

Careers Education

JOB
OF THE WEEK

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

JOB

OF THE WEEK

Our Job of the week this week is
Prison Officer



Job of the Week – Prison Officer

WHAT YOU DO

In this role you could:

- keep inmates secure
- carry out security checks and searches
- supervise prisoners and maintain order - this can involve authorised physical control and restraint
- support vulnerable prisoners
- promote anti-bullying and suicide prevention policies
- go with prisoners on external visits like court appearances or hospital appointments
- prepare inmates for release through rehabilitation programmes
- update records and write reports on prisoners



SKILLS REQUIRED

You will need:

- knowledge of public safety and security
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- to be flexible and open to change
- leadership skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- Legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations
- to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

WHAT YOU WEAR

You will wear a uniform provided by the prison service. This could be full 'black and white' uniform or something more relaxed depending on your duties



WORKING CONDITIONS

You will work in a prison.

Your working environment may be physically and emotionally demanding and if you move in to specialist areas it could involve travel and staying away from home.

WORKING HOURS

37-41

Including evenings, weekends, bank holidays and shifts

ANNUAL LEAVE

25 days holiday plus 9 bank holidays

Rising to 30 after 10 years service



ANNUAL INCOME

£22,000—£38,000



EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

To pursue this career you can take one of these routes:

Apprenticeship

You could complete an advanced apprenticeship as a custody and detention officer.

To do this apprenticeship, you'll need GCSEs grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, in English and maths

Direct Application

You do not need qualifications to apply directly to be a prison officer. Personal qualities are more important.

You'll need to take an online test to check your judgement and your number skills. If you pass, you'll attend an assessment day where you'll take another number test and reading and writing test. You'll take part in role plays to see if you have the right personal qualities for the job. Take fitness tests and undergo a medical and eyesight test. Finally, you will be interviewed

Career path and progression

With experience and training you could move into specialist projects, like rehabilitation work with specific groups of prisoners and their families and training roles. You could become a supervising officer, custodial manager, head of function, deputy governor or governor.



Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Prison service officers (below principal officer)	Probation officers	Senior officers in fire, ambulance, prison and related services												
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Weekly Pay £570</td> <td>Annual Pay £29,640</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hours/Week 39h</td> <td>Hourly Pay £15</td> </tr> </table>	Weekly Pay £570	Annual Pay £29,640	Hours/Week 39h	Hourly Pay £15	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Weekly Pay £580</td> <td>Annual Pay £30,160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hours/Week 34h</td> <td>Hourly Pay £17</td> </tr> </table>	Weekly Pay £580	Annual Pay £30,160	Hours/Week 34h	Hourly Pay £17	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Weekly Pay £850</td> <td>Annual Pay £44,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hours/Week 40h</td> <td>Hourly Pay £21</td> </tr> </table>	Weekly Pay £850	Annual Pay £44,200	Hours/Week 40h	Hourly Pay £21
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<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public admin. & defence Employment activities Auxiliary services Health 	<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social work Public admin. & defence 	<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public admin. & defence Warehousing, etc Health 												
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Prison service officers (below principal officer)	Probation officers	Senior officers in fire, ambulance, prison and related services
<p>Prison service officers (below Principal Officer) direct, co-ordinate and participate in guarding inmates and maintaining discipline in prisons and other detention centres.</p>	<p>Probation officers work to rehabilitate offenders. They supervise, counsel and help them before trial, during any prison or community sentence and on release from prison.</p>	<p>Fire officers plan, organise, direct and co-ordinate the activities and resources of a specific physical or functional area of a statutory or private fire brigade/service and the resources necessary for the protection of property at fires within a salvage corps area. Ambulance officers plan, organise, direct and co-ordinate the resources necessary for the provision of ambulance services. Prison officers (principal officer and above) plan, organise, direct, and co-ordinate the activities and resources necessary for the running of a prison, remand or detention centre. Customs officers plan and direct the work of customs, excise and immigration staff in the monitoring and inspection of goods and persons crossing national borders.</p>
<p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ escorts prisoners to and from cells and supervises them during meals, recreation and visiting periods; ▪ watches for any infringements of regulations and searches prisoners and cells for weapons, drugs and other contraband items; ▪ guards entrances and perimeter walls; ▪ investigates disturbances or any other unusual occurrences; 	<p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ produces pre-sentence reports to the court about an individual's crime, their personal circumstances, the suitability of sentencing, the likelihood of re-offending and the future risk to the public; ▪ enforces court orders and serves the public by providing a wide range of supervision programmes for those in receipt of a community sentence; ▪ draws up probation plans with offenders and helps them follow it, advises them on any work and helps them with any family or social problems; ▪ works with prisoners in giving advice on problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, addressing training needs, finding work and getting accommodation; 	<p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ liaises with other senior officials and/or government departments to determine staffing, financial and other short- and long-term needs; ▪ prepares reports for insurance companies, the Home Office, Scottish Home and Health Department, and other bodies as necessary; ▪ advises on the recruitment, training and monitoring of staff; ▪ fire officers plan, direct and co-ordinate an operational plan for one or more fire stations, attend fires and other emergencies to minimise danger to property and people, arrange for the
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Powered by LMI For All.

To compare the Labour Market Information of different job roles that you might be interested in please visit the Careers section on the school website.

JOB OF THE WEEK

Discover more about the Prison Service with these videos:

Why be a Prison Officer?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQAYpYFI6ZE>

Graduate Programme for
HM Prison Officers



<https://youtu.be/hAZ9Oc1Y6VI>

HM Prison and Probation Service
Fitness tests



<https://youtu.be/ZHp-316kowU>

Care & Rehabilitation
Services The Day in the Life
of a Prison Custody Officer



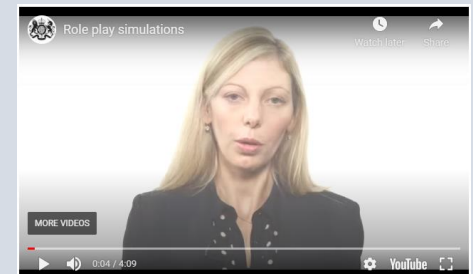
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY_OQS3Pp_g

Prisoner Escort Contract Services
(SERCO)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGT4DwF64Xc>

Prison Officer
Assessments



<https://youtu.be/BwnaDOzHqb4>
[Prison Officer Assessment Day - 2021 Success Guide \(assessmentcentrehq.com\)](https://www.assessmentcentrehq.com)

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OF THE WEEK

Click on the website links to research the job role further:

[Prison officer | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[Become a prison officer | HM Prison & Probation Service
\(prisonandprobationjobs.gov.uk\)](#)

[Prison Custody Officer Careers \(serco.com\)](#)

[Prison governor | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[13950 - Patrol Dog Handler - MoJ \(tal.net\)](#)

[An introduction to POELT \(Prison Officer Entry Level Training\) - Working
in the Prison and Probation Service \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)