

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

What does the state of our prisons say about the British penal system?

SOME FACTS ABOUT BRITISH PRISONS

84,305

Between June 1993 and June 2012 the prison population in England and Wales increased by 41,800 prisoners to over 86,000. In May 2014 it hit 84,305.

£36,808

The average annual overall cost of a prison place in England and Wales for 2012-13 was £36,808. This has fallen since 2008-09 from £45,000.

4.8

The ratio of prison officers to prisoners in 2000 was 1:2.9. By the end of September 2013 this had increased to 4.8 prisoners for each prison officer.



200,000

Around 200,000 children in England and Wales had a parent in prison at some point in 2009 - more than double the number of children affected in the same year by divorce in the family.

17 YEARS

The average time spent in custody for people serving mandatory life sentences for murder increased from 13 years in 2001 to 17 years in 2013.

46%

of adults are reconvicted within one year of release.

215 DEATHS

In 2013 there were 215 deaths in custody, the highest number on record.

Source: Bromley briefings Summer 2014, Prison Reform Trust

WORMWOOD SCRUBS

MELTDOWN

After a recent report* The Howard League for Penal Reform made the following comments:

• There were five suicides at the prison in 2013 alone.

• Almost half of prisoners surveyed said they had felt unsafe at some point in the prison.

• Many windows were broken with some exposed shards, graffiti was widespread and many toilets were filthy.

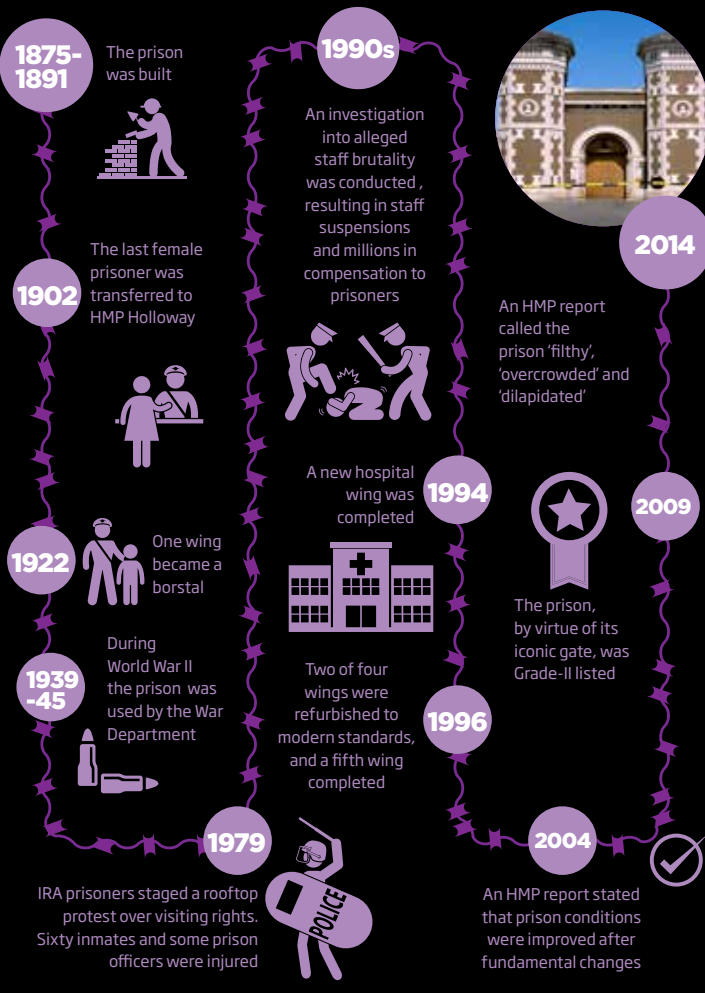
• Victimization by staff was reported by more than 1/3 of inmates.

• The number of prison officers in the Scrubs was cut from 310 at the end of August 2010 to 200 by the end of June 2014.

• Many prisoners had only two hours out of their cells a day.

• Only one in ten prisoners said they had been helped to prepare for release.

TIMELINE



FAMOUS FORMER INMATES

1. George Blake

The former British spy and double agent was discovered in 1961 and sentenced to 42 years in prison. He escaped from the prison in 1966 to flee to the USSR.

2. Pete Doherty

The pop star was jailed in April 2008 for 14 weeks for breaching a probation order after a string of drugs and driving offences.

3. Keith Richards

In 1967 the Rolling Stones legend was sentenced to a year in prison for drug offences. He only spent one night in jail before being released on bail.

4. John Stonehouse

After faking his own death in 1974 to avoid recriminations over financial irregularities, in 1976 the Labour Minister was sentenced to seven years for fraud.

5. Charlie Croker

Whether master criminal or over-ambitious small-time crook, Michael Caine's cockney character spends a spell in the Scrubs in the iconic Sixties film, *The Italian Job*.



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