



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Society' Series

Insights into Her Majesty's Prison and
Probation Service

Expert Insight

We were delighted to host Jo Farrar, Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service for a WIG webinar to share some insights into her team's key challenges and priorities through 2020 and beyond.

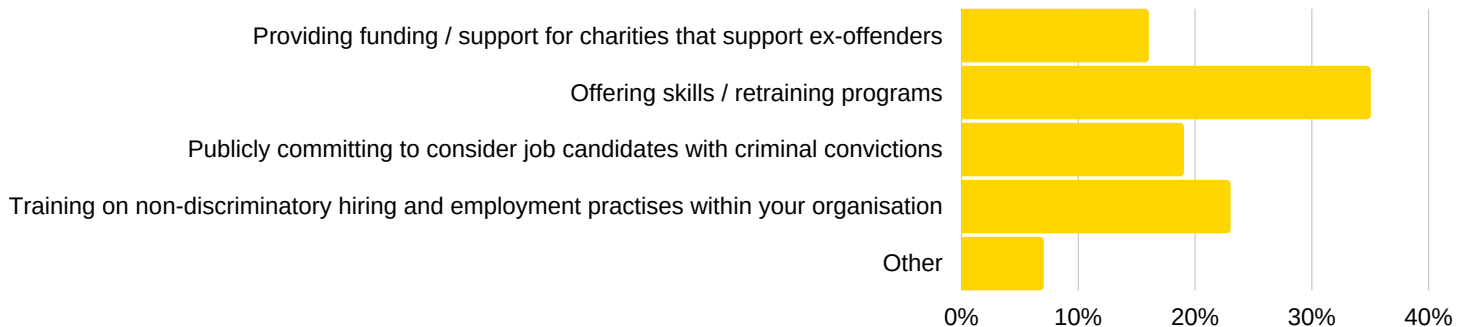
Jo touched upon points including:

- Despite a number of challenges around prison estate management, capacity, security and drug use, both rates of assault and the number of deaths in custody have fallen, after several years of consistent increases.
- Prison communities have been particularly high risk in the COVID-19 pandemic, with closed settings holding many vulnerable people. HMPPS avoided a worst-case scenario by quickly adapting delivery models, bolstering front-line staffing, and implementing a compartmentalisation strategy.
- While acknowledging that progress towards recovery and a 'new normal' will be incremental, HMPSS is keen to build back better and continue to work more closely with partners especially those in the healthcare sector.



Cross-sector Opinion

Over 90 attendees from the breadth of our cross-sector membership listened in, we asked them: as leaders, what do you think you could all do to help give ex-offenders another chance?



Other suggestions included: linking with other agencies to ensure service users are supported and enabled to find work and accommodation, and employing ex-offenders in either service-user advocate roles, or as workshop leaders/educators in prisons.

Our members' questions

Our members raised some challenging questions to be answered, some of the big issues raised included:

- How the private sector can work more effectively with HMPPS, to address the barriers prison leavers face when trying to find and hold down a job
- Expanding or improving the role universities play in providing opportunities for learning and rehabilitation
- Investment in digital capabilities in prisons; building on the rapid deployment of technologies such as video calls within prisons in response to the COVID-19

WIG members can listen to Jo's presentation [here](#)
To see our full programme of webinars, visit www.wig.co.uk