



Ministry  
of Justice

# Costs per place and costs per prisoner by individual prison

HM Prison & Probation Service  
Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25  
Management Information Addendum

Ministry of Justice  
Information Release

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### Definitions of Prison Functions and Key Terms used in the Tables

Functions	Definitions
Male category B Male category C & YOI Trainer and Resettlement Female closed	Closed training prisons provide a range of facilities for Category B and Category C adult male prisoners and closed condition adult females who are serving medium to long-term sentences. Prisoners tend to be employed in a variety of activities such as prison workshops, gardens and education and in offending behaviour programmes. It also includes Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) holding Young Adults (18 to 21 years old). May also include some young people (aged 15 to 17) who are held separately from adults within the establishment.
Male dispersal	These prisons hold the most difficult and dangerous prisoners in England and Wales including those assessed as Category A. They serve to spread the Category A population, ensuring that the most dangerous prisoners are not concentrated in a single establishment, thereby reducing the risks involved in holding them.
Female local Male reception	Local prisons serve the courts and receive remand and post conviction prisoners, prior to their allocation to other establishments.
Female open Male open	Open prisons house Category D adult male prisoners and Open condition adult females whose risk of absconding is considered to be low, or who are of little risk to the public because of the nature of their offence. Open prisons also house long-term prisoners who are coming towards the end of their sentence and who have gradually worked their way down the categories. Open prisons are part of the resettlement programme to reintegrate prisoners back into society. Whilst Open prisons may have some workshop facilities, some of the prisoners will work in the community, returning to the prison in the evening.
Male YOI young people (ages 15-17)	Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) holding Young People (15 to 17 years old).

Terms	Definitions
Cost per Place	Cost per place is the average cost of providing a prison place for the year. It is the Direct resource expenditure or Overall resource expenditure divided by Baseline Certified Normal Accommodation.
Cost per Prisoner	Cost per prisoner is the average cost of holding one prisoner for the year. It is the Direct resource expenditure or Overall resource expenditure divided by the average prison population
Certified Normal Accommodation	Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA), or uncrowded capacity, is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation. CNA represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that the Service aspires to provide all prisoners.
Baseline Certified Normal Accommodation	Baseline CNA is the sum total of all certified accommodation in an establishment except, normally: cells in punishment or segregation units; healthcare cells or rooms in training prisons and YOIs that are not routinely used to accommodate long stay patients. It is not reduced for places not available for immediate use, for example damaged cells or cells affected by building works.
Average Population	The prison population average is the (mean) average of the 12-month end prison populations for the year.
Direct Resource Expenditure	Direct Resource Expenditure is net expenditure managed and recorded at each prison.
Overall Resource Expenditure	Overall Resource Expenditure also includes net expenditure met at regional or national level and recorded in the Annual accounts of HM Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS)
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	Prisons that are designed, constructed, managed and financed by the private sector.
Manage & Maintain Prisons	Prisons that are leased to a private sector operator who contracts directly to run the prison and maintain the buildings.
Contracted (Private Sector) Prisons	Prisons that are operated by a private sector contractor.
Public Sector Prisons	Prisons that are operated by the public sector (HMPS).

**Table 2a: Summary Comparison of 2024-25 with 2023-24**

	Certified Normal Accommodation	Average Population	Direct Resource Expenditure	Cost per Place	Cost per Prisoner	Overall Resource Expenditure	Cost per Place	Cost per Prisoner
<b>2024-25 Totals</b>	<b>83,460</b>	<b>87,009</b>	<b>£3,292,840,592</b>	<b>£39,454</b>	<b>£37,845</b>	<b>£4,926,302,564</b>	<b>£59,026</b>	<b>£56,618</b>
<b>Comparison with 2023-24<sup>1</sup></b>								
<b>2023-24 Totals (Published April 2025)</b>	<b>82,258</b>	<b>87,129</b>	<b>£3,054,089,481</b>	<b>£37,128</b>	<b>£35,053</b>	<b>£4,687,647,357</b>	<b>£56,987</b>	<b>£53,801</b>
Change (in nominal terms)	1,202	-120	£238,751,111	£2,326	£2,792	£238,655,207	£2,039	£2,817
				6.3%	8.0%		3.6%	5.2%
<b>Restated 2023-24 expenditure<sup>2</sup></b> (adjusted by GDP deflator <sup>2</sup> to give real terms change)			<b>£3,177,050,881</b>	<b>£38,623</b>	<b>£36,464</b>	<b>£4,876,377,807</b>	<b>£59,282</b>	<b>£55,967</b>
Change (in real terms) <sup>2</sup>	1,202	-120	£115,789,711	£831	£1,381	£49,924,757	-£256	£651
<b>Real terms percentage increase / (reduction) in 2024-25</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

Source: Ministry of Justice

The purpose of this table is to show the real movement in unit costs between 2023-24 and 2024-25 after allowing for the effects of changes in accounting treatment and inflation.

**Notes to Table 2a:**

1. The table provides a comparison between the 2024-25 and 2023-24 figures in nominal terms.
2. It then gives an adjustment by the GDP deflator, using figures published by the Office for National Statistics on 22 December 2025 (by a factor of 4%), to give changes in real terms between the two years

Averages and Expenditure figures have been rounded to the nearest integer. Totals were formed from unrounded figures and therefore may not equal the sum of the rounded parts.

**Table 2b: Comparison of 2024-25 with 2023-24 between Public Sector and Contracted Prisons**

	Certified Normal Accommodation	Average Population	Direct Resource Expenditure	Cost per Place	Cost per Prisoner	Overall Resource Expenditure	Cost per Place	Cost per Prisoner
<b>Public Sector Prisons</b>								
<b>2024-25 Totals</b>	<b>68,300</b>	<b>69,521</b>	<b>£2,687,859,874</b>	<b>£39,354</b>	<b>£38,663</b>	<b>£4,172,495,330</b>	<b>£61,090</b>	<b>£60,018</b>
<b>2023-24 Totals</b>	<b>66,786</b>	<b>69,599</b>	<b>£2,447,468,142</b>	<b>£36,647</b>	<b>£35,165</b>	<b>£3,924,729,358</b>	<b>£58,766</b>	<b>£56,391</b>
Change (in nominal terms)	1,514	-78	£240,391,732	£2,707	£3,498	£247,765,972	£2,324	£3,627
	2.3%	-0.1%	9.8%	7.4%	9.9%	6.3%	4.0%	6.4%
<b>Restated 2023-24 expenditure<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>£2,546,006,221</b>	<b>£38,122</b>	<b>£36,581</b>	<b>£4,082,743,791</b>	<b>£61,132</b>	<b>£58,661</b>
Change (in real terms)	2.3%	-0.1%	£141,853,653	£1,232	£2,082	£89,751,539	-£42	£1,357
			5.6%	3.2%	5.7%	2.2%	-0.1%	2.3%

<b>Contracted Prisons (PFI)</b>								
<b>2024-25 Totals</b>	<b>5,287</b>	<b>6,233</b>	<b>£295,989,304</b>	<b>£55,979</b>	<b>£47,484</b>	<b>£341,221,566</b>	<b>£64,534</b>	<b>£54,740</b>
<b>2023-24 Totals</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>6,640</b>	<b>£311,749,567</b>	<b>£54,741</b>	<b>£46,951</b>	<b>£360,397,893</b>	<b>£63,283</b>	<b>£54,277</b>
<i>Change (in nominal terms)</i>	-408	-407	<b>-£15,760,263</b>	<b>£1,238</b>	<b>£533</b>	<b>-£19,176,327</b>	<b>£1,251</b>	<b>£463</b>
	-7.2%	-6.1%	-5.1%	2.3%	1.1%	-5.3%	2.0%	0.9%
<b>Restated 2023-24 expenditure<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>£324,300,988</b>	<b>£56,945</b>	<b>£48,841</b>	<b>£374,907,956</b>	<b>£65,831</b>	<b>£56,462</b>
<i>Change (in real terms)</i>	-7.2%	-6.1%	-£28,311,684	-£966	-£1,357	-£33,686,390	-£1,297	-£1,722
			-8.7%	-1.7%	-2.8%	-9.0%	-2.0%	-3.0%

<b>Contracted Prisons (Manage &amp; Maintain)</b>								
<b>2024-25 Totals</b>	<b>9,872</b>	<b>11,255</b>	<b>£308,991,414</b>	<b>£31,300</b>	<b>£27,454</b>	<b>£412,585,668</b>	<b>£41,794</b>	<b>£36,658</b>
<b>2023-24 Totals</b>	<b>9,777</b>	<b>10,890</b>	<b>£294,871,773</b>	<b>£30,158</b>	<b>£27,078</b>	<b>£402,520,107</b>	<b>£41,168</b>	<b>£36,963</b>
<i>Change (in nominal terms)</i>	95	365	<b>£14,119,641</b>	<b>£1,142</b>	<b>£376</b>	<b>£10,065,561</b>	<b>£626</b>	<b>-£305</b>
	1.0%	3.4%	4.8%	3.8%	1.4%	2.5%	1.5%	-0.8%
<b>Restated 2023-24 expenditure<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>£306,743,673</b>	<b>£31,374</b>	<b>£28,167</b>	<b>£418,726,062</b>	<b>£42,828</b>	<b>£38,451</b>
<i>Change (in real terms)</i>	1.0%	3.4%	£2,247,741	-£74	-£713	-£6,140,394	-£1,034	-£1,793
			0.7%	-0.2%	-2.5%	-1.5%	-2.4%	-4.7%

<b>Total (as per Table 2a)</b>								
<b>2024-25 Totals</b>	<b>83,460</b>	<b>87,009</b>	<b>£3,292,840,592</b>	<b>£39,454</b>	<b>£37,845</b>	<b>£4,926,302,564</b>	<b>£59,026</b>	<b>£56,618</b>
<b>2023-24 Totals</b>	<b>82,258</b>	<b>87,129</b>	<b>£3,054,089,481</b>	<b>£37,128</b>	<b>£35,053</b>	<b>£4,687,647,357</b>	<b>£56,987</b>	<b>£53,801</b>
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	1.5%	-0.1%	7.8%	6.3%	8.0%	5.1%	3.6%	5.2%
<b>Restated 2023-24 expenditure<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>£3,177,050,881</b>	<b>£38,623</b>	<b>£36,464</b>	<b>£4,876,377,807</b>	<b>£59,282</b>	<b>£55,967</b>
<i>Change (in real terms)</i>	1.5%	-0.1%	£115,789,711	£831	£1,381	£49,924,757	-£256	£651
			3.6%	2.2%	3.8%	1.0%	-0.4%	1.2%

#### Notes to Table 2b:

- The table provides a breakdown of the changes in nominal terms over the two years between Public Sector and Contracted Prisons, including accounting adjustments in Public Sector and Contracted Prisons. It also gives an adjustment by the GDP deflator to give changes in real terms between the two years, using figures published by the Office for National Statistics on 22 December 2025
- The unit costs of public and private prisons are not directly comparable because of different methods of accounting and of scope (e.g. PFI prisons include interest charges).
- The mix of prisons is different in 2024-25 when compared to 2023-24, as Lowdham Grange transitioned under HMPPS leadership as a Public Sector Prison during the year (from Manage & Maintain). In 2024-25, HMP Ashfield operated under a management-only (Manage and Maintain) model, following the expiry of its historic PFI arrangements.

Averages and Expenditure figures have been rounded to the nearest integer. Totals were formed from unrounded figures and therefore may not equal the sum of the rounded parts.

## Explanatory notes

Data in this report are drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the level of detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

## Contact points for further information

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 0203 334 3555

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Financial Management & Control  
Ministry of Justice  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 10 South Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
London, E14 4PU

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from <http://statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system>