



Ministry  
of Justice

## Justice Data Lab analysis: Reoffending behaviour after support from City & Guilds (3<sup>rd</sup> analysis)

This document outlines a description of the intervention in the provider's own words and a response to the April 2026 evaluation of their intervention.

This wording is from the provider and does not reflect the views of the Justice Data Lab.

## City & Guilds in their own words

“City & Guilds collaborates with over 120 prisons across England and Wales, equipping more than 60,000 learners in the adult and youth prison estates with the knowledge and skills they need to secure employment and realise their potential. This is one area where the organisation has significant impact on people, employers and wider society, by providing training opportunities that lead to highly desirable and much-needed skills.

In England, City & Guilds has been a provider of prison qualifications offering a range of services including quality training, recognition programmes, employer partnerships and the use of new technology. All of these are designed to help prisoners build their confidence, develop employability skills and prepare for successful reintegration into the workforce.

In December 2019, the City & Guilds Foundation launched the Future Skills Commission for Prisons, alongside a £1 million Big Idea Fund. The Fund works with UK charities, prison governors and local innovators to deliver new approaches to developing skills both in and after prison. Independent Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis found that the social value of the Big Idea Fund (to date, with £584,500 invested) is at least £10 million over three years. This value reflects the economic and social benefits of improved skills and qualifications, sustained employment and reduced reoffending, as well as savings to the public purse. The analysis shows that for every £1 invested in the programme, £18.62 of social value is generated.”

## Response from City and Guilds

“We are grateful to the team at Justice Data lab for sharing this detailed data set, which contributes to valuable insights into the positive impact of qualifications. At City & Guilds we have always believed in the power of skills to transform lives, and this report includes results showing positive outcomes for offenders who have taken our qualifications when compared with those who have not.

In particular we are pleased to note results showing that women who participated in the City & Guilds programme in prison were less likely to reoffend than those who did not take part. While the individual numbers may be modest, these outcomes demonstrate that gaining skills and qualifications can have a real and lasting positive impact on both individuals and society, with research showing that learning in custody supports progression into work, which is consistently linked to reduced rates of reoffending.

Furthermore, these outcomes support the government’s ambitions for reducing the female prison population and integrating these individuals into the community post-release, while our commitment to skills provision and wider support services that help individuals to become confident and work-ready is aligned with government’s commitment to tackling the root causes of offending.”

## Further information

### Official Statistics

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).

OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards.

Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing [regulation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:regulation@statistics.gov.uk) or via the OSR website.

### Contact

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/media-enquiries>

Other enquiries about the analysis should be directed to:

#### **Justice Data Lab team**

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