Ministry of Justice
COVID-19 Stakeholder Update

This is the Ministry of Justice's regular stakeholder communications update service. This is intended to signpost the latest Covid-19 guidance and central government updates.

We encourage organisations to share these updates with your wider networks to ensure a wide circulation of important communications. For monitoring and evaluation purposes, we'd gratefully receive information on who you are sharing this with.

We would also find it helpful to know about your own communications plans and any intel that will help inform our communications moving forwards. Please do get in touch at stakeholder.intel@justice.gov.uk. We have robust and flexible plans to ensure we can continue to deliver key services across the justice system.

- This week we are planning to reopen a further 40 courts for face-to-face hearings, on top of the 16 announced last week. Court staff have been working tirelessly to facilitate this in order to guarantee the delivery of justice, protecting the public, and continuing on the careful path to recovery.
- Public Health England modelling suggests the steps we have taken are successfully limiting deaths and the transmission of COVID-19 in prisons. Prisons are containing the spread of COVID-19 using an approach known as 'compartmentalisation', meaning staff have isolated those prisoners with symptoms, shielded the vulnerable and quarantined new arrivals. Consideration is now be given to how these restrictions can be cautiously rolled back over the coming weeks and months. This will include how to cautiously restart aspects of daily prison life, such as social visits, education and work – with adaptations where necessary to ensure safety.

HMCTS
UPDATED: **HMCTS has updated its online court tracker to reflect the court and tribunal buildings that are open to the public.** This page holds a tracker list of open, staffed and suspended courts during the COVID-19 outbreak and will be regularly updated: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/courts-and-tribunals-tracker-list-during-coronavirus-outbreak

During this unprecedented public health emergency, we are adjusting practices and taking steps to minimise the risk to the judiciary, court staff and users. Any changes to individual hearings will be communicated directly to those affected in the usual way, by email and/or phone. The following page will continue to be updated when new advice is available: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-courts-and-tribunals-planning-and-preparation

HMPPS
Prisons and probation services have implemented significant changes to comply with the Government's social distancing rules and to protect staff and service users. The service has been working closely with public health experts, as well as criminal justice partners, to ensure that robust contingency plans are in place and immediate action can be taken wherever cases are identified. The following page will continue to be updated when new advice is available: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-and-prisons

As of 17:00 on SUNDAY 14 June:
- *500 prisoners have tested positive for COVID-19 across 80 prisons;*
- *965 prison staff have tested positive for COVID-19 across 105 prisons;*
- *27 Prisoner Escort and Custody Services (PECS) staff have tested positive for COVID-19.*

These figures reflect the total number of recorded positive cases – not the number of live cases – of COVID-19, and includes individuals that have recovered. Figures are interim and are subject to revision as more information becomes available.

Latest general guidance

- All UK Government Coronavirus guidance and support: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Staying alert and safe (social distancing): https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing
- The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy
- Find out how to make your workplace COVID-secure: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19
- Getting financial help and keeping your business safe: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support