



Annual Prison Performance Ratings 2019/20

Main points

Prison performance is improving with the highest proportion rated as exceptional since 2011/12		Nineteen (16.0%) prisons were rated as having exceptional performance. This is the highest proportion since 2011/12 and an increase from 12.7% in 2018/19. 54.6% of prisons were rated as acceptable in 2019/20, an increase from 50.0% in 2018/19.
The lowest number of prisons rated as serious concern since 2015/16		Seven (5.9%) prisons were rated as serious concern, a reduction from 16 in 2018/19. This is the lowest number of prisons rated as serious concern since 2015/16. 28 prisons were rated as concern, the same as in 2018/19.
Open prisons and female prisons were strong performers		Over two-thirds of male open prisons were rated as exceptional with the remainder rated acceptable. Both Female Open prisons were rated as having exceptional performance and all other female prisons were rated as having either exceptional or acceptable performance.
Male locals were poor performers		Six of the seven prisons rated as serious concern were male locals, 18.8% of all male local prisons. Over half of male local prisons were rated as concern or serious concern. The remaining serious concern establishment was a male closed young offender institute.
Performance was generally strong in security measures, Audit of Living Conditions and IRS Data Quality Audit, but poor in employment, accommodation and self-harm		Prisons performed well on security measures with 85.7% of prisons rated as having acceptable or exceptional performance for Security Audits. Audit of Living Conditions and Incident Reporting System (IRS) Data Quality Audit also performed well. Employment at six weeks following release, accommodation on the first night of release and self-harm incidents were the poorest performing.

This publication covers reporting for the period between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020. A new prison framework was introduced in 2018/19 to assess prison performance. Whilst the new framework has similarities to previous ones, changes were made to priority areas and the suite of performance measures meaning that prison level comparisons to previous years should not be made. Furthermore, measure targets are reviewed annually for each prison against updated baselines meaning measure level comparisons for prisons to previous years should also not be made. Aggregated comparisons have been made in this bulletin as a guide to show how national performance has changed since 2011/12.

1. Products and Publications related to the Annual Prison Performance Ratings 2019/20

The following products are published as part of this release:

- A **statistical bulletin**, containing commentary on key findings;
- **Annual Prison Performance Ratings Guide 2019/20**, providing further information on how the data are collected and processed to derive prison performance ratings;
- A set of **supplementary tables**, providing underlying data and the performance rating for each measure by prison.

The **Annual Prison Performance Ratings Guide 2019/20** and **supplementary tables** are available to download from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/prison-performance-ratings-2019-to-2020>

The following publications contain related statistics:

- **HMPPS Annual Digest 2019/20:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/hmpps-annual-digest-april-2019-to-march-2020>
- **Safety in Custody quarterly: update to March 2020:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/safety-in-custody-quarterly-update-to-march-2020>

2. Prison Performance Tool

HMPPS manage the performance framework which includes 33 measures, including three sub measures. The performance framework is structured against six main outcome areas, defined as domains, which reflect HMPPS priorities. These are:

- Safety
- Security
- Rehabilitation and Release Planning
- Respect
- Purposeful Activity
- Organisational Effectiveness

Three new measures were introduced into the framework in 2019/20 to ensure it better reflects HMPPS priorities. They were:

- Accommodation on the first night of release
- Employment at six weeks following release
- Staff resignation rate

The Prison Performance Tool (PPT) was developed to monitor prisons against this performance framework. The PPT derives overall ratings by assessing performance against target for each measure and domain area.

Further information about the performance framework and PPT, including the performance measures that make up each domain can be found in the Prison Performance Ratings Guide accompanying this bulletin.

Annual performance for each prison in the PPT has been assigned one of four ratings. These ratings are:

Rating	Description
4	Performance is exceptional
3	Performance is acceptable
2	Performance is of concern
1	Performance is of serious concern

3. Annual Prison Performance Ratings

Prison performance is improving with the highest proportion rated as exceptional since 2011/12

Nineteen (16.0%) prisons were rated as having exceptional performance. This is the highest proportion since 2011/12 and an increase from 12.7% in 2018/19. 54.6% of prisons were rated as acceptable in 2019/20, an increase from 50.0% in 2018/19.

The lowest number of prisons rated as serious concern since 2015/16

Seven (5.9%) prisons were rated as serious concern, a reduction from 16 in 2018/19. This is the lowest number of prisons rated as serious concern since 2015/16. 28 prisons were rated as concern, the same as in 2018/19.

As part of the annual prison performance process, following the final assessment of data to the year ending 31 March 2020, a moderation process was undertaken in June 2020 to determine the final performance ratings for each prison. Further information about the moderation process can be found in the accompanying Prison Performance Ratings Guide.

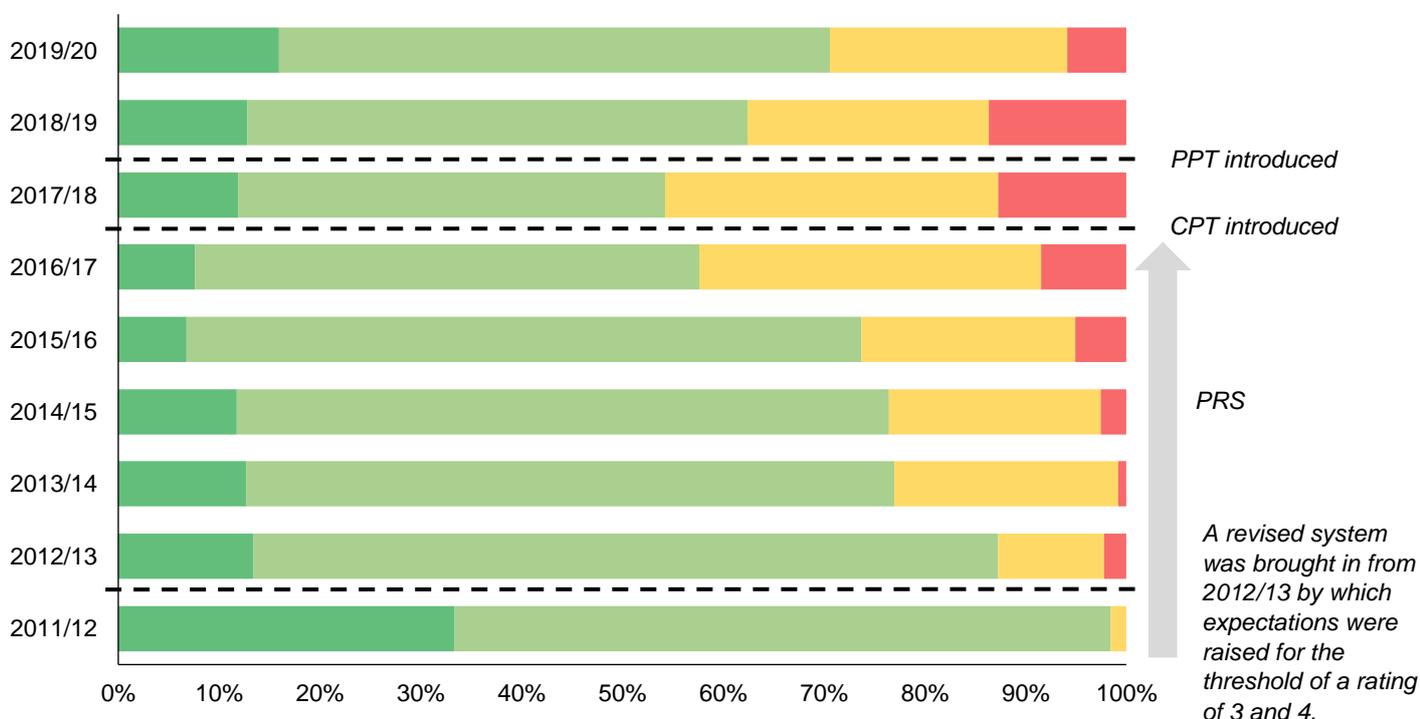
There were 10 prisons whereby the performance rating was adjusted through the moderation process. These are marked with an asterisk (*) in Figure 3: Annual Prison Performance Ratings 2019/20.

For 2019/20, 16.0% of prisons were rated as having exceptional performance, the highest level since 2011/12 and an increase from 12.7% in 2018/19. 70.6% of prisons were rated as either having exceptional or acceptable performance a rise from 62.7% in 2018/19 and the second consecutive year this proportion has increased. There were 5.9% rated as performance of serious concern, the lowest number since 2015/16. 28 prisons were rated as concern, the same as in 2018/19. The tables accompanying this bulletin provide a breakdown of performance and rating for each measure in each prison.

Figure 1: Summary of Annual Prison Performance Ratings for 2019/20 (Source: Table 3)

Prison Ratings 2019/20	Number of prisons	Percentage of prisons ¹
4: Performance is exceptional	19	16.0%
3: Performance is acceptable	65	54.6%
2: Performance is of concern	28	23.5%
1: Performance is of serious concern	7	5.9%

Figure 2: Annual Prison Performance Ratings 2011/12 to 2019/20 (Source: Table 4)



As the PPT is the result of a revised performance framework, prison level comparisons should not be made to years prior to 2018/19. Ratings reported in 2017/18 and before were derived through the Custodial Performance Tool and the Prison Rating System which were based on different frameworks with different priority areas and different suites of performance measures. Aggregated comparisons in figure 2 are provided as a guide to show changes in performance since 2011/12.

¹ Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Figure 3: Annual Prison Performance Ratings 2019/20 (Source: Table 3)

Prison	Rating	Prison	Rating	Prison	Rating
Altcourse *	2	Gartree	2	Onley	2
Ashfield	4	Grendon	4	Parc	3
Askham Grange	4	Guys Marsh	2	Pentonville	1
Aylesbury	3	Hatfield	4	Peterborough Female	3
Bedford	1	Haverigg	3	Peterborough Male	3
Belmarsh	3	Hewell	1	Portland	2
Berwyn	2	High Down	2	Prescoed	4
Birmingham	2	Highpoint	3	Preston	3
Brinsford	3	Hindley	2	Ranby	3
Bristol *	1	Hollesley Bay	4	Risley	3
Brixton	3	Holme House	3	Rochester	2
Bronzeville	3	Hull	4	Rye Hill	4
Buckley Hall	3	Humber	3	Send	3
Bullington	3	Huntercombe	3	Spring Hill *	4
Bure	3	Isis	3	Stafford	3
Cardiff	3	Isle of Wight	3	Standford Hill	4
Channings Wood *	2	Kirkham	3	Stocken	3
Chelmsford	2	Kirklevington Grange	4	Stoke Heath	3
Coldingley	3	Lancaster Farms	2	Styal	3
Cookham Wood *	2	Leeds	3	Sudbury	3
Dartmoor	3	Leicester	2	Swaleside	2
Deerbolt	3	Lewes	1	Swansea	3
Doncaster	2	Leyhill	4	Swinfen Hall	2
Dovegate	3	Lincoln	3	Thameside	3
Downview	3	Lindholme	3	Thorn Cross	4
Drake Hall	4	Littlehey *	4	Usk	4
Durham	3	Liverpool	2	Wakefield	3
East Sutton Park	4	Long Lartin	3	Wandsworth *	2
Eastwood Park	3	Low Newton	3	Warren Hill	4
Elmley	2	Lowdham Grange	3	Wayland	3
Erlestoke	2	Maidstone	2	Wealstun	3
Exeter	2	Manchester	3	Werrington	3
Featherstone	3	Moorland	3	Wetherby	3
Feltham *	1	Mount *	2	Whatton	3
Ford	3	New Hall	3	Whitemoor	3
Forest Bank	3	North Sea Camp	4	Winchester	2
Foston Hall	3	Northumberland	3	Woodhill	2
Frankland	3	Norwich *	2	Wormwood Scrubs	1
Full Sutton	3	Nottingham	3	Wymott	3
Garth	3	Oakwood	3		

Key: Rating 4 = Performance is exceptional
Rating 3 = Performance is acceptable
Rating 2 = Performance is of concern
Rating 1 = Performance is of serious concern

* Prison Performance Rating 2019/20 adjusted through the moderation process.

4. Prison Function Ratings and Performance Drivers

Open prisons and female prisons were strong performers

Over two-thirds of male open prisons were rated as exceptional with the remainder rated acceptable. Both Female Open prisons were rated as having exceptional performance and all other female prisons were rated as having either exceptional or acceptable performance.

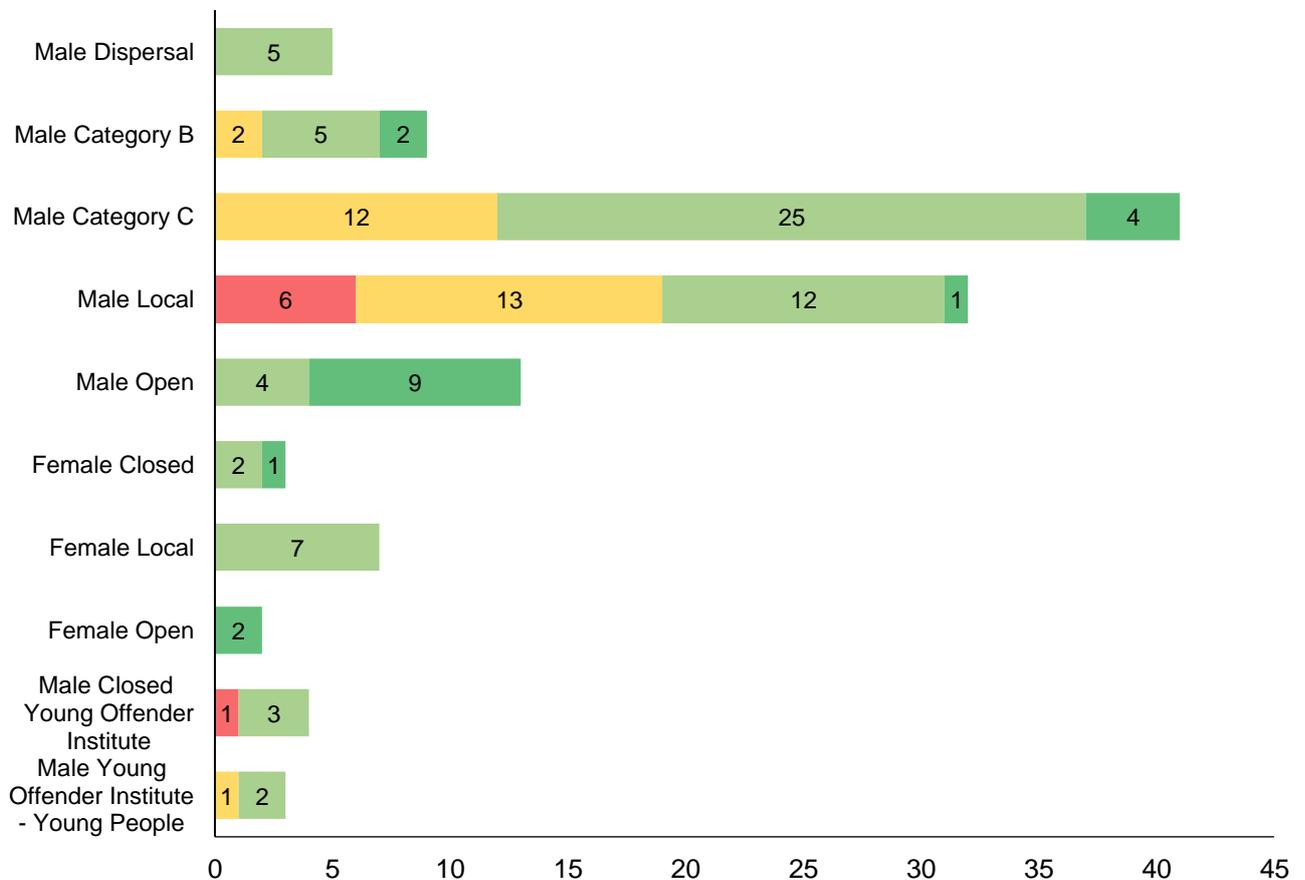
Male locals were poor performers

Six of the seven prisons rated as serious concern were male locals, 18.8% of all male local prisons. Over half of male local prisons were rated as concern or serious concern. The remaining serious concern establishment was a male closed young offender institute.

Performance was generally strong in security measures as well as the Audit of Living Conditions and IRS Data Quality Audit, but poor in employment, accommodation and self-harm

Prisons performed well on security measures with 85.7% of prisons rated as having acceptable or exceptional performance for Security Audits. Audit of Living Conditions and Incident Reporting System (IRS) Data Quality Audit also performed well. Employment at six weeks following release, accommodation on the first night of release and self-harm incidents were the poorest performing.

Figure 4: Annual Prison Performance Ratings 2019/20 by Prison Function² (Source: Table 5)



² For definitions of the Prison Functions, please see the Annual Prison Performance Ratings Guide 2019/20.

Key drivers of performance

The performance measures in the PPT are weighted according to HMPPS priorities. For 2019/20, there was an emphasis on HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) healthy prison test scores, measures relating to safety and drug levels, living conditions and risk management as well as security measures, and data quality.

HMIP invoked the Urgent Notification (UN)³ process at Bristol in June 2019 and Feltham A⁴ in July 2019. Both Bristol and Feltham⁴ were rated as serious concern in 2019/20.

Strong performers

Overall, prisons performed well on security measures; 85.7% of prisons were rated as having acceptable or exceptional performance for Security Audits. Audit of Living Conditions and IRS Data Quality Audit also performed well. All prisons met the target for successful releases on temporary licence.

The domain with the highest performance was Security with an average domain level rating of 3.09. Safety was the worst performing domain with an average score of 2.44 followed by Purposeful Activity with 2.53.

Over two-thirds of male open prisons were rated as exceptional with the remainder rated acceptable. Both Female Open prisons were rated as having exceptional performance and all other female prisons were rated as having either exceptional or acceptable performance. Open prisons accommodate category "D" prisoners whose risk of absconding is low, or who are of low risk to the public because of the way they have addressed their offending behaviour. These prisons had the lowest levels of self-harm incidents and assaults in 2019/20 and were rated as reasonably good or good for each of the healthy prison tests in their most recent HMIP inspection. All Male Dispersal prisons were rated as acceptable.

Prisons performed well on security measures with 85.7% of prisons rated as having acceptable or exceptional performance for Security Audits. Audit of Living Conditions and Incident Reporting System (IRS) Data Quality Audit also performed well.

Prisoner on prisoner assaults showed the greatest improvement with 42.0% of prisons meeting target in 2019/20 compared with 13.6% in 2018/19. Accredited programmes increased from 68.0% of prisons meeting target in 2018/19 to 80.2% in 2019/20. In the same period, IRS Data Quality Audit improved from 69.2% to 81.5%. These measures carry medium to high weightings which has led to overall improvements in prison performance.

Poor performers

Employment at six weeks following release was the poorest performing measure with only 4.0% of prisons meeting target. Accommodation on the first night of release also performed poorly, with 17.3% of prisons meeting target. These measures were newly introduced to the framework in 2019/20 and currently carry a low weighting. They only capture the second half of the year from 1

³ An Urgent Notification is invoked when HMIP identify significant concerns with regard to the treatment and conditions of those detained. For more information see <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/about-hmi-prisons/urgent-notifications/>

⁴ HMYOI Feltham is a split site comprising of Feltham A housing children aged under 18 and Feltham B housing young adults aged 18 to 21. The UN was received at Feltham A. Currently, one performance rating is applied to Feltham covering both sites.

October 2019 to 31 March 2020. Self-harm incidents performed poorly with 22.5% of prisons meeting target. Staff sickness showed the greatest reduction in performance, with 39.5% of prisons meeting target compared to 55.1% in 2018/19.

Of the prisons rated as serious concern, six were Male Local prisons and one was a Male Closed Young Offender Institute. Offenders accommodated at Male Local prisons are either on remand or serving short-term custodial sentences, meaning environments will be more dynamic than those prisons with longer-term serving offenders with a limited time to rehabilitate offenders. These prisons saw some of the highest rates of both Positive Random Mandatory drug testing – excluding new psychoactive substances and Positive Random Mandatory drug testing – new psychoactive substances only. 90.6% of male local prisons were rated as concern or serious concern for prisoner on prisoner assaults and 84.4% for assaults on staff.

Figure 5: Annual Prison Performance Ratings 2019/20 for Prisons where an Urgent Notification has been invoked by HMIP⁴ (Source: Table 3)

Prison/Young Offender Institute	Function	Year of Urgent Notification	Rating 2019/20
Nottingham	Male Local	2017/18	3
Exeter	Male Local	2018/19	2
Birmingham	Male Local	2018/19	2
Bedford	Male Local	2018/19	1
Bristol	Male Local	2019/20	1
Feltham	Male Closed YOI	2019/20	1

HMIP have invoked an Urgent Notification (UN) at six prisons since the process was introduced. The first prison to receive one, Nottingham in January 2018, was rated as acceptable in 2019/20. Exeter and Birmingham, both receiving a UN during 2018/19, are now rated as concern. The remaining three, including Feltham⁴ and Bristol where a UN was invoked in 2019/20, were rated as serious concern.

5. 2020/21 Annual Prison Performance Ratings

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) the internal HMPPS reporting of 2020/21 prison performance ratings is currently suspended whilst the agency focuses on managing the pandemic in prisons and supporting the recovery process. Options are currently being considered for the 2020/21 Annual Prison Performance Ratings publication, scheduled for release in July 2021.

Data and statistics will continue to be published in the Safety in Custody and HMPPS Annual Digest publications throughout this period. HMPPS COVID-19 statistics showing the impact of the pandemic in prisons can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hm-prison-and-probation-service-covid-19-statistics>

6. Further Information

Statistical Code of Practice

This publication has followed the principles and practices from the Code of Practice:

Trustworthiness

The ratings and data in this publication have been produced with the most recent data available, which has been validated through the Data Assurance and Reporting Unit in the Data and Analytical Services Directorate in MoJ. Prisons have had the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge data they deemed to be inaccurate throughout the performance year, through quarterly releases of the Prison Performance Tool, and monthly updates to the Performance Hub – an internal HMPPS Management Information system. This process ensured accurate information is reflected in the calculations to derive the Annual Prison Performance Ratings.

Quality

Appropriate data sources were used for each measure, identified through engagement with prison staff and colleagues in HMPPS Head Quarters. The prison performance framework was agreed at the start of the performance year and this, along with technical notes accompanying each performance measure, were shared with prisons on the Performance Hub and discussed at prison forums. Problems with measures are worked through with prisons to see how they can be overcome. Data has been removed where COVID-19 has affected the reliability.

Prisons were informed at the start of the reporting period that their annual rating and underlying data were to be published following completion of the year.

The data in this publication have been quality assured alongside the Official-Statistics HMPPS Annual Digest 2019/20 and National Statistics Safety in Custody Quarterly: Update to March 2020 for consistency. Any intentional differences have been highlighted in the data of this publication.

Value

The data in this publication provide an overview of prison performance within the year. Making this information accessible provides ministers and users with an overview of prisons performance, while helping to reduce the administrative burden of answering Parliamentary Questions, Freedom of Information requests and ad hoc queries. This information also allows MoJ/ HMPPS to monitor and performance manage prisons and provide all users with transparent data that underpins overall prison performance.

Data are published in Open Document format to ensure compatibility across different systems. Information is also available on the Justice Data website that enables users to access all data used to assess prison performance.

Official Statistics

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from:

<https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/>

Ministry of Justice publishes data relating to offender management in England and Wales. Equivalent statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/?cat=filter&publicationTypes=statistics>

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/statistics-and-research-publications>

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Next Update: TBC

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prison-and-probation-trusts-performance-statistics>

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