

Prisons (Violence) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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TO

Establish a duty on Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service and private prison operators to minimise violence in prisons; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Duty to minimise violence in prisons

- (1) Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service must take all reasonable steps to minimise violence in prisons.
- (2) The Criminal Justice Act 1991 is amended as follows.
- (3) In section 85 (officers of contracted out prisons), after subsection (2) insert— 5
“(2A) The director must take all reasonable steps to minimise violence in the prison.”

2 Key performance indicators and associated sanctions

- (1) The Secretary of State must use the power under section 47 of the Prison Act 1952 (rules for the management of prisons) to make provision— 10
 - (a) for key performance indicators (KPIs) for prisons related to the duties in section 1;
 - (b) about the collection and reporting of data in connection with those KPIs;
 - (c) for target levels of performance against those KPIs. 15
- (2) The KPIs under subsection (1)(a) must include metrics relating to—
 - (a) the safety of prison staff from violence,
 - (b) the safety of prisoners from violence,
 - (c) the adequacy of levels of staffing for minimising violence,
 - (d) the adequacy of levels of staff retention for minimising violence, and 20
 - (e) the adequacy of staff experience levels for minimising violence.
- (3) The Secretary of State may use the power under section 47 of the Prison Act 1952 to make provision for penalties for the failure of prisons to meet performance targets under subsection (1)(c).

- (4) Any financial penalties collected under subsection (3) must be used towards—
 - (a) additional funding for aid therapies, treatments and rehabilitation for prison staff assaulted at work, or
 - (b) targeted pay awards to encourage staff retention at failing prisons.

3 Safe Inside Prisons charter

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Any person undertaking duties under this Act must have regard to the Safe Inside Prisons charter published by the Joint Unions in Prisons Alliance in 2021 insofar as it relates to reducing violence in prisons by promoting safe systems of work.

4 Extent, commencement and short title

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- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Prisons (Violence) Act 2022.

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*Presented by Grahame Morris
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