



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

HM Prison Service is failing - A new approach is urgently needed.

A report by the tax payers alliance <http://www.taxpayersalliance.com>

The full TPA report is available at ...

http://tpa.typepad.com/home/files/the_failure_of_the_prison_service_in_the_uk.pdf

The objective of the Prison Service

* The **objective** should be to protect the public by helping offenders to lead useful and law abiding lives in prison and on release, while keeping them secure in humane conditions.

The performance of Politicians in managing the Prison Service

* The reconviction rates of ex-prisoners within two years of release (one year reconviction rate and 2000 compared with 2005 for juvenile males) are

	1995	2005	change
- juvenile males aged 10 – 17	79%	78%	-1%
- young men aged 18 – 21	73%	75%	+3%
- all adults	58%	65%	12%

Judged against this **objective**, the Prison Service as part of the Criminal Justice System is a horrendous failure.

No company would stay in business if it had such a catastrophic failure rate.

The prison system is managed by Politicians and interfered with by the following Quangos

- Boards of visitors to penal establishments
- Correctional services accreditation panel
- Independent monitoring boards of prisons and immigration centres
- Joint Prison and Probation accreditation panel
- Prison service pay review body.

The PPP comment ... We fully endorse the TPA's proposals for 5 year trials and ASAP. The huge increase in the prison population together with the rise in re-offending rates combines to put us all at risk from more experienced and hardened career criminals who are part time prisoners and part time criminals. We do not believe that prison can be a sufficient deterrent despite all the talk about overcrowding. We do not believe that all prisoners will respond to rehabilitation programs and a sophisticated selection process needs to be applied to identify those that will. Equally we believe that very dangerous people are routinely released to re-offend and perpetrate many of the worst crimes of violence.

Again techniques are available to identify these people. We also believe that the extremely lax benefits system encourages part time criminality such as theft, burglary and drug dealing.

We believe that Politicians MUST not attempt to manage such specialist areas of public services but must oversee only the APPOINTMENT of professionals and their performance against agreed criteria and targets. I.e. step back and stop dabbling.

The PPP state our considered opinion and highlight problems and potential solutions. We leave our members and supporters to carry out their own research via the links we provided, draw their own conclusions and influence the situation via every democratic process available to them.