



Ministry
of Justice

The New Prisons Programme:

Public Consultation on plans for a new prison in Chorley

June 2021

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Welcome

Thank you for visiting our pre-application consultation website and accessing information on our proposal for a new Category C prison on land next to HMP Garth and HMP Wymott in Chorley. Our plans, if successful, would bring many benefits to the local community, such as hundreds of jobs during construction, careers within the prison sector and an increased spend in local businesses.

This proposal is part of the Government's 'New Prisons Programme', the Government has committed over £4 billion to make significant progress in creating 18,000 additional prison places across the prison estate by the mid-2020s, through a combination of new builds, as well as extending, refurbishing and maintaining other prisons.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) have been looking at where best we can develop new prisons, and where there is likely to be most demand for prison places. We believe that, following detailed feasibility work, land next to HMP Garth and HMP Wymott is a good location for one of these prisons.

Prisoner numbers change over time which is why we must have robust plans in place to make sure we will always have enough places available. We expect there will be an increase in demand for prison places as the activity of our courts system continues to ramp up to full operating capacity following the national restrictions due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The increasing numbers of police, in line with the Prime Minister's commitment to recruit 20,000 additional officers, is also likely to contribute to a higher prison population, and we therefore believe that creating 18,000 additional prison places will help to mitigate pressure on prison places in England and Wales in the coming years. I hope that you find this consultation document useful, and we welcome your early feedback on our plans.



Alex Chalk MP

Minister of State for Prisons and Probation

New Prisons Programme

Our prisons by security category

This consultation is about building a category C prison for adult men.

Adult male prisons have four security categories. Category A prisons have the highest security and category D prisons have the lowest security. Category A-C prisoners are kept in closed conditions which means that prisoners are kept within secure prison boundaries all of the time. Under very limited circumstances, men held in a category C prison may be released on temporary license (ROTL) to go to work. This is strictly risk assessed and monitored. Category D prisoners are risk assessed to live under open conditions, which means they can leave the prison for certain reasons, such as to go to work.

When the court sends someone to prison, they usually go to a local prison. At the local prison, it is decided what category of prison the prisoner will go to. Usually, they will move to a training prison. Then, they will go to a resettlement prison to get ready for release.

Not all prisoners follow this pattern. For instance, high-risk prisoners may go to a high-security prison and stay there. Some low-risk prisoners, or those with short sentences, may go straight to a resettlement prison.

Category A prisons

- Category A prisons are for higher-risk prisoners or those serving longer sentences.
- Sometimes these are called high-security prisons or maximum-security prisons.

Category B local prisons and training prisons

- Category B local prisons take prisoners straight from courts in the local area.
- Sometimes, local prisons are called reception prisons.
- Training prisons take prisoners from local prisons or category A prisons.

Category C training prisons and resettlement prisons

- Category C training prisons take prisoners from local prisons, or from category B prisons.
- Training prisons help prisoners to manage their risks to make them safer.
- Resettlement prisons help lower risk prisoners to get ready for when they leave prison.

Category D prisons

- Category D prisons hold the lowest-risk prisoners.
- They take prisoners from category C prisons.
- These are sometimes called open prisons as some prisoners can leave to go to work or train, or to visit their family.

New Prisons Programme

New Design

We've made a new design for safe and secure prisons, with helping prisoners to turn their lives around at the heart of the design process. We've done this by talking to prisoners and prison staff. We've also looked at prisons in other countries and talked to people who research prisons. This means we've used real people's experience for our designs so we can build a prison that will help prisoners to improve their behaviour, and prepare better for life outside prison. This is important because when prisoners are properly prepared for life outside prison, they are less likely to offend again. Most importantly, the prison will be secure and safe for prisoners, prison staff and for people living nearby.



New Prisons Programme

Inside the prison blocks

The new prisons will be very different to many of our older prisons. This will make them better for the men inside and also for people who work there.

- The prison will have 7 separate house blocks (or living accommodation). Each prison block will have 4 floors, with around 60 prisoners on each floor, making a total of around 240 prisoners in each block. The overall capacity of the prison is 1,715. These prison blocks offer men the chance to live in smaller groups than they do in some older prisons. This creates a sense of community that will lead to less violence and better relations with staff. Overall, it means a safer and more secure prison.
- Each floor will have room for group activities. Men will be able to meet for training, prayer, fitness and to talk to each other.
- Most cells will hold 1 prisoner. A few cells will hold 2 prisoners. Many cells will be set up for prisoners with a disability. All cells will have a shower and a toilet.
- Cells and landings will be set up to make technology easier to access. Cells will be able to have a phone so prisoners can talk to family and legal representatives. Cells or landings will be set up to allow prisoners access services such as healthcare through a digital device. Access to phone calls helps to prepare prisoners for release and are strictly supervised. Prisoners do not have access to the internet.
- This means that the prison blocks are future-proofed and whether the prison is run by the government or the private sector, they can put the right equipment in place.

New Prisons Programme

Inside the other buildings

- There will be a central space for prisoner services. For instance, prisoners can go there for lessons, for health advice and checks, to use the library or gym, or to pray.
- The visitors' hall will be a large space that can allow visitors for up to 50 prisoners. The hall will be light and airy, and prisoners and their families can also use the outdoor family visits area. The visitor hall and outdoor visits area will encourage families to visit. This helps families to stay together and prisoners who maintain strong links with their families are less likely to reoffend after they are released.
- Workshops will help prisoners to gain new skills and qualifications. This will help them to gain work after release. Having work can help stop people re-offending.
- The workshops will include both heavy and light industry. For instance, prisoners can learn how to weld or how to make clothes. The exact industries will be decided closer to the prison opening.
- There will be space outside for gardening, which includes polytunnels. Other outside space includes a small sports pitches so prisoners can keep fit and meet up in the fresh air.



New Prisons Programme

Prisons like this one

We've already used this design at some other new prisons. HMP Five Wells is due to accept its first prisoner in early 2022, our new prison at Glen Parva will be ready in 2023 and we're about to start building next to Full Sutton Prison. Just like the prison we might build in Chorley, these 3 sites will provide safe, decent and secure prisons. They will help prisoners to change their behaviour so they are less likely to re-offend after release. As well as these sites, we are looking for 2 more, bringing the total to 6.

HMP Five Wells, Northamptonshire

We started building HMP Five Wells prison in May 2019 and it will be ready to receive prisoners in early 2022. It will look very different to our older prisons. For instance, it will have barless windows, which have been specially made. Barless windows are just as secure as windows with bars and they help prisoners to feel more at home as well as having security benefits. This can help prisoners to behave better and that makes the prison safer for prisoners and staff. The prison design at HMP Five Wells is the baseline for all new prison builds. G4S will run this prison as a private operator for 10 years until 2032.

Glen Parva, Leicestershire

We started building a new prison at Glen Parva in Summer 2020 and it is on schedule to receive prisoners in Spring/Summer 2023. This prison will be privately operated, with an operator announced in early 2022.

Next to HMP Full Sutton, Yorkshire

We're building our next new prison next to Full Sutton prison in East Yorkshire. This new prison will also include our new designs. We have outline planning permission already and hope to start building soon.



Our new Glen Parva prison in Leicestershire, currently under construction



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The New Prisons Programme:

Our Plans in Chorley



Getting to and from the new prison

By road

The site we hope to use for the new prison is on land next to HMP Garth and north of HMP Wymott. Croston village is south west of the site and Leyland is to the north east. The M6 runs north and south through Chorley, the site can be accessed using junction 28.

By train

There are two train stations near to HMP Garth and the new prison. Leyland has trains to and from Manchester and Preston. Croston has trains to and from Ormskirk and Preston. Both train stations are within walking distance of the 112 bus service.

The service can be accessed via the Yewlands Drive stop in central Leyland, as well as the Railway Station stop in Croston.

By bus

The existing prisons and proposed new prison can also be accessed by bus and the service number is the 112. The 112 stops at the Bullen's Farm stop on Ulnes Walton Lane and the bus stop on Willow Road. Both of which are approximately five minutes' walk from the new prison site.

Traffic Management

We are working with traffic management experts to understand potential areas of disruption and provide solutions to prevent traffic problems, we would welcome your views on these.

Any formal Highways works will need to be approved by the Highways Department and will be part of the formal Section 278 Highways Works Agreement.

There is more information about traffic management in the FAQ section.

Planning

As part of government plans to reduce crime, we're spending over £4 billion on 18,000 extra prison places. These prison places will be decent, safe and secure. They'll help us to modernise prisons in England and Wales in the next few years. About 10,000 of these places will be in the 6 new prisons we're building. The other places will come from extending some prisons and refurbishing others.

We also need to have enough of the right kind of prison places. This means we need enough places in each security category so we can hold prisoners securely and keep the public safe. We also need to have enough training places and resettlement places so men can get the help they need to stop them re-offending after release.

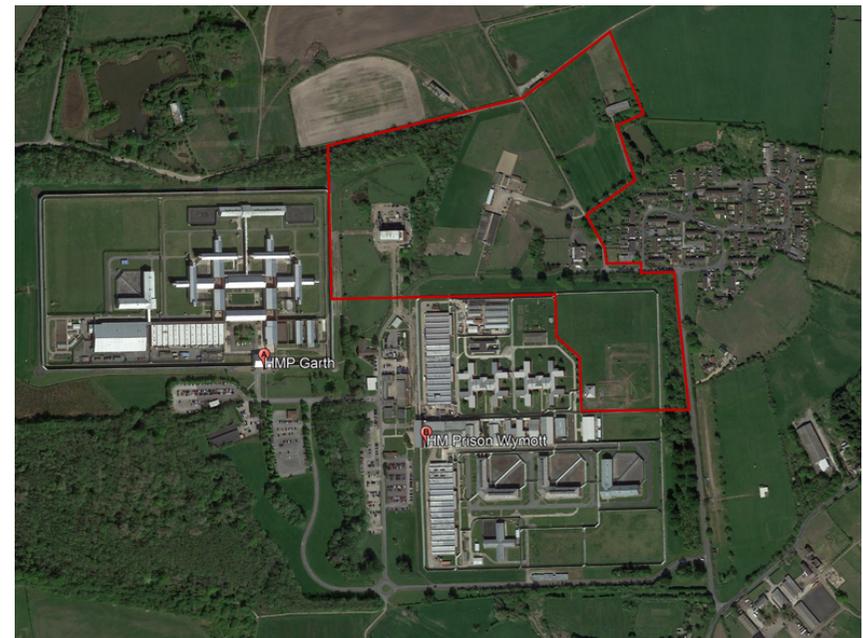
We need to build 2 of the 4 new prisons in the north of England. These will help make sure that prisoners from the north can be in a prison nearer to home. We already have planning permission for a new prison at Full Sutton in Yorkshire and we need another in the north west.

Our plans

We hope to build a category C resettlement prison in Chorley. It will have 7 separate prison blocks, with each block holding around 240 prisoners. The prison blocks will have 4 floors, with 60 prisoners on each. The prison will have 7 separate house blocks (or living accommodation). The overall capacity of the prison is 1,715.

The prison will also have some support buildings. These will include a reception area, kitchens, workshops, a visits hall and offices. These buildings will range from 1 floor high to 4 floors high.

Our plans also include a few dog kennels, which will only be used in the daytime for when prison dogs are on site. The dogs go home with their handlers each night. There will also be some polytunnels for gardening, and an outdoor family area that can be used by visitors and prisoners during visiting times. The prison will have about 500 parking spaces for staff and visitors. The whole prison site will be surrounded by secure fencing and a road for security patrols.



Changes to the existing prison sites

Boiler House

To build the new prison, we'll have to move the existing prisons' boiler house because this is in the middle of where we would build the new prison.

We'll move the boiler house to a new location on our land, and aim to provide a replacement boiler using similar technology. The current boiler main power source is generated by bio-fuel which provides heat. We are exploring options to use more environmentally friendly fuel for the new boiler house without impacting the security and operations of the existing prisons.

Relocating Wymott Bowling Club

MoJ appreciates the value that Wymott Bowling Club brings to the local community and is working closely with representatives of the club to understand their requirements and provide a solution to re-provide the club's facilities at a nearby location with as little disruption as possible.



Our Proposals

Here are some sketches of the site plan and a landscape plan to give you an overall view. This image shows our plans for the 7 prison blocks and the support buildings. You can see how the new prison will be sited next to HMP Garth and HMP Wymott. The picture also shows the landscape plan. This includes plants and green spaces, which will help to protect nearby wildlife and wild plants.



Our Proposals

Here is another artists' drawings of our plans to give you an idea of how the prison will look.



Landscaping

The landscaping aims to protect local wildlife, plants and trees as much as possible. We've taken a lot of care with our initial proposals for landscaping so the new prison would blend in with the rural location. This means the prison's entrance would also blend in and we hope to keep most of the mature trees on Moss Road. We plan to keep the pond to the north-east of the prison, along with the nearby plant life, where possible.

The entrance would be calm and welcoming. The route from the main road to the prison would be planted to provide a pleasant and calming approach for visitors and people passing by. The main car park would be screened by existing trees and shrubbery. We'd plant extra trees and shrubs to blend with existing plants. We'd also improve the landscape outside the prison security fence to help protect local wildlife.

We're still working on our plans but we'll work very hard to build a new prison that fits in with the local rural area and the wider landscape.



Indicative images of proposed planting and landscaping

A green prison

Our plans mean that the new prisons will be the most environmentally friendly in the country.

Our green aims

We want to get a BREEAM rating for the building work. BREEAM is short for the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method. We hope to get an Excellent BREEAM rating at the very least, but we'll aim for an Outstanding BREEAM rating, which is the highest rating available. To get this rating, we'll be doing the work listed below.



We aim to reduce carbon emissions by 85% compared to our other prisons. We'll do this by using energy efficient heat pumps, lighting, appliances and equipment. We'll also build in renewable energy and choose new building materials based on their low environmental impact. We'll always use responsible suppliers. Over the next 60 years, this should reduce carbon emissions by 280,000 tonnes and save £100 million in energy costs.



The new prisons will be all electric so there will be no need for gas boilers. This means the prisons will use no fossil fuels, except for emergency generators.



We'll install green drains and water treatment to manage surface water. These will blend into the rural landscape.



We'll make sure our plans for the prison in Chorley and the land outside the prison fence don't significantly affect local wildlife, plants and trees. Some areas would be affected. This includes removing some trees to the north of the prison. The pond is being kept, as are most of the hedgerows and other woodland. We hope to create new habitats for wildlife so that local wildlife benefits from the building overall.



The new prisons will promote health and wellbeing for prisoners and staff. The prisons will have a comfortable temperature. They will provide modern living conditions which will reduce noise, and they will be decent, safe and secure.



During building, we will reduce waste by using modern building methods. This means at least 95% of waste will be re-used so it doesn't go into landfill.



We'll also manage noise, vibration, air and light pollution to keep it as low as possible. As part of this, we'll work with the local council to agree a plan to manage builders' and suppliers' traffic. This will help us manage traffic during building work so that it doesn't affect local people and businesses too much.



When the prisons are built, we'll encourage staff and visitors to use green transport and active forms of travel. As part of this, we'll provide cycle storage and electric charging points for cars. The proposed prison in Chorley is also accessible by public transport links, with a bus service running close to the prison from 2 local train stations.

Community benefits - Chorley will gain new jobs from the prison

Case study: New jobs created at HMP Five Wells prison

New prisons can benefit local people and local businesses. There are benefits during the short building phase and many more once the prison is up and running.

We're building a similar prison, HMP Five Wells in Northamptonshire so we can show you the benefits from that building work. During the building work HMP Five Wells has provided:

- Hundreds of jobs in construction for the community
- Over 1,700 work placement days to upskill and prepare people for jobs in construction
- On- the- job training and work experience to upskill over 800 people in their roles
- Opportunities for local small and medium businesses to support the building work.

The new prison at Chorley could create about 600-700 permanent jobs once up and running. These jobs would include prison officers, nurses, teachers, office staff, and so on. This means local people would have the chance of a career in the criminal justice system. Jobs like these are important because they help to protect the public and they help offenders to turn their lives around.



Community benefits

Some of the benefits from new prisons at HMP Five Wells and Glen Parva

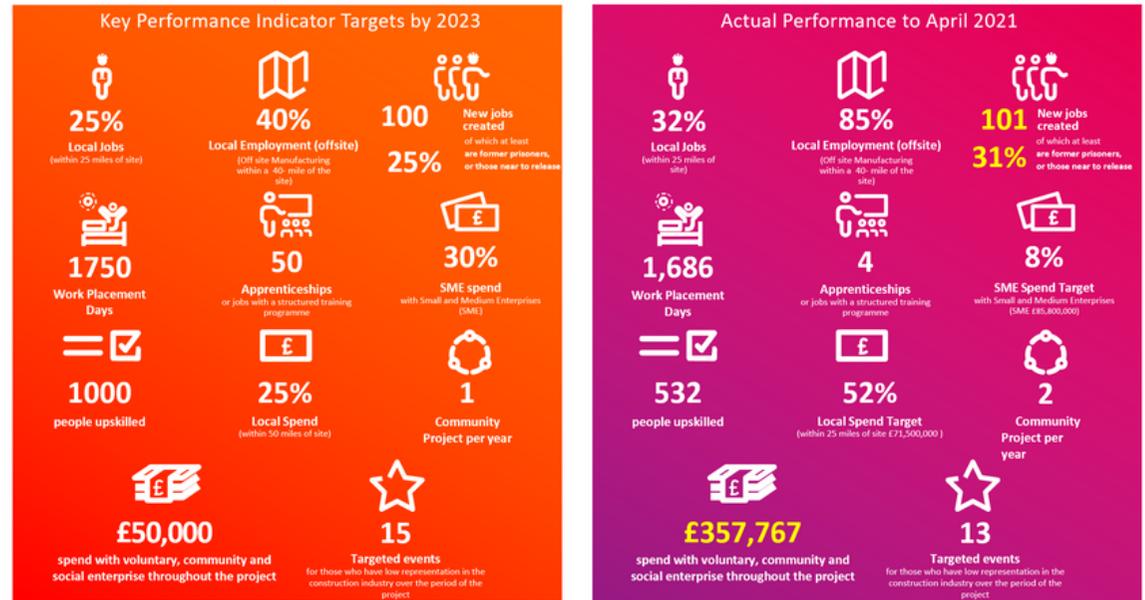
Our new prison plans help to provide new prison places and they also help local people. Whenever we build a new prison, we also aim to provide a long-lasting benefit to the local area.

We work closely with the local Job Centre to ensure local people have opportunities for jobs and training. We work with local schools and charities to give back to the community, such as providing replacement fencing, new outdoor facilities for local schools and providing visits and learning sessions to school children about sustainable and green projects.

We hope to provide similar benefits for local people in Chorley.

The new prison at Glen Parva in Leicestershire is like the one we hope to build in Chorley. The image here shows what we hope to achieve in and around Chorley.

Glen Parva Prison Project– Key Performance Targets by 2023 vs Actual Performance



Have Your Say

We hope this information has helped you to understand our proposed plans for a new prison in Chorley. Our plans come from many years of working to find the best ways to build prisons. We want our new prisons to help prisoners turn their lives around, so they stop offending. They will also be as green as possible, so they are friendly to the environment. Finally, we want to help local people by providing jobs and spending in the local and regional economy.

We want to hear what you think about our plans before we decide whether to apply for planning permission. Your comments really count. They can affect the position of the buildings, the kinds of building materials we use, colour schemes and landscaping.

We haven't decided yet if we'll go ahead with these plans, and we haven't applied for planning permission. So, now is a good time to have your say. Our planning team will read all comments and consider them before we decide.

It's easy to have your say. Just fill in the survey on our consultation website. Either click [here](#) to go to the survey or copy and paste this link address into your internet search bar:

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/proposed-new-prison-in-chorley>

Throughout the consultation period, you can also send your views by post to us at: PO Box 347, Manchester, M21 3ES.

If you want to have your say, please let us have your comments by 19 July 2021.



Contact Us

Visit our consultation website: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/proposed-new-prison-in-chorley>

Sign up for a virtual webinar session using the linked below:

Thursday 1st July – 7pm – 8pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jJ6qHp83QpWJPR_180017A

Friday 2nd July – 1pm – 2pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jkbazVZ5SnWUz4Mka8Pcaw

Email us if you have any questions: psdenquiries@justice.gov.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

Why have you picked Chorley for your new prison?

- We need to build a new category C prison in regions where we expect a shortage of these types of prison places in future.
- We already own the land and it is next to HMP Garth and HMP Wymott. This means that we could build a prison here in time to meet future needs, as finding suitable land to buy can take much longer.
- The new site is also easy to reach for future staff, suppliers and visitors as it is close to Leyland, Preston, Chorley and Southport.
- We've surveyed the site to check if it's suitable for building a new prison and it is suitable.
- If we apply for planning permission, we'll share these surveys with the local council. We'll also share them with you online.

How have you decided on the design?

- We're still working on our plans and that is why we are consulting with you now so you can have your say.
- We haven't made a final decision on the designs or whether to apply for planning permission.
- Our design is based on years of researching and building prisons.

- We believe our new prison design will help prisoners to turn their lives around and reduce re-offending. In turn, this helps to protect the public and keep people safe.
- If we build a new prison here, we will make sure it works with the local rural landscape.
- We will also use our experience of building HMP Five Wells and Glen Parva prisons in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire.
- The new prisons will be the greenest so far. They will lower carbon emissions so they are as close to zero as possible. This will help the UK's fight against climate change.

What type of prisoners will this new prison hold?

- The prison will be a category C resettlement prison for adult male prisoners.
- The new prison will hold category C prisoners, so they will be low risk, like those at HMP Wymott.
- The nearby prisons are HMPs Garth and Wymott. HMP Garth is a category B training prison, and HMP Wymott is a category C training prison.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a resettlement prison?

- Resettlement prisons are for prisoners who are about 18 months away from release.
- They are usually fairly close to a prisoner's home so he can have family visits. This helps to keep him in touch with his family and will mean a smoother transition into the community when he is released.
- Prisoners will also start to prepare for work on the outside and the lowest risk prisoners may be allowed out for short visits or to go to work, this is called Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL).
- Prisoners are individually risk assessed to decide if they are eligible and safe for temporary release (ROTL) and it will only apply to a limited number of prisoners.

When will the prison be built?

- We haven't yet decided whether to build a prison here and we haven't applied for planning permission.
- If we do go ahead, we'll apply for planning permission later this year. We would anticipate a planning decision from the council in early 2022.
- If we got planning permission, we'd hope to start construction in 2022/23.
- We would intend for the new prison to open in 2025.

What about traffic during building?

- We know that construction traffic can sometimes be disruptive, we're working on the best ways to keep disruption to a minimum, and your feedback will help us to do this.
- Our planning application would contain detailed plans explaining how we would manage traffic during construction.
- We'd work with the council to reduce any disturbance to local people and businesses.
- Our traffic management plans would be included with our planning application. You'd be able to view this and comment on it. A traffic management plan is designed to ensure that construction vehicles can enter and leave the site safely and that we put in place measures to reduce any temporary impact on the existing highway network.

The traffic management plan covers:

- The number and type of vehicles required during the construction phase of the project;
- The construction timescales including peak construction periods;
- The construction access routes for use by construction vehicles;
- The specific construction traffic impacts which would require mitigation; and
- The specific mitigation measures which require either specific construction management or physical measures.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will you deal with traffic from staff and visitors?

- Our planning application would also include a transport assessment. This would show how the prison would affect local roads once the prison is up and running.
- We'll review the local road network to see how the prison would affect local roads.
- Our model shows that there is already a busy junction at the A581/Ulnes Walton Lane. A new prison may make this junction busier. So, we would put in place measures to work around this and prevent unacceptable queues forming on the A581.
- If we apply for planning permission, we'll also submit an outline travel plan that will balance providing car parking facilities and encouraging staff and visitors to use green transport. This includes walking, cycling, using buses and trains, and car sharing.
- Our outline travel plan will help reduce travel to and from the site in cars carrying only one person. Mainly, the plan aims to increase green travel choices and then encourage staff and visitors to use them.

How many prison jobs will go to local people?

- A new prison in Chorley would create about 600-700 permanent jobs once up and running, and local people would be able to apply for these.
- This would provide a chance for local people to build a career in the criminal justice system.
- There would be different kinds of jobs, including prison officers, teachers and trainers, office workers and chaplains.
- Jobs like these are important to protect the public. They also help prisoners to turn their lives around and this helps to reduce re-offending.

Will local builders be able to work on the new prison?

- We expect that hundreds of building jobs would be created. This is based on what happened when we built other new prisons such as HMP Five Wells.
- Hundreds of jobs would be created for the community during the building phase, including apprenticeships and work placements offered through job centres, job fairs and other schemes. We want to make sure that small local businesses and local people benefit from the building work of a new prison.
- When we built HMP Five Wells in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, 51% of the building spend went to local businesses (within 25 miles), and 25% of the on-site spend went to companies in the local Wellingborough area.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the new prison be run by the government or by a private company?

- We haven't decided yet who would run the new prison. We expect that at least one of the future four new build prisons will be publicly run.
- We'll consider this and decide long before any new prison is up and running.

Will my house price be affected by the proposed prison?

- We aren't aware of any evidence that new prisons lead to a change in house prices.

I'm afraid of prisoners escaping. How likely is this?

- It's extremely unlikely that a prisoner will escape.
- The prison will be secure and it will hold lower-risk category C prisoners.
- Some prisoners may be allowed to leave on a temporary licence.
- Licences are strictly controlled, and the police are always made aware of any prisoner leaving the prison on licence.

Will you listen to what we say?

- Yes, we'll read all comments from you before we decide if we'll apply for planning permission or not.
- If we do apply for planning permission, you can also send your comments to the council during the planning period.

The area has flooding and drainage problems. How will you deal with these problems?

- We've looked at the drainage and flooding problems and we've come up with plans to deal with these.
- We'll also do a full flood risk assessment. This will make sure we identify all flood risk problems. The flood risk assessment will provide important information about flood levels. We'll use it in our planning and design to reduce the risk of flooding.
- We'll also get important information from local landowners who can share their knowledge about past problems with streams and so on near to the prison site. We'll also use this information to help plan the drainage.

Frequently Asked Questions

I'm worried about how the prison will affect our local services. How will you stop this?

- The NHS arranges most healthcare inside prisons for people in prison, except for emergency care, ambulance services and out-of-hours services.
- The NHS will provide prison healthcare services such as GP and hospital services. They will also provide substance misuse and mental health services, and also dental health and eye health services.
- The NHS works closely with us and many other organisations to make sure our prisons have all the healthcare services they need, including mental health services, substance abuse and social care services.
- We work closely with police and the fire service to ensure local services are not impacted.



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