

Reconfiguration

We are reconfiguring the adult male prison estate to improve the match between the supply of places and the demands of the population. Reconfiguration underpins the Offender Management in Custody Model, ensuring men can be moved to the right establishments at the right time in their custodial journey and their rehabilitation can be managed more effectively.

Prison Functions

By the end of 2020/21 we will have simplified the adult male prison estate into three main functions:

- **Reception** will be the starting point for every individual's journey. People will be received into the prison system either on remand, following sentencing or upon recall to custody.

Reception prisons will specialise in supporting courts and allocating sentenced individuals promptly.



- **Training** will focus on settling people into the prison environment and identifying and addressing offending behaviours and needs.



- **Resettlement** will focus on preparing individuals for release through maintaining or improving family and community ties and providing access to local services.

We have increased the amount of time men will spend in resettlement prisons to give them more time to prepare successfully for life and work in the community, with support from their key worker and/or prison and community offender managers.



How will reconfiguration be achieved?

Reconfiguration is working with governors and directors, other departments in HMPPS and external partners to ensure these changes are made with minimal disruption to establishments and at a time that is agreed with them.

For most prisons this will not be a big change; it will simply mean:

- a reduction in the cohorts (groupings) of men they hold;
- a clearer function;
- being able to focus on providing a safe, decent and rehabilitative regime; and
- adoption of a new national allocation protocol to flow men through the estate in line with the new cohort rules and prevent men getting stuck in the system.

By 2021 each prison will have a main function and:

- most will also have a secondary function;
- all reception prisons will have a resettlement function; and
- a small number of prisons (due to their geographical location) will have all three functions.



Video Conference Centres

To support the changes made through reconfiguration, video capability is being expanded through the installation of video conferencing centres (VCC) in reception prisons.

By combining the latest technology with a purpose designed environment and changes to how video link bookings are managed, the VCC will enable prisons to maintain a high-quality service for the courts, prisoners and other stakeholders.

The new VCCs will:

- enable increased use of video links to deliver reconfiguration and serve the court needs;
- cater for the forecast demand for all uses of video links within a prison;
- replicate a court environment within the VCC, while maintaining the design standards appropriate for a custodial environment;
- support the adoption of new Models for Operational Delivery that ensure best use of resources;
- make use of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Video Service and be compatible with video across HM Courts and Tribunals Service and wider MoJ stakeholders.

Overall, the changes in capability and process will increase the number of court hearings conducted by video, reducing the volume of transfers from prison to court.

Benefits of VCCs

Using a VCC is more effective than transporting people between prison and court. They provide considerable efficiencies in terms of travelling and booking people in and out of prison.

VCCs improve the flexibility and service offered to the courts by enabling HMPPS to deal with urgent changes that arise as part of a busy and changeable court timetable. The VCCs are improving the confidence of the judiciary to use video through improved sound management, better trained staff and development of materials to help individuals through the process. They also support victims by reducing the need to come face-to-face with defendants.



VCCs improve outcomes in decency by reducing long journeys and waiting times by removing the time required to undergo searches and reducing disruption of the individual's day so they can remain in work and access a full regime. VCCs can also be used for legal conferences and probation report preparation.

If you have any comments or queries on anything in this leaflet, please contact

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