



Prison population in Lancashire

Lancashire

County
Council



www.lancashire.gov.uk

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1. Summary

There are five prisons in Lancashire with a combined population of 3,598 as at March 2022. The prison population in Lancashire represents 4.5% of the England and Wales population, excluding immigration removal centres. This figure has remained fairly static over the last nine years.

Although the combined operational capacity of these establishments totaled 3,598 in March 2022, the actual *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure was 3,375 for the month. The Lancashire prison population as a percentage of the *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure was 107%, higher than the figure for all prisons in England and Wales (excluding immigration removal centres), which was 103%. Within Lancashire, HMP Preston had the greatest prison population as a percentage of the *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure at 156%, meaning that there is some over-crowding, HMP Kirkham had the lowest percentage at 81%.

The five Lancashire establishments employ 1,688 people.¹

2. Prison population

There are five male only prisons in Lancashire. There are no prisons catering for females, young people, or for high risk category A prisoners. A is the highest risk category, whilst D is the lowest risk category.

1. [HMP Garth](#) is a closed category B prison in Lostock ward, Chorley
2. [HMP Kirkham](#) is an open category D prison in Kirkham south ward, Fylde
3. [HMP Lancaster Farms](#) is a closed category C prison in Bulk ward, Lancaster
4. [HMP Preston](#) is a closed category B prison, in St Matthew's ward, Preston
5. [HMP Wymott](#) is a closed category C prison in Lostock ward, Chorley

All prisons were rated 'Acceptable' in 2021/22.²

The operational capacity of a prison represents the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold, taking into account control, security and operational requirements. It is determined by the Deputy Director of Custody on the basis of operational judgement and experience. Governors, controllers and directors must ensure that the approved operational capacity is not exceeded except on an exceptional basis to accommodate pressing need.

Operational capacity can however be reduced for reasons that include rooms being used for healthcare, training or segregation. This sub-total is categorised as the *baseline certified normal accommodation*. Certified normal accommodation (CNA), or uncrowded capacity, is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation. It represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that the Prison Service

¹ [Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service workforce quarterly: March 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

² [Prison Performance Ratings: 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

aspires to provide for all prisoners. The *baseline CNA* can be lowered by issues that include building works, or cells that have been damaged and are not available for immediate use. This subset is known as the *In-use certified normal accommodation*.

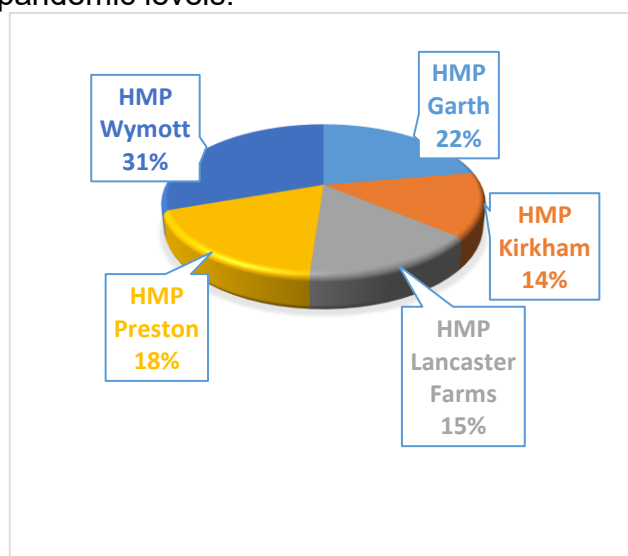
Table 1 shows a snapshot of the prison population at Lancashire prisons in March of each year.

Table 1 Prison population, snapshots March 2013 to March 2022

Population in Prison	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22
HMP Garth	793	666	733	837	842	832	818	812	800	801
HMP Kirkham	605	626	598	592	598	567	645	634	461	498
HMP Lancaster Farms	518	400	543	548	556	547	553	554	498	541
HMP Preston	695	699	676	755	722	670	701	679	645	663
HMP Wymott	1,109	1,097	1,121	1,152	1,058	1,156	1,147	1,142	976	1,095
Lancashire	3,720	3,488	3,671	3,884	3,776	3,772	3,864	3,821	3,380	3,598
All prisons (England and Wales, excluding immigration removal centres)	83,852	84,443	84,324	85,064	84,652	83,875	82,417	83,052	78,008	79,744
Percentage of prison population in Lancashire	4.4%	4.1%	4.4%	4.6%	4.5%	4.5%	4.7%	4.6%	4.3%	4.5%

Source: [Ministry of Justice: Population in Custody](#)

There was a peak in Lancashire's prison populations in 2016 but this number has dropped to its lowest level in 2021, possibly due to delays in the court process partially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The numbers have risen slightly in 2022 but not returned to the pre-pandemic levels.



Neighbouring prisons Wymott and Garth in Leyland account for 53% of inmates in Lancashire.

Please note that the Ministry of Justice website also has [offender management caseload statistics](#). Weekly and monthly figures are available on the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

Table 2 Prison institution normal accommodation, March 2022

Prison	Baseline ^[2] certified normal accommodation (CNA) ^[3]	In-use certified normal accommodation (CNA) ^[4]	Operational capacity ^[1]	Population ^[5] ^[6]	Population as a percentage of in-use certified normal accommodation (CNA)
HMP Garth	810	810	845	801	99%
HMP Kirkham	734	616	609	498	81%
HMP Lancaster Farms	495	495	560	541	109%
HMP Preston	426	426	680	663	156%
HMP Wymott	1,053	1,028	1,107	1,095	107%
Lancashire total	3,518	3,375	3,801	3,598	107%
All prisons (England and Wales, excluding immigration removal centres)	80,401	77,714	81,752	79,744	103%

Source: [Ministry of Justice: Population in Custody](#)

The list of [prison inspection reports](#) includes reports for the five Lancashire prisons.

3. The wider impact of prisons in Lancashire

In addition to their core custodial, training and rehabilitation functions, all prisons have a wider impact on the local community. They offer an important source of local employment, purchase goods and services, cater for visiting friends and family, and may offer their own services to the local area. For instance, Kirkham prison covers a substantial 180 acres and is located in the western part of the county that contains a large amount of good quality agricultural land. A significant proportion of the site is used for agriculture and horticulture. Kirkham PE department runs Kirkham Integrated Stroke Support (KISS), a charity that trains prisoners to provide rehabilitation to local people following a stroke. Local NHS stroke units, GPs and medical professionals regularly refer patients to the service.

[New Futures Network](#) is a specialist part of the prison service that brokers partnerships between prisons and employers, helping get ex-offenders into work.

The [Margaret Carey Foundation](#) is a charitable trust which rescues scrapped bicycles and wheelchairs that are no longer in use, and sets up workshops where prisoners clean, adjust and repair them to a high standard. The refurbished bikes and wheelchairs are then given to communities in need, in England and in developing countries. The foundation has workshops at [HMP Garth](#), [HMP Wymott](#) and [HMP Kirkham](#).