

Prison Governors Association

Representing: The Prison Governors of the United Kingdom since 1987



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PRISON GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION (PGA) PRESS RELEASE

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HMPPS LATEST SAFETY IN CUSTODY STATISTICS

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The latest Safety in Custody Statistics, England and Wales, were published on .GOV.uk today [Safety in custody: quarterly update to September 2024 - GOV.UK](#) and tell an increasingly worrying story of the worsening state of our prisons.

This latest data release which covers the period since the new Government took charge reveals that:

- in the 12 months to September 2024, the rate of assaults on staff was 120 assaults per 1,000 prisoners (10,496 assaults on staff), up 19% from the 12 months to September 2023 to a new peak. The rate of serious assaults was up 13% from the previous 12 months.
- In the 12 months to September 2024, the rate of self-harm was 891 incidents per 1,000 prisoners (77,869 incidents), up 11% from the 12 months to September 2023 to a new peak, comprising of a 14% increase in male establishments to a new peak, but a 2% decrease in female establishments.
- In the 12 months to December 2024, there were 342 deaths in prison custody, an increase of 10% from 311 deaths in the previous 12 months.

Tom Wheatley, President of the Prison Governors Association, said, "These figures are truly disturbing, but not surprising to those working and living in our prisons. The prison system remains under acute pressure with insufficient funding to deal with failing infrastructure and an inexperienced workforce in many of our prisons who often choose not to stay long enough to gain experience, due to the violence and despair that surrounds them on a daily basis. Government needs to take action and do so now, because even with sufficient resource and improved staff retention it's going to be very difficult to turn this around".

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Note for editors:

The Prison Governors Association was founded in October 1987 to represent the higher operational managers in the Prison Service in England and Wales. The PGA was placed on the register of Trade Unions on 6 November 1987 (No. 639T). On 28 July 1988 the Certification Officer under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 issued the Prison Governors Association with a Certificate of Independence. The status of the Prison Governors Association is that of an independent registered Trade Union.

For more information contact the PGA at pga@justice.gov.uk or telephone James Bryant, PGA Office Manager, on 07846 021597 who can take requests for interviews.

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