



"Policy should be based on clear researched evidence and not on the whim of Government." Andrea Albutt

Comment // page 19



"The system hasn't got the capacity and capability to do the things that it needs to do" Dame Anne Owers

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"It is a time for reassurance, coming together and small acts of kindness which everyone can do." Juliet Lyon CBE

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CORONAVIRUS

What you need to know

● Prisons working closely with Public Health and NHS.

● Procedures in place to manage outbreaks of infectious diseases, prisons are prepared if cases are identified.

● "The safety and wellbeing of staff, prisoners and visitors is paramount and at the heart of our approach." Prisons Minister



Jo Farrar - CEO Prisons and Probation

Right now, the country is facing something it has never experienced before and everyone is having to do things differently. This is to help stop the spread of coronavirus and keep people healthy.

Most children aren't going to school, lots of people are working from home, and the elderly and people who might be more vulnerable to illnesses are 'socially distancing' themselves. This might mean they do not use the tube; they avoid large gatherings; or gatherings in smaller spaces.

We also need to make some changes in prisons to keep you healthy. This may include changes to

how you use the gym or library or the jobs you do. It will probably mean less time out of your cell. If you become unwell, or you have been in contact with someone who has become unwell, then you will need to stay in your cell until we can be sure you aren't infectious.

I want you to know that you will still get basic pay and your incentives won't change if you can't work because of this. I also know that you may be worried about how your family might cope with the restrictions in the community, particularly if they are unwell. They will also be worried about you.

One of our main priorities during this time is to make sure that you get plenty of contact with your families and we are looking at a range of

different ways we can do that.

You can help to keep yourself and the prison healthy by continuing to follow the hand washing guidance and doing the same thing as people in the community are doing. This includes social distancing, particularly if you are over 70 or have a health condition that might make you vulnerable.

Everyone is feeling anxious about this situation because it isn't something we are used to experiencing. It does impact on everyone and now, more than ever, we need to work together to keep everyone healthy.

Thank you for working with us at this difficult time.

VISITOR GUIDANCE: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-and-prisons#visiting-prisons-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak

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MICHAEL PURDON SOLICITOR

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