

Staff survey methodology and results

HMP&YOI Doncaster

September 2025

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Staff survey methodology

A survey of staff is carried out at the start of every inspection, the results of which contribute to the evidence base for the inspection.

HMI Prisons researchers developed an online questionnaire consisting of structured questions exploring the experience of staff in the establishment. There are also four open questions which allow staff to describe their experiences and tell inspectors anything else they think is important. These comments are not published or shared with the establishment.

Distribution

HMI Prisons researchers provide a link to the survey embedded in a covering email. The covering email explains the purpose of the survey, that participation is voluntary and gives assurances about confidentiality and anonymity, enabling staff to give their informed consent to participate. This email is sent to the establishment with a request that it is forwarded to all staff working at the establishment; an HMI Prisons researcher is copied into this email to provide assurance. Additionally, researchers distribute postcards to wing offices for the attention of staff about details of the online survey which included the link.

Survey response

The survey was sent to XXX email addresses at Doncaster. Staff were given seven days to complete the survey. We received a total of 174 completed questionnaires.

We cannot be sure that every member of staff working at the establishment received the email. Furthermore, because the online survey is set up to enable multiple responses from a single device (to facilitate participation by those who share computers), it is possible that individuals may have completed the questionnaire more than once. It is therefore not possible to provide an accurate response rate.

Full survey results

The full survey results for staff at Doncaster provide a breakdown of responses for only the structured questions. Percentages have been rounded and therefore may not add up to 100%.

The full inspection report is available on our website at: https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/inspections/

Staff survey

Q1	Please tick the option which most	closely ma	tches you	r role:		
	Frontline operational staff					. 77 (44%)
	Operational manager					, ,
	Health care staff					
	Education, skills and work staff					, ,
	Administrative staff					` '
	Other staff					
						(,
Staff	well-being					
Q2	How well is the establishment supp			•		00 (400()
	Very well					` ,
	Quite well					•
	Neither well nor poorly					٠,
	Quite poorly					` ,
	Very poorly					. 14 (8%)
Q3	How would you describe your mor	alo at work	, .			
QJ	Very high					10 (11%)
	High					` ,
	Neither high nor low					•
	Low					,
	Very low					, ,
	very low					. 23 (1470)
Priso	ner well-being					
Q4	Please indicate to what extent you	_	lisagree wi Somewhat		_	ements: Don't
		0,	agree		0,	know
	Reasonable steps are being taken to					4 (2%)
	keep prisoners safe	10 (4070)	73 (4370)	11 (070)	0 (370)	- (2 /0)
	• •	107 (62%)	42 (24%)	8 (5%)	3 (2%)	12 (7%)
Lead	ership in this establishment					
Q5	How clearly are the top priorities o Very clearly					. 60 (35%) . 68 (39%) . 27 (16%) . 8 (5%)

Q5a	To what extent do you agree or disagree with this establishment's priorities Strongly agree	. 37 (23%) . 82 (51%) . 29 (18%) . 8 (5%)
Q6	Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree that your knowledge are sufficient to do your job well (e.g. training and development opportunities) Strongly agree	: . 95 (55%) . 62 (36%) . 15 (9%)
Q7	How often do you meet with someone (a manager or mentor) to discuss ho progressing in your role? About once a month	. 57 (33%) . 18 (10%) . 21 (12%) . 51 (29%)
Q8	Please rate the quality of support you receive from your line manager: Very good	. 50 (29%) . 33 (19%) . 14 (8%)

Q9	Please use t	he scale	to rate	the fol	llowing	statements:
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	Always	Often	Occasionally	Never	Don't know
Governors/directors and senior managers in this establishment are approachable (e.g. they take time to listen)	37 (21%)	46 (26%)	63 (36%)	24 (14%)	4 (2%)
Governors/directors and senior managers in this establishment acknowledge and celebrate good work	25 (14%)	48 (28%)	68 (39%)	27 (16%)	6 (3%)
Governors/directors and senior managers set high standards of behaviour for staff	44 (25%)	52 (30%)	55 (32%)	15 (9%)	8 (5%)
Governors/directors and senior managers challenge poor behaviour by staff	31 (18%)	46 (26%)	66 (38%)	18 (10%)	13 (7%)
Governors/directors encourage staff to reflect on and learn from their mistakes	29 (17%)	45 (26%)	54 (31%)	22 (13%)	23 (13%)
Governors/directors use feedback from prisoners, staff and others to generate ideas, create plans and measure progress	32 (18%)	42 (24%)	57 (33%)	25 (14%)	18 (10%)

Raising concerns

Q10 Do you know what the formal procedure is to raise concerns (whistleblowing) in this establishment?

Yes	139 (80%)
No	35 (20%)

Q11 Have you formally raised concerns about this establishment?

Yes	16 (9%)
No	158 (91%)

Q12 Would you formally raise concerns if you had any?

Yes	116 (74%)	
No	16 (10%)	
Don't know	24 (15%)	

Q14	Who or what organisation did you raise your concern to? (Please select me if relevant)	ore than one
	A colleague	6
	A manager	11
	Human resources	1
	Ofsted or Estyn	0
	Care Quality Commission or Healthcare Inspectorate Wales	0
	HM Inspectorate of Prisons	0
	Trade union	4
	Professional organisation	0
	Police	1
	Other	4
Q15	Were your concerns taken seriously?	
	Yes	6 (38%)
	No	` '
	Don't know	` '
		,
Q16	Was any effective action taken in response to the concerns you had raise	d?
·	Yes	
	No	` '
	Don't know	` '
		(() ()
Q18	Have you ever witnessed staff behaving inappropriately towards prisoners establishment?	s at this
	Yes	58 (34%)
	No	` '
	Don't know	` ,
		,
Q19	Have you ever witnessed staff behaving inappropriately towards each oth establishment?	er at this
	Yes	72 (41%)
	No	` '
	INO	JT (JT /UI