

REFLECTION FOR PRISONS WEEK, 2023

Shining a Light on Our Prisons



1. How many prisons in the UK?
122 in England and Wales and 15 in Scotland and 4 in N.Ireland
2. How many prisoners (the daily average) in England and Wales in September 2023?
As of 8 September 2023, there were 87,128 people in prison: 83,590 in the male estate and 3,538 in the female estate.
3. How many prisoners (the daily average) were there in England and Wales in 1993?
44,246
4. What is the projected prison population by 2025?
The prison population is currently projected to increase to 94,400 by March 2025 (and a range of 93,100 to 106,300 by March 2027).
5. What is the annual average cost of keeping a person in prison for a year?
The overall average annual costs for keeping an individual in a prison is £42,670.
6. How many deaths in custody over the last 12 months?
There were 313 in the last twelve months, up from 288 the previous year. Self harm incidents were up to 55,264.
7. By how much has the length of a life sentence increased from 2003 to the present time?
It has increased from 12.5 years in 2003 to 20 years in 2020. A life sentence is always for life and the offender will be supervised and restricted all his life. The above figures indicate how much time they must stay in custody. After that the parole board can agree to release them on licence if they are considered to be safe. They can be recalled to prison at any time.
8. What does IPP stand for? How many people are affected?
Imprisonment for Public Protection (introduced 2005, abolished 2012). 2892 people are still affected, of whom 1355 have never been released)
9. What are the five aims of sentencing in England and Wales?
punishment, crime reduction, the reform and rehabilitation of offenders, public protection, and reparation.
10. What are the three types of electronic monitoring used in England and Wales?
Enforcing curfews, tracking movements & monitoring alcohol intake.

And a quotation to finish with:

Who said: *"One is absolutely sickened, not by the crimes that the wicked have committed, but by the punishments that the good have inflicted; and a community is infinitely more brutalised by the habitual employment of punishment than it is by the occasional occurrence of crime"*

Oscar Wilde.