

**Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar:  
Prisons in England and Wales - investment, governance and rehabilitation**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Venue: The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR

Agenda subject to change



- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Rt Hon Sir Edward Garnier QC MP**, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Penal Affairs
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Prisons in England and Wales - the context for reform**  
**Professor Yvonne Jewkes**, Research Professor in Criminology, University of Brighton  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 10.20 **Transforming the prison estate - modernisation, investment, capacity and operational autonomy**  
*In light of the Prime Minister's recent prison reform speech, and following Government's earlier launched prison-building programme - which includes plans to build nine new prisons in place of outdated establishments, and open five of them by 2020 - what challenges are policymakers likely to face in delivering a cost-effective and modernised estate over the course of this Parliament; particularly in terms of meeting capacity requirements and developing safe facilities for both offenders and staff? What more might be considered to drive efficiency in the delivery of prison services and running-costs, particularly in light of the ongoing implementation of reforms from the last Parliament - such as the Prison Unit Cost programme, and the introduction of public sector benchmarking? As the Lord Chancellor considers developing a 'more sensitive' sentencing regime, what case is there for reviewing the use of short-term custodial sentences to reduce prison population pressures? Following the Chief Inspector of Prisons 2014-15 annual report, which observed an increase in assault incidents, what are the emerging priorities for safely managing existing crowding, and adopting more rehabilitative, less-restricted prison regimes? In light of Government's current Review of care and management of transgender offenders, and the Prime Minister's recent call for a 'rethink' in the treatment of pregnant women and female prisoners with babies, what role can new prison buildings and facilities play in meeting the diverse and complex needs of different sectors of the prison population? What likely impact would current proposals to provide prison governors with greater powers to educate, punish and reform inmates have in practice; what challenges might they pose to ensuring standards and accountability, and in what areas should centralised guidelines and procedures be retained?*  
**Oliver Lodge**, Director, Ministry of Justice Value for Money, National Audit Office  
**Erwin James**, Author and Columnist, The Guardian  
**Mark Johnson**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, User Voice  
**David Nisbet**, Partner, Pick Everard  
**Peter Small**, Director, HMP Birmingham  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 - 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Rt Hon Sir Edward Garnier QC MP**, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Penal Affairs
- 10.25 - 10.55 Coffee
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames QC**, House of Lords Liberal Democrat Principal Spokesperson for Justice
- 11.00 - 11.30 **The Review of Prison Education in England and Wales - key issues**  
**Rod Clark**, Chief Executive, Prisoners' Education Trust and Panel Member, Review of Prison Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 - 12.25 **Making prisons places of rehabilitation - next steps for improving outcomes in training, education and resettlement**  
*Perspectives on next steps for developing opportunities for rehabilitation and resettlement across the custodial sector, particularly in light of Government's current review into adult education in prisons. What more might be considered to incentivise prisoners to participate in education - particularly disabled, older and 'hard to reach' learners - and what steps can be taken to embed a learning culture in the various forms of purposeful activity? What indications are there that building greater flexibility into the Offenders' Learning and Skills (OLASS) contractual framework will support longer-term rehabilitative outcomes - for instance, what opportunities exist to train more prisoners to become peer mentors, develop greater knowledge exchange via university-prison partnerships, and improve the availability of digital learning technologies via the Virtual Campus (VC) system? What further measures can be taken to increase support for prisoners to undertake both accredited and non-accredited learning, and how far would greater employer engagement go in addressing concerns of offenders completing courses to simply 'tick boxes' in order to secure their release? In light of Government's recent policy to establish a network of resettlement prisons, should more be done to ensure that NOMS develop effective rehabilitative services for prisoners at appropriate stages of their sentence?*  
**Steve Gillan**, General Secretary, Prison Officers' Association  
**Peter Cox**, Managing Director, Novus, The Manchester College Group  
**Darren Burns**, National Recruitment Ambassador, Timpson Group  
**Peter Dawson**, Deputy Director, Prison Reform Trust  
**Dee Anand**, Chair, Division of Forensic Psychology, British Psychological Society  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Future planning and policies: the view from the Justice Committee**  
**Robert Neill MP**, Chair, Justice Committee  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames QC**, House of Lords Liberal Democrat Principal Spokesperson for Justice  
**Marc Gammon**, Associate Editor, Westminster Legal Policy Forum