

Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar: 21st century prisons

Date: Morning, 2nd March 2010

Venue: Sixty-One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 Chairman's opening remarks
Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group
- 9.05 - 9.30 Capacity concerns
Themes: What are the key reasons for the increase in size of the prison population in recent years? How should concerns about prisons in England and Wales reaching capacity be addressed?
Professor Andrew Coyle CMG, International Centre for Prison Studies, School of Law, King's College London
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.10 The future of prisons - size, offender rehabilitation and communities
Themes: Is there a link between prison size and offender rehabilitation? What more can be done in prisons to prepare offenders for life after prison? How can the engagement of prisoners by prison staff be improved? Should more responsibility for the support prisoners are offered after prison be devolved to local authorities and the third sector? How can stronger links be developed between prisoners and the communities they will return to on their release from prison?
Dr Elaine Crawley, Director, Salford University Centre for Prison Studies
Frances Crook, Director, The Howard League for Penal Reform
Paul McDowell, Chief Executive, Nacro
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 - 10.40 The view from Scotland
Theme: Scotland's Choice - Report of The Scottish Prisons Commission.
Rt Hon Henry McLeish, Chairman, Scottish Prisons Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 - 10.45 Chairman's closing remarks
Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group
- 10.45 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 Chairman's opening remarks
Baroness Stern, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group
- 11.10 - 11.30 The Justice Committee Report - the role of the Prison Officer
Theme: Latest thinking on the 'professionalisation' of prison officers.
Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP, Chair, Justice Select Committee
- 11.30 - 12.25 Prison management, the future of prison staff and the relationship with the private sector
Themes: What are the key differences between contracted out and public sector prisons in terms of management, prison staff and prison estates? Is best practice shared between the two sectors? What is a fair financial return for private companies when running contracted out prisons? What is the current state of morale amongst prison staff? How does prison clustering affect the relationship between prison officers, senior management and prisoners? Does clustering impact on the time spent by officers working with prisoners? Should local government play a greater role in prison management?
Amelia Walker, Head of Centre for Service Transformation, Local Government Information Unit
Paul Tidball, President, Prison Governors Association
Vicky O'Dea, Operations Director, Serco Group
Jonathan Aitken, Chairman, Prison Reform Working Group, The Centre for Social Justice
Colin Moses, National Chairman, Prison Officers Association
Questions and comments from the floor with Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP, Chair, Justice Select Committee
- 12.25 - 12.55 The view from the National Offender Management Service
Phil Wheatley, Director General, National Offender Management Service
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 Chairman's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum's thanks and closing remarks
Baroness Stern, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group
Peter van Gelder, Director, Westminster Legal Policy Forum