

Independent Review of the Prison System in England and Wales

Call for Evidence

This Call for Evidence begins on **Thursday 16 July 2026**.

This Call for Evidence ends at **23.59 on Monday 31 August 2026**.

This Call for Evidence is also available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/independent-review-of-the-prison-system-in-england-and-wales) (https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/independent-review-of-the-prison-system-in-england-and-wales)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/review-of-the-prison-system/>

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Overview

This Call for Evidence exercise is intended to gather evidence as part of the Independent Review of the Prison System in England and Wales. This Call for Evidence is open for six weeks, from Thursday 16 July until 23.59 on Monday 31 August 2026.

Views are welcomed from all who have an interest in this area. Respondents are asked to consider the issues raised in this document and to provide responses to some or all of the questions asked.

Respondents are encouraged to submit evidence as soon as convenient. The Chair will issue the outcome of the review to the Deputy Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor, and this evidence may be referenced, summarised, quoted, and published online as part of the final published report and any related published outputs. We may identify organisations that have responded, or attribute evidence to an organisation, where appropriate in published documents, but we will not name specific individuals.

To submit evidence please use the following online portal:

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/review-of-the-prison-system/>

If respondents are unable to submit evidence through the online portal, evidence can also be shared with the Independent Review via email at

IndependentReviewPrisonSystem@justice.gov.uk or via letter to the Prison System Review Secretariat Team, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ.

An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this paper, as its purpose is to gather evidence, rather than to put forward policy proposals for consultation.

Introduction

The prison system in England and Wales faces significant and long-standing pressures. Population growth, an ageing estate, violence, self-harm, evolving security threats and workforce challenges have combined to place increasing strain on the system. At the same time, changes in society, technology and offending patterns mean prisons are being asked to meet demands that are very different from those faced when much of the current system was designed.

In recent years, the prison system has operated under considerable pressure. Capacity constraints have required urgent action to maintain the functioning of the wider criminal justice system, while prisons have continued to manage increasingly complex populations with diverse needs. Important steps have been taken to stabilise the system, but many of these challenges remain and will require long-term solutions.

There are multiple factors driving these pressures. Demand for prison places, changing prisoner profiles, workforce challenges, the condition of the estate, the evolution of serious and organised crime, technological developments and wider social and economic trends all influence the ability of prisons to operate safely, securely and effectively.

Prisons have a central role in protecting the public, delivering punishment and ensuring justice is served, alongside supporting rehabilitation, reducing reoffending and helping to prevent more people from becoming victims of crime. The effectiveness of the prison system has implications not only for those living and working in prisons, but for communities, taxpayers and the wider criminal justice system.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor has commissioned this independent review to provide an opportunity to take a long-term view of the future of the prison system. It will consider the changes needed to the prison system in England and Wales over the next five to 15 years to secure the long-term sustainability, security, safety and resilience of the system. The review will examine the evidence, build on previous reviews, draw on best practice and international experience, and consider how innovation, technology and new ways of working may help address current and future challenges.

The review is seeking evidence from a broad range of perspectives, including those with professional expertise, operational experience, academic knowledge and lived experience. We encourage respondents to be ambitious in their thinking and to identify the current challenges and future opportunities. We welcome evidence on what works, what does not work, and what changes are needed to create a prison system that is resilient, sustainable and capable of delivering better outcomes.

Terms of Reference

- The prison system faces ongoing and future challenges that are not widely understood by the public, both in terms of the risks within the system and opportunities to respond to them. These challenges cut across capacity, safety and decency, security and rehabilitation, and are shaped by the age, condition, and configuration of the prison estate.
- Previous investment decisions have mitigated some pressures, but the underlying risks remain structural and long-term in nature. These risks are compounded by uncertainty over the long-term capital investment in the prison estate, which has increased reliance on short-term or reactive funding approaches. Addressing them effectively requires a clear articulation of the strategic case for reform, grounded in an assessment of the risks of inaction and the principles that should guide future investment.

Scope and purpose

- The review will provide a strategic, risk-based assessment of the current, emerging, and future risks and opportunities facing the prison system, including but not limited to:
 - Security (including current risks such as drugs, drones, escapes, and corruption, as well as emerging risks such as cyber).
 - Safety and decency (including the condition of the physical estate and how prisoners are held, crowding, violence against staff and prisoners, and self-harm).
 - Capacity (including maintaining sufficient prison places in future and levels of crowding).
 - Staffing (including capability, non-effective levels, sickness absence and attrition).
 - It will consider how socio-economic and environmental change, technological progress, sentencing trends, and an increasingly complex prison population compound these pressures, alongside risks linked to constraints of existing technology and infrastructure.
- The review will recognise that prisons operate in a wider cross-government and agency context and will consider the roles and dependencies of private prison operators, other Government departments, arm's length bodies and partner agencies in supporting prisons to manage and mitigate these risks effectively.
- It will examine the strategic risks to the prison system arising from constraints on long-term capital funding, including the implications of funding uncertainty for affordability, resilience, value for money and systemic stability.
- The review will build on, and not duplicate, the findings of recent and ongoing reviews, including the Release in Error Independent Review (2026), the Independent Review of Prison Capacity (2025), Jonathan Hall KC's Independent Reviews of Terrorism in Prisons (2022) and Separation Centres (2025), the Independent Sentencing Review (2025), and the Independent Review of Criminal Courts (2025-26). It will have regard to wider Criminal Justice System reform and transformation work, including the Criminal Justice Action Group's longer-term vision.

- The review will consider evidence on these risks and opportunities to provide a strategy for long-term prison build. The findings of the review are intended to inform future spending and investment decisions.
- All costs within this Spending Review must be absorbed within MoJ's budget. Future costs must be absorbable within the MoJ's likely future budget in line with Spending Review outcomes. The review will also seek to identify efficiencies to increase the sustainability of the prison system.
- The review will have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Environmental Principles Policy Statement in recognition of the duty upon the department to meet these duties when developing policy options in response to the recommendations.
- The review will consider the women's prison estate at a strategic level, recognising that differences in population profile, custodial pathways and demand may give rise to distinct risks, opportunities and long-term investment considerations compared to the male estate.
- The review will consider learning from international examples of good practice in the prison system.

Out of scope

- The review will make recommendations relating only to prisons.
- The review will not develop detailed prison estate delivery plans or site-specific proposals.
- The youth justice system.

The review should report to the Deputy Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor by December 2026.

Guidance for respondents

In answering each question, you may wish to consider:

- **Evidence on risks:** What evidence is available on the current, emerging and future risks facing prisons in England and Wales. This evidence can include research and evaluations. We are also interested in your personal experience and analysis.
- **Evidence on what works:** What evidence is available on how these risks can be addressed and outcomes can be improved, including examples of best practice and innovation, research and evaluations. We are also interested in your personal experience and analysis.
- **Different prison types:** How the risks and opportunities facing the prison system vary by prison type, from the highest to lowest security prisons, and across private and public prisons. While you should highlight any differences between the male and female estates in your responses, there is also an opportunity to provide more detail on the specific risks and opportunities facing the women's estate in Questions 15 and 16.
- **Different prisoner cohorts:** How the experiences and needs of different groups of prisoners vary in prison. You may wish to consider groups with [protected characteristics](#) under the Equality Act 2010, such as male and female prisoners, disabled prisoners and older prisoners, alongside groups such as prisoners with care experiences.
- **Wider changes outside of prison:** How wider factors and trends, including socio-economic and environmental changes, technological progress, and sentencing trends may influence who prisons hold and the demands placed on the prison system, alongside presenting opportunities.
- **Criminal justice system partners:** What roles and dependencies other partners have in supporting prisons to manage and mitigate the risks facing prisons and improve outcomes. This can include other Government departments, Executive Agencies and Arm's-Length Bodies, private prison operators and partner agencies.
- **Wider UK and international evidence:** What evidence is available from Scotland, Northern Ireland and other countries on the risks facing prison systems, alongside examples of good practice and innovation to address these risks and improve outcomes.

Scope

- **Time horizon:** This review is looking at changes needed in the medium to long term, and so you should consider what changes need to be made over the next **five to 15 years** to secure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the prison system.
- **Prisons and the wider criminal justice system:** While the review will take account of the wider system in which prisons operate, it will make recommendations relating only to prisons.

- **Adult estate:** The review will focus on the adult male and female estates only; the youth justice system is out of scope.

Word limit

There is a character limit of **4,000 characters per answer**, which is equivalent to approximately **500 words per answer**.

Representative groups

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the groups and organisations they represent when they respond.

Questions

About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself.

Are you submitting a response for this Call for Evidence on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

- An individual
- On behalf of an organisation

If you are submitting this Call for Evidence on behalf of an organisation, please provide the company name/organisation below:

If you are submitting a response to this Call for Evidence as an individual, which of the following best describes your connection to the prison system? (select all that apply)

- Academic or researcher
- Current or former prisoner
- Family member or friend of a current or former prisoner
- Healthcare professional working in prisons
- Legal professional (e.g. solicitor, barrister or advocate)
- Member of the wider criminal justice system (outside of prisons and probation – e.g. police officer)
- Prison governor
- Probation practitioner
- Prison staff member
- Third sector staff member working in prisons, or with or on behalf of people in contact with the criminal justice system
- Victim of crime
- Volunteer in prisons or with people in contact with the criminal justice system
- No direct experience of the prison system
- Other

Theme 1: Key outcomes, risks and opportunities

Background

Prisons perform a number of important functions within the criminal justice system. They protect the public by depriving offenders of their liberty, punish criminal behaviour, and seek to reduce future offending through rehabilitation and resettlement. The prison system also contributes to wider criminal justice system objectives, including maintaining public confidence, supporting victims and managing risk.

Over time, expectations of what prisons should achieve have evolved alongside changes in society, technology, offending patterns and the needs of those in custody. There are often tensions between different objectives, requiring difficult choices about resources, priorities and system design.

At the same time, the prison system faces a range of interconnected pressures that affect its ability to deliver these outcomes safely, effectively and sustainably. These include pressures relating to capacity, staffing, security, safety, infrastructure, technology and long-term investment. Many of these challenges are closely linked and can have impacts across the wider criminal justice system. Future risks and opportunities may be shaped by demographic change, technological developments, evolving patterns of offending, changing prisoner needs and wider social and economic trends.

Question 1

What do you think are the three most important outcomes that the prison system should deliver?

Please select three options from the below:

- Deterring criminality.
- Delivering justice for victims.
- Delivering punishment.
- Protecting the public.
- Reducing reoffending and rehabilitating offenders.
- Securing public confidence in the criminal justice system.
- Value for money for taxpayers.
- Other option 1 – please specify (150-character limit).
- Other option 2 – please specify (150-character limit).
- Other option 3 – please specify (150-character limit).

Why do you think these outcomes are the most important?

Question 2

Looking over the next five to 15 years, what do you think are the three biggest risks that need to be addressed to support the future of the prison system?

Please select three options from the below:

- Changing trends in crime.
- Demand for prison places against available capacity.
- Environmental and climate-related risks.
- Risks to prison security (e.g. organised crime, cyber threat, drones).
- Risks to the ability of prisons to rehabilitate prisoners and reduce reoffending.
- Risks to the safety and wellbeing of staff and prisoners.
- The age and condition of the prison estate.
- The adequacy of existing prison technology and infrastructure.
- The size, capability, wellbeing and retention of the prison workforce.
- Wider societal, demographic or economic changes.
- Other option 1 – please specify (150-character limit).
- Other option 2 – please specify (150-character limit).
- Other option 3 – please specify (150-character limit).

Why do you think these risks are the most important?

Question 3

Thinking about the next five to 15 years, what are the biggest opportunities to address the risks facing the system and improve outcomes?

Opportunity one: please specify (150-character limit).

Opportunity two: please specify (150-character limit).

Opportunity three: please specify (150-character limit).

Why do you think these are the biggest opportunities?

Theme 2: The prison estate and its capacity

Background

Having sufficient capacity in a prison estate which is designed, configured and maintained effectively is essential to running a safe, secure and effective prison system. Capacity is not only about the number of prison places available, but also whether prisons can operate safely and effectively at different levels of occupancy. The system must also have the mix of prison places across different security categories, ensuring sufficient capacity across these categories to appropriately accommodate the prison population.

The prison population has changed significantly over time and is expected to continue evolving in both size and complexity. Levels of crowding, operational resilience, estate configuration and future demand can all affect the ability of prisons to deliver intended outcomes – as can the design, physical condition and configuration of the estate. Pressures in these areas can also have implications for safety, rehabilitation, workforce pressures and wider criminal justice system performance.

Further information on projected future prison capacity can be found in [the Annual Statement on Prison Capacity](#) (most recently published in January 2026).

Question 4

What are the main current and future risks relating to prison capacity in England and Wales?

Question 5

What are the biggest opportunities to address these risks in the next five to 15 years, and ensure there is space to best accommodate the current and future projected prison population?

Question 6

What are the biggest changes that need to be made to the design, configuration and condition of the prison estate in the next five to 15 years to improve outcomes?

You may wish to consider:

- How demographic change, sentencing trends, court recovery, offence mix, recall, and the increasingly complex needs of prisoners may affect future demand for prison places and the configuration of the prison estate.
- Whether there are any risks relating to the supply of prison places (e.g. prison building, the condition of the estate and its maintenance) which may result in the overall prison system, or parts of it, having insufficient capacity over the next 15 years and beyond, and the biggest opportunities to address these.

- Whether current and projected prison capacity may impact the ability of the prison system overall, or parts of it, to deliver key outcomes.
- What the optimal operating capacity of the prison system is to deliver key outcomes most effectively.
- What changes may be needed to how different categories of prisons are utilised to improve outcomes.
- What changes may be needed to upgrade the stock of prison places, including through prison building and maintenance, and opportunities to improve prison design.

Theme 3: Security

Background

Effective security is essential to public protection, prison safety and confidence in the criminal justice system. It is a fundamental enabler of everything a prison does, and creates the conditions for rehabilitation and progression. Like safety, security is an outcome of the design, staffing, operation and regime of a prison, and every decision about how a prison runs has security implications.

Prisons face a range of security threats, including serious and organised crime, cybersecurity, ongoing criminality from inside prisons, corruption, escape and abscond, contraband (including its sale and purchase), illicit communication (including mobile phones), and emerging technologies that can be exploited by offenders. The nature of security threats continues to evolve, requiring prisons to adapt their people, processes, technology and infrastructure. Security challenges may vary across different prison types, populations and operational settings.

Question 7

What are the main current and future risks to prison security and the management of high-risk offenders in England and Wales?

Question 8

What are the biggest opportunities in the next five to 15 years to address these risks and improve the security of the prison estate?

You may wish to consider:

- Threats and risks including but not limited to: cybersecurity threats to prison service systems or from cyber-capable offenders, drones, drugs, other illicit substances and contraband, illicit technology use (including mobile phones), corruption, escapes and abscond, violence, serious and organised crime, and terrorism.
- Whether those risks have changed recently or are likely to change in the future.
- Whether there are any particular security vulnerabilities in the prison system, including the condition of the physical estate, processes within prison and technology used in the estate, and how these can be addressed.
- Evidence on which technologies could help strengthen prison security and respond to evolving security threats.
- What role other criminal justice system partners should play in helping to address these risks.

Theme 4: Prison leadership and workforce

Background

The leadership and workforce of prisons play a central role in delivering safe, secure and effective prison regimes. Workforce capacity, capability, leadership, experience, recruitment and staff wellbeing can all influence prison outcomes. Prisons operate in a changing environment, and staff increasingly work with complex prisoner populations and evolving operational risks. Recruitment, retention, staff development and workforce resilience are important considerations for the future sustainability of the prison system.

This review is interested in understanding the risks facing the prison workforce now and in the future and what changes may be required to ensure staff have the skills, support and capacity needed in the future. This section focuses on both the directly employed prison workforce, and the wider range of statutory, contracted and voluntary-sector partners who also deliver services within prisons.

Question 9

What are the main current and future risks relating to the prison workforce in England and Wales?

Question 10

What are the biggest opportunities in the next five to 15 years to address these risks and improve outcomes for staff and the wider prison system?

You may wish to consider:

- Risks and opportunities across leadership and staff recruitment, onboarding, training, capability, performance, retention, culture, wellbeing, and workforce planning.
- Why some prisons and parts of the estate may struggle to recruit and retain staff more than others, and how the prison service can best attract and retain staff.
- Evidence on the drivers of staff attrition, absence and performance.
- Examples of initiatives which have successfully led to improvements in leadership and staff recruitment, onboarding, training, capability, performance, retention, culture, wellbeing, and workforce planning.
- How directly employed prison staff alongside the wider range of partners who deliver services within prisons can most effectively work together.
- Evidence on whether delegating more decisions to local level (e.g. governor level) leads to improved outcomes.
- Evidence on what role technology or digital tools can play in supporting prison leadership and staff in their roles, and how the skills required of the workforce may change as technology and digital tools become more embedded in the prison system.

Theme 5: Safety and decency

Background

Safe and decent prisons are fundamental to the effective operation of the prison system. Safety and decency create the necessary conditions for prisons to deliver rehabilitation, prison stability and public protection. The experience of safety and decency varies across prison settings, and different cohorts of prisoners. Safety is an outcome of everything that happens in a prison and can be influenced by a range of factors such as security, healthcare provision, living conditions, prisoner cohorts, prison size, staffing and crowding.

Question 11

What are the main current and future risks relating to safety and decency in prisons in England and Wales?

Question 12

What are the biggest opportunities in the next five to 15 years to address these risks and improve prison safety and decency?

You may wish to consider:

- Evidence on rates of violence on staff and prisoners, self-harm and self-inflicted deaths in prison.
- Evidence on the drivers of violence, self-harm, and self-inflicted deaths in prison.
- Evidence on the condition and impact of the physical estate on staff and prisoner safety and decency.
- Examples of interventions which have led to sustained reductions in rates of violence, self-harm and self-inflicted deaths in prison.
- The role of wider partners, including health and social care organisations and third sector organisations, in improving prisoner and staff safety.
- Evidence on how technology and digital tools could help support safer and decent environments for both staff and prisoners.

Theme 6: Rehabilitation and reducing reoffending

Background

Supporting rehabilitation and reducing reoffending are important objectives of the prison system and wider criminal justice system. While prisons play a key role in managing risk and protecting the public, most people in custody will eventually return to the community, making successful resettlement an important factor in long-term public protection.

A wide range of factors can influence rehabilitative outcomes including access to education, employment, healthcare, family support, and other opportunities that help people address the drivers of their offending. The effectiveness of rehabilitation activity may also be impacted by wider operational, workforce and capacity pressures across the prison system.

Question 13

What are the main current and future risks which might prevent prisons from effectively rehabilitating prisoners and reducing reoffending?

Question 14

What specific activities and interventions in prison would be most effective in supporting prisoner rehabilitation and reducing reoffending?

You may wish to consider:

- The extent to which current prison regimes provide sufficient access to purposeful activity, including education, employment, physical activity, treatment and recovery support, training and other rehabilitative interventions.
- What more could be done to ensure that prisoners' time in custody is being used purposefully, including how the barriers to providing this could be addressed.
- Which rehabilitative approaches have the strongest evidence of improving outcomes for prisoners and reducing reoffending, including any evidence on whether these vary between men and women.
- The role of probation services in prison, and how prisons, probation and wider public services should best work together to support successful rehabilitation and reduce reoffending. This includes any opportunities for public, private and third sector partnerships with prisons on e.g. employment initiatives.
- What role digital tools could play in preparing prisoners for successful resettlement and employment.

Theme 7: Women's prisons

Background

Women make up a small percentage of the prison population but have distinct needs and experiences compared to men in prison. Many women in custody have experienced trauma, domestic abuse, poor mental health, substance abuse and separation from children or other dependents, which can affect both their experience of custody and outcomes upon release.

The women's estate also faces unique operational challenges, including having a relatively small number of establishments, limited geographical dispersal (including there being no women's prison in Wales) and questions about how best to meet future demand. The future female prison population may also differ from that seen today, with changes in both sentencing policy and offender characteristics potentially affecting the type of accommodation and support required.

Question 15

What are the biggest risks facing women's prisons within the English and Welsh justice system, including risks that may affect outcomes for women during custody and following release?

Question 16

What changes to the custodial estate and targeted interventions would have the greatest impact on improving outcomes for women over the next five to 15 years?

You may wish to consider:

- Evidence on the specific experiences and needs of women in prison.
- The biggest risks and opportunities relating to the capacity, condition, configuration and design of women's prisons, including Gender-Specific and Trauma-Informed accommodation.
- Evidence on the role that residential alternatives to custody could play in improving outcomes for women in the justice system, including what models of residential alternatives have proven most effective.
- Examples of interventions, best practice and innovation which have supported improved outcomes for women in prison in the English and Welsh justice system and other countries.

Theme 8: Different cohorts

Background

Different cohorts in prison have distinct needs, characteristics and vulnerabilities. For example, disabled prisoners, prisoners with care experience, older prisoners, and neurodivergent prisoners may experience custody differently and face different barriers to safety, progression, rehabilitation and resettlement. The prison population is also becoming increasingly complex, creating new challenges for prisons.

Some prisons have developed targeted approaches for specific cohorts. These include initiatives such as neurodiversity units and wings, specialist support for prisoners with care experiences, and tailored services for older prisoners and those with disabilities, many of which are delivered with the support of wider private, public and third sector partners. However, provision can vary between prisons, and there are questions about whether the current prison system is sufficiently equipped for different prisoner groups both now and in the future.

This review is interested in understanding which cohorts experience the greatest vulnerabilities in the current prison system, the risks this may create for individuals and the wider system, and what changes may be required to ensure prisons can deliver safe, effective and equitable outcomes for the prison population over the next 10-15 years.

Question 17

Which cohorts of prisoners have specific needs and vulnerabilities in prison?

Question 18

What are the biggest changes that are needed to address the needs of different cohorts in order to improve outcomes for the prison system?

You may wish to consider:

- Groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, such as male and female prisoners, disabled prisoners and older prisoners, alongside groups such as prisoners with care experiences, prisoners on remand and sentenced prisoners.
- Evidence on the specific vulnerabilities, needs and experiences of different groups (e.g. neurodivergent prisoners, prisoners with brain injuries, etc.), including the barriers they might face to accessing the full prison regime.
- Evidence on which prison environments are best suited to supporting those groups identified as having particular vulnerabilities.
- Evidence of practical changes and best practice interventions and environments to better address these vulnerabilities, including examples of collaborative work with private, public and third sector organisations.

Theme 9: Technology and digital tools

Background

Technology has the potential to play an increasingly important role in the operation of prisons and the wider criminal justice system. Digital systems, data, artificial intelligence, automation and other emerging technologies may support security, operational decision-making, rehabilitation, workforce productivity and public protection.

At the same time, technological change can create new risks and challenges, including new cyber threats and evolving criminal methods. The ability to adopt and make effective use of technology may depend on infrastructure, workforce capability, and investment.

Question 19

What further role should technology and digital tools play over the next five to 15 years in helping to address the risks highlighted in this Call for Evidence and improve prison outcomes?

You may wish to consider:

- What evidence is available on the use of technology and digital tools in improving prison safety, security, rehabilitation and reducing reoffending, and supporting the workforce (alongside people, processes, infrastructure and governance).
- What barriers may prevent prisons using existing and future technology, and opportunities to overcome these.
- The use of artificial intelligence for the prison system.
- What the appropriate role of technology and digital tools, including artificial intelligence, should be in supporting decision-making in prisons.
- Risks associated with emerging technologies, and how these can be addressed.

Theme 10: Best practice in England, Wales, other UK justice systems and overseas

Question 20

Are there any further examples of best practice in prisons in England and Wales that the review should consider?

Question 21

Are there any further examples of best practice in Northern Ireland, Scotland and overseas that should be applied in England and Wales?

You may wish to consider:

- Best practice programmes, interventions and physical infrastructure used overseas.
- Examples of alternative legal frameworks used overseas and how these may support positive outcomes.
- Why these examples are transferable to England and Wales.

Additional evidence

Question 22

What, if any, additional evidence should the review consider?

Contact Details

Please use the online portal to provide your response: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/review-of-the-prison-system/>

Alternatively, please send your response by email or mail by 23.59 on Monday 31 August 2026 to:

Prison System Review Secretariat Team
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Email: IndependentReviewPrisonSystem@justice.gov.uk

Complaints or comments

If you have any complaints or comments about the Call for Evidence process you should contact the Ministry of Justice at the above address.

Extra copies

Further paper copies of this Call for Evidence can be obtained from this address and it is also available online [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/independent-review-of-the-prison-system-in-england-and-wales) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/independent-review-of-the-prison-system-in-england-and-wales>)

Alternative format versions of this publication can be requested.

Confidentiality Statement

Information provided in response to this Call for Evidence, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Ministry.

We may refer to, summarise or quote from responses in the review's findings or final published report and any published supporting documents. Where we do so, we will not attach personal data to a quote. We may identify organisations that have responded, or attribute evidence to an organisation, where appropriate.

The Ministry of Justice will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Privacy Notice

1. Purpose

This privacy notice explains how we use your personal data when you participate in the Call for Evidence for the Independent Review of the Prison System in England and Wales.

It explains your rights and gives you the information you are entitled to under the Data Protection Act 2018.

2. Who collects your personal data

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is the Data Controller for the personal data we collect.

If you need further information about how we use your personal data and your associated rights, you can contact the Data Protection Officer at DPO@justice.gov.uk or at the address below:

The Data Protection Officer
Ministry of Justice
5th Floor, Post Point 5.18
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

3. What personal data we collect and how it is used

Personal data is information about you as an individual. Your personal data is being collected as a necessary task carried out in the public interest as part of this Call for Evidence.

We collect your IP address if you complete a Call for Evidence online. We may use this to ensure that each person only completes a survey once. We will not use this data for any other purpose.

In your written Call for Evidence response, please do not share any additional personal data which may identify you or another living individual, special category personal data or criminal offence data.

By special category data, we mean information about a living individual's:

- Race
- Ethnic origin
- Political opinions
- Religious or philosophical beliefs
- Trade union membership
- Genetics
- Biometrics
- Health (including disability-related information)
- Sex life; or

- Sexual orientation.

By ‘criminal offence data’, we mean information relating to a living individual’s criminal convictions or offences or related security measures.

We may refer to, summarise or quote from responses in the review’s findings or final published report and any published supporting documents. Where we do so, we will not attach personal data to a quote. We may identify organisations that have responded, or attribute evidence to an organisation, where appropriate.

4. Our legal basis for processing your personal data

The collection of your personal data is lawful under article 6(1)(e) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation as it is necessary for the performance by MoJ of a task in the public interest/in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. Section 8(d) of the Data Protection Act 2018 states that this will include processing of personal data that is necessary for the exercise of a function of the Crown, a Minister of the Crown or a government department i.e. in this case a consultation.

5. How we store your personal data

Your personal data will be stored securely on MoJ systems and/or systems used by MoJ to collect and analyse Call for Evidence responses. Access will be restricted to those who need it for the purposes of managing, analysing and reporting on the Call for Evidence.

We use a third-party system, Citizen Space, to collect Call for Evidence responses which are submitted online. In the first instance your personal data will be stored on their secure UK-based server. Your personal data will remain on the Citizen Space server and/or be transferred to our secure government IT system for two years of retention before it is deleted.

Personal identifiers will be removed from responses as soon as reasonably practicable.

6. For how long we will keep your personal data

Your personal data will be held for two years from the closure of the Call for Evidence, unless we identify that its continued retention is unnecessary before that point.

7. Data sharing

MoJ may appoint a data processor, acting on behalf of the Department and under our instruction, to help collect, manage or analyse responses to this Call for Evidence. Where we do so, we will ensure that the processing of personal data remains in accordance with data protection legislation.

The Ministry of Justice is the controller when processing personal data for the purposes of this Call for Evidence. We know how important it is to protect your personal data and to comply with data protection laws. We will safeguard your personal data throughout the project and will only disclose it where it is lawful to do so.

8. Use of AI-assisted analysis

We may use approved analytical tools, including AI-assisted tools, to support the organisation, summarisation or thematic analysis of Call for Evidence responses. Respondents are instructed not to include personal data in their written responses. Where personal data is identified, appropriate steps will be taken to manage it in line with MoJ data protection requirements before responses are analysed using approved tools. AI outputs will be reviewed and quality assured by MoJ officials.

9. Automated decision making

Your personal data will not be used for any automated decision making.

10. Your rights to your personal data

The data we are collecting is your personal data and you have considerable say over what happens to it. Depending on the lawful basis on which your personal data is processed, not all rights will apply.

- **Your right of access** – You have the right to ask us for copies of your personal information.
- **Your right to rectification** – You have the right to ask us to rectify personal information you think is inaccurate. You also have the right to ask us to complete information you think is incomplete.
- **Your right to erasure** – You have the right to ask us to erase your personal information in certain circumstances.
- **Your right to restriction of processing** – You have the right to ask us to restrict the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.
- **Your right to object to processing** – You have the right to object to the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.
- **Your right to data portability** – You have the right to ask that we transfer the personal information you gave us to another organisation, or to you, in certain circumstances.

If you wish to exercise any of your rights, please contact the Ministry of Justice Data Protection Officer:

The Data Protection Officer

Ministry of Justice
5th Floor, Post Point 5.18
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

dpo@justice.gov.uk

11. How to complain

If you have any concerns about our use of your personal data, you can contact the MoJ data protection officer.

You can also complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how we have used your data.

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

ICO website: <https://www.ico.org.uk>