



Ministry
of Justice

Prison Safety Programme

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HM Prison & Probation Service

Protecting and advancing the principles of justice

Analysis

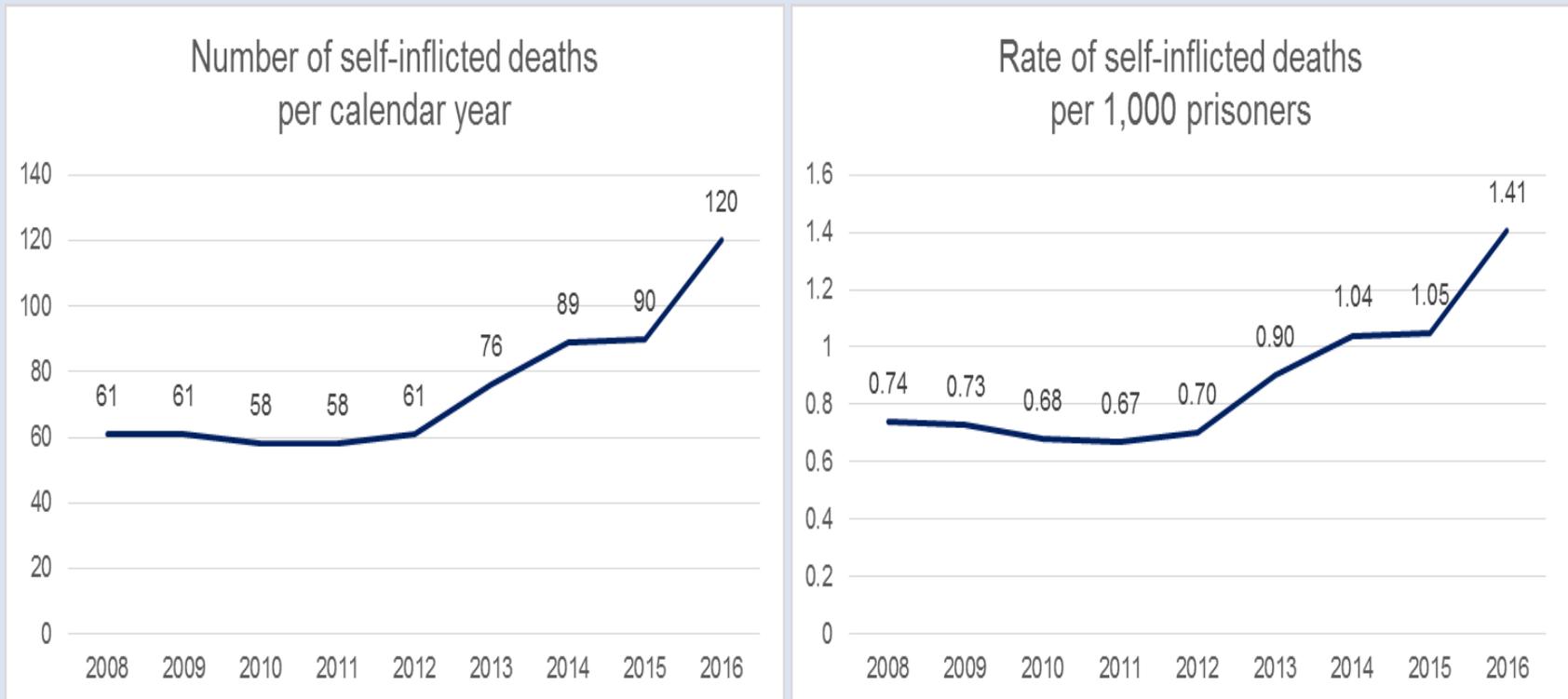
- Volumes and rates of self-inflicted deaths, self-harm incidents and assaults have all increased significantly since 2012.
- This trend is consistent across both the male and female estate, but the most significant increases have taken place in male local prisons.
- The drivers for the increase in violence, self-harm and self-inflicted deaths in prisons since 2012 is complex but we have good evidence of three key factors:
 - i. The significant increase in the prevalence of **psychoactive substances** is associated with increased violence: fuelling debt and bullying as well as making prisoner behaviour unpredictable.
 - ii. **Reduction in staff numbers** has resulted in more restricted regimes, with prisoners locked in their cells for longer periods. It has also had a detrimental effect on staff-prisoners relationships.
 - iii. **Reduction in staff experience** affects staff-prisoners relationships and staff confidence.

The number and rate of self-inflicted deaths have increased since 2012

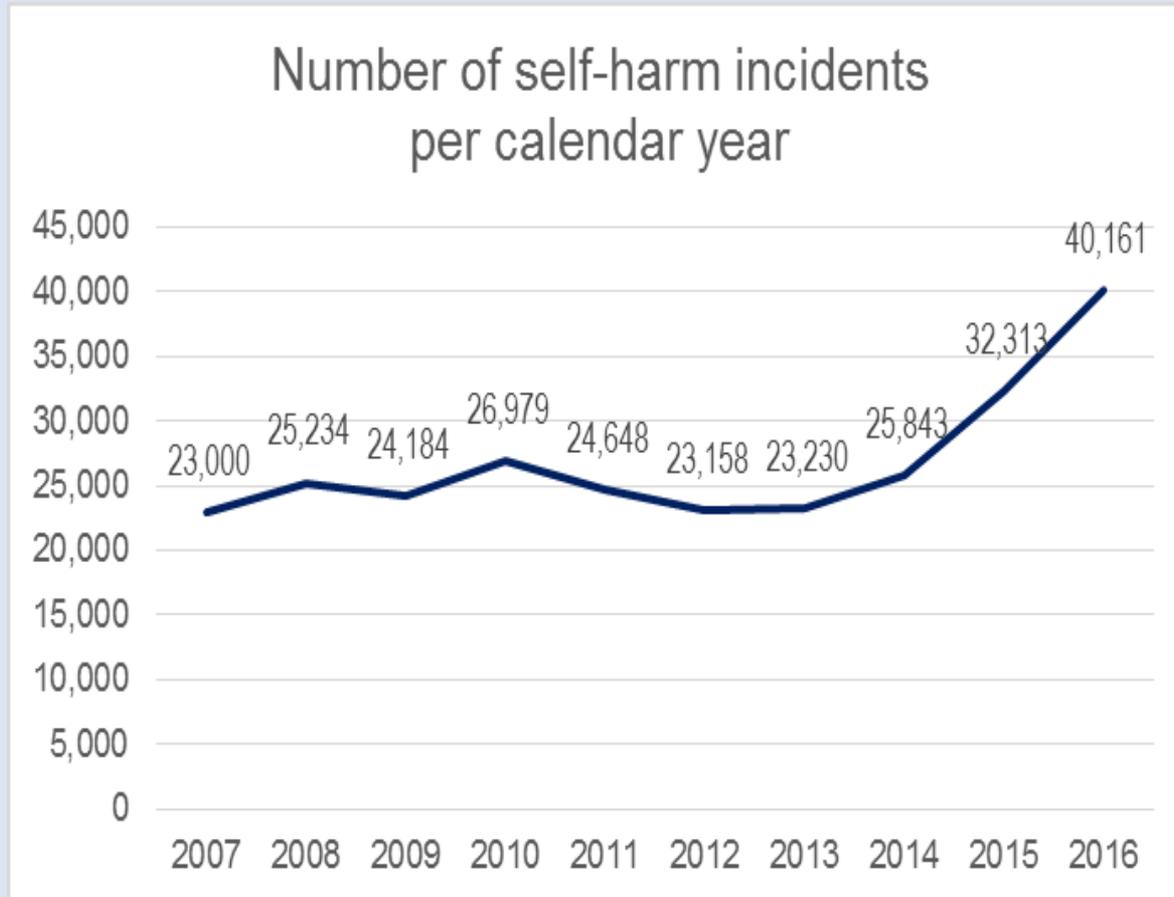
120 self-inflicted deaths to December 2016.

This compares to **61** in the 12 months to December 2012 (this is a 97% increase).

The great majority of deaths are by **hanging**.



The number of self-harm incidents have increased since 2013

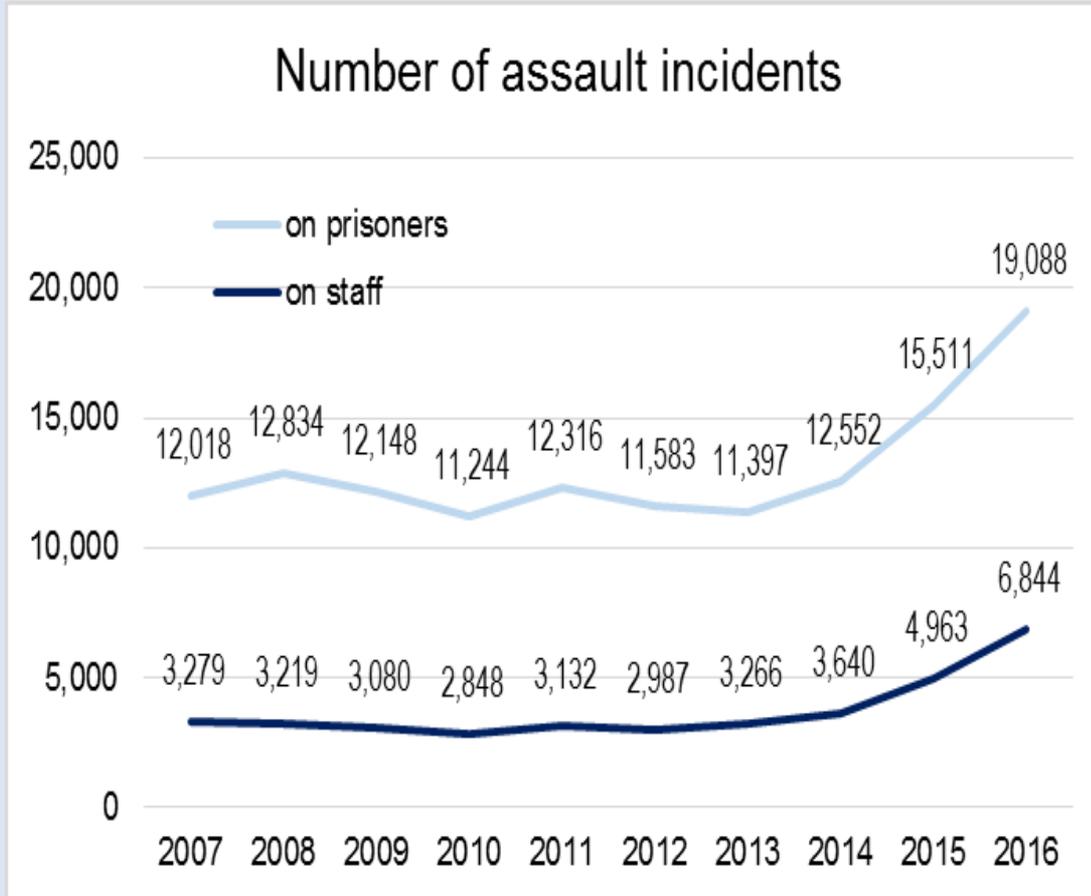


40,161 self-harm incidents to December 2016.

This compares to **23,158** incidents in the 12 months to December 2012 (a 73% increase).

Most incidents involve **cutting** or **scratching**.

The number of assaults have increased since 2012

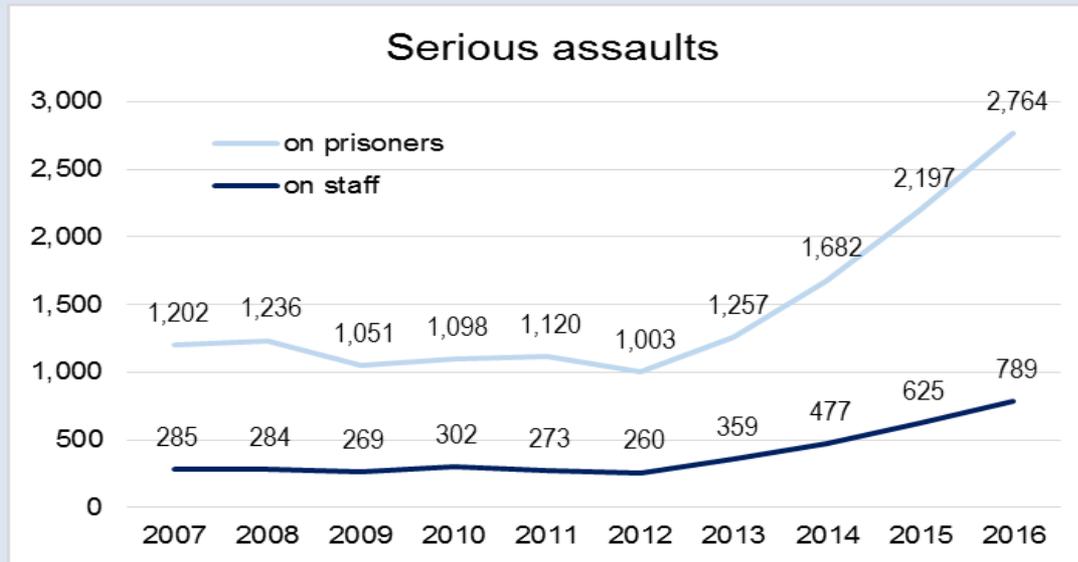


26,022 assaults to December 2016.

This compares to **14,511** incidents in the 12 months to December.

Of these, **19,088** were assaults on other prisoners (79% increase) and **6,844** were assaults on staff (129% increase).

The number of serious assaults have also increased since 2012



3,553 serious assaults to December 2016.

This compares to **1,263** incidents in the 12 months to December.

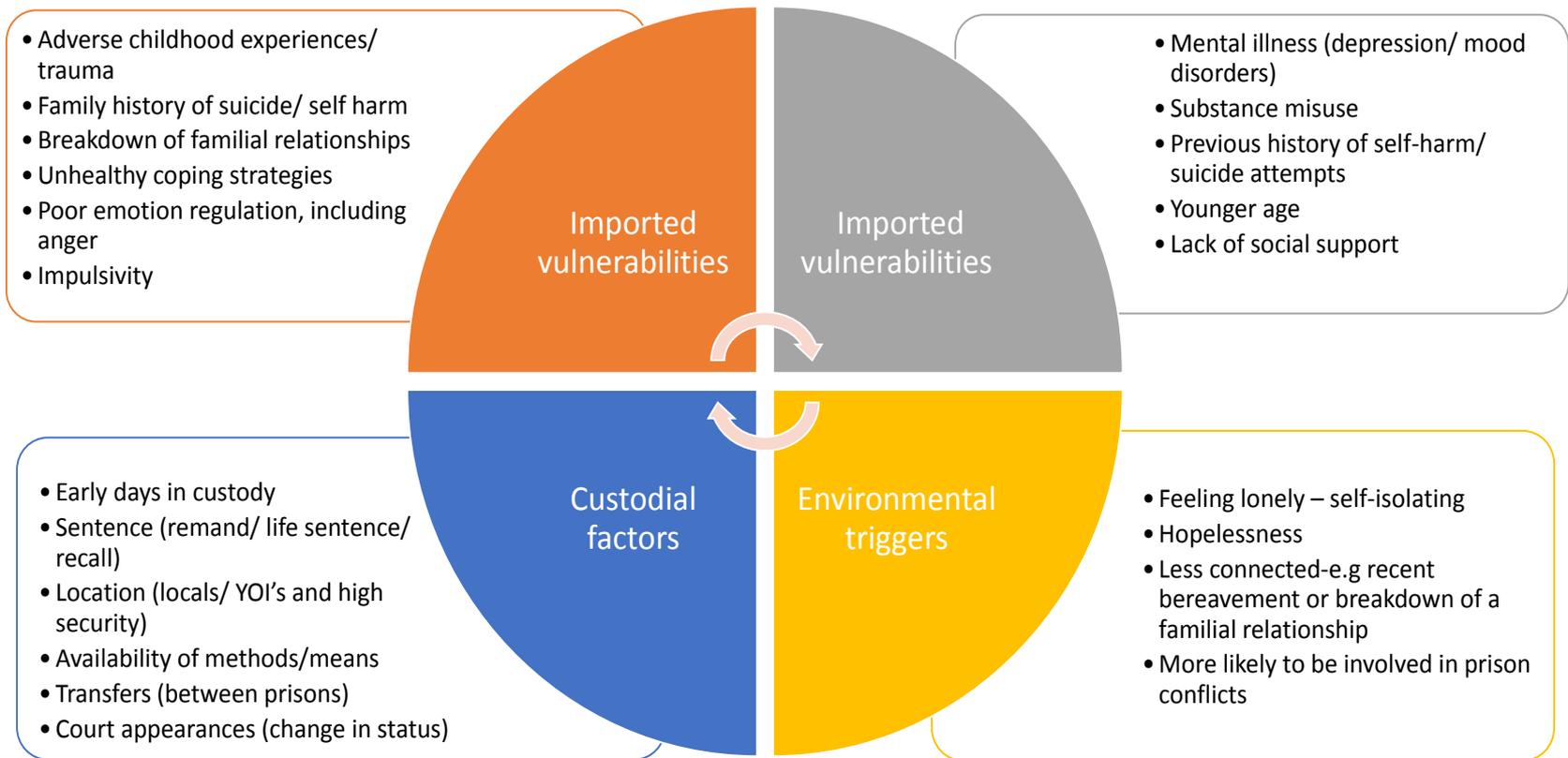
Of these, **2,764** were assaults on other prisoners (180% increase) and **789** were assaults on staff (203% increase).

Serious Assaults are those assaults that fall into the following categories:

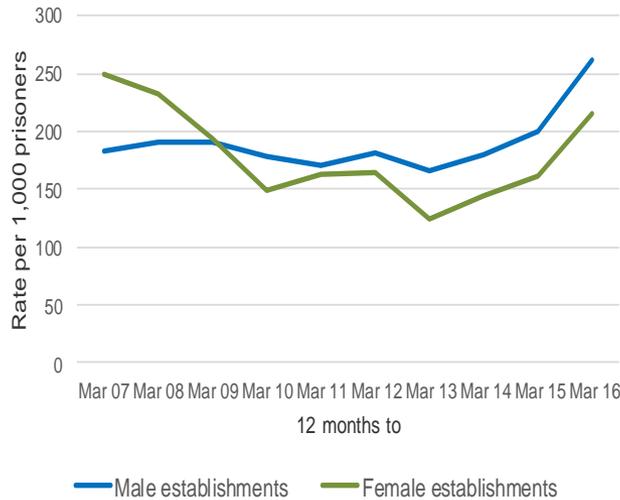
Sexual assault, requires detention in outside hospital as an in-patient; requires medical treatment for concussion or internal injuries; or incurs any of the following injuries: a fracture, scald or burn, stabbing, crushing, extensive or multiple bruising, black eye, broken nose, lost or broken tooth, cuts requiring suturing, bites, temporary or permanent blindness.

What do we know about Suicide and Self-Harm in Prisons?

Risk factors are broadly similar for suicide and self-harming behaviours. Whilst we know self-harm can be predictive of suicide, it is also important to separate the two behaviours. This can help to develop our understanding of prisoners in crisis and the underlying reasons.



What do we know about Violence in Prisons?



Drivers of prison violence



We know that violence is a significant problem in **both male and female** prisons, and we have a good understanding of what drives assaults/violence against others.

Context: Holistic approach to safety

Importance of **leadership from Governors**, emphasising, despite resource pressures and other operational difficulties, the importance of:

- ❑ Decency, respect and humanity;
- ❑ Procedural justice;
- ❑ Professional staff-prisoner relationships;
- ❑ Pro-social modelling and the challenging of anti-social behaviour;
- ❑ Constructive activity; and
- ❑ A rehabilitative culture.

Guiding principles of our strategy to improve prison safety

Based around 3 mutually reinforcing priorities:

- 1. Driving immediate operational improvements** – using data and reviews to target support to enhance capability and compliance.
- 2. Focused reforms to key policies and processes to drive system-wide impacts** where there are currently gaps or where there is not sufficiently joined-up working between partners.
- 3. Transform staffing levels, staff capability and our estate**, so that we can sustain and further build on improvements.



The first priority identifies further policy reforms required



Deliver reforms through the mechanisms put in place in the first and third priorities

Priority 1: Driving immediate operational improvements

- Making better use of **data** to target improvements in establishments, including providing violence and self-harm diagnostic tools and analytical support
- Implementing a rolling programme of new **operational assurance audits** by the Operational and System Assurance Group (OSAG) to improve safety
- Started to **bolster regional capability** to support and sustain improvements to safety at an establishment level (c. 40 FTEs)
- Establishing a **centrally co-ordinated flexible 'support network'** for establishments where improvements are most needed, to help address issues identified and improve capability
- Particular focus on **30 identified priority prisons**, 10 with significant issues around safety in general and 20 with the highest levels of violence.

Priority 2: Reforming key policies and processes (over next 6-12 months)

- New Safety programme has absorbed work of existing violence reduction project and suicide and self-harm project. It is currently undergoing handover and revision.
- Some emerging strategic priorities:
 - Risk identification and case management of violent prisoners and those at risk of violence
 - ACCT – improving consistency and effectiveness
 - Interventions
 - Staff leadership, culture and capability
 - Procedural justice, restorative justice, rehabilitative culture
 - Staff confidence and resilience

Prison Safety Reform: Programme Structure

The programme is structured around the three pillars of **prevention**, **intervention** and **education**, built on a foundation of **analysis**.

Prevention:
through
supportive
environments

Intervention:
through risk
identification,
management,
and incident
response

Education:
through
learning from
experience and
from each
other

Analysis and understanding: through learning from
and building on data, research and experience.



Prevention



- Early days and transitions (improving prisoner experience and risk identification)
- Information sharing
- Peer support (Andy's Man Club)
- Digital (in-cell telephony, access to digital information in-cell)
- Staff support (supervision and reflective practice, support after incidents)
- Local authority engagement (development of local prevention plans)



Intervention



- ACCT (revision of document and policy)
- Family Support
- Peer Support
- Initiatives (pilot and evaluation of initiatives)
- Digital content (self-help content and distraction materials)
- Women (initiatives tailored specifically to the needs of women)
- Built Environment (e.g. anti-ligature cells)
- Health Interventions (particularly with regards to access mental health provision)

Education

- Staff Training (roll-out of new training on Suicide and Self-Harm Awareness, ACCT Case Management, Five-Minute Intervention, Body-Worn Video Cameras, Mental Health Awareness and Family Liaison)
- Structured programme of communication (e.g. learning bulletins, nudges, joint guidance with partners – NHSE and AACE)
- Sharing of good practice
- Development of database for learning and training
- Learning days
- Samaritans conference

Analysis

- Ongoing analysis and learning from PPO reports and inquests
- Analysis to draw key themes and learning from HMIP inspection findings into Safety
- Analysis of Operational Assurance visit reports to pull out key themes and learning
- Enhanced use of Violence Diagnostic Tool (VDT)
- Development of Self-Harm Diagnostic Tool (SDT)
- Evaluation of initiatives

Partnerships

- Working closely with NHSE and PHE (e.g. members of NHSE Deaths in Custody Group)
- Ongoing work with Samaritans as well as funding some additional work (including a pilot of Emotional resilience training for prisoners and the development of an online suicide awareness tool for staff)
- Competition for grant funding (proof of concept initiatives to commence in August 2017)
- Linked to National Suicide Prevention Strategy and encouraging prisons to work more closely with local authorities
- Accountable to Ministerial Board and working closely with Independent Advisory Panel (e.g. recent working paper on deaths of women, and Inside Times campaign)

Priority 3: Transform staffing levels, staff capability and our estate (longer term)

- So far, we have secured an **additional £100 million** from the Treasury to recruit and additional **2,500 prison officers** by December 2018
- The additional staff will allow us to move to a new model of Offender Management
- The new model will introduce the **Key Worker role** (with associated training)
- **New prisons** (and closure of old prisons)
- **Transformation** of the prison estate including increased access to **digital technology** (such as in-cell telephony to boost access to family support and support from organisations such as Samaritans)



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Questions

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