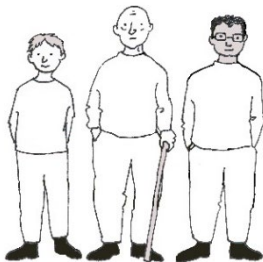


Children did not get enough time in education. They often missed classes or were taken to classes late.

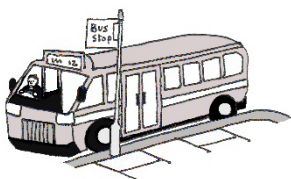
## What did we find in court cells?



Detainees often arrived late at court and had long waits before they were taken to prison. Some court cells were old and very small.

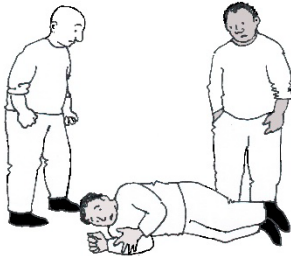


Most people in court cells said staff treated them well. Some people with disabilities and people with special needs did not get enough help.

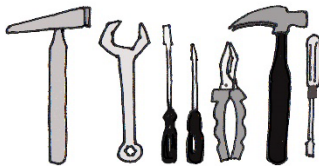


There was not enough help for people being released from court custody, like support to get home or advice about homelessness.

# What did we find in immigration detention?



The immigration removal centres we visited were not safe enough. There was too much violence and too many people were harming themselves. Drugs were a big problem.

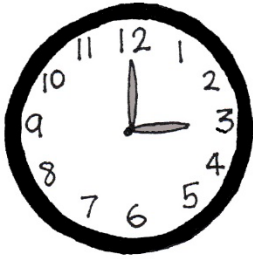


The centres were too crowded. Harmondsworth was very dirty and lots of things need to be repaired. Staff were not making sure detainees behaved well or helping them to sort out their problems.

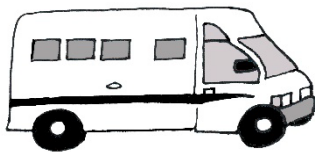


People who had travelled across the English Channel on small boats got mostly good care. They were not kept in temporary holding centres for very long.





Some short-term holding facilities were clean and safe, but some were too small and dark. Some people had to stay in the holding facilities for far too long.



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](http://www.hmprisons.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)



You can follow us on X (Twitter) at:

[www.twitter.com/HMIPrisonnews](https://www.twitter.com/HMIPrisonnews)

# Do you have questions?



You can write to us at:

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