

# Prison population in Lancashire

**Lancashire**

County  
Council



[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

**June 2021**

For further information on the work of Business Intelligence, please contact us at:

Business Intelligence  
Lancashire County Council  
2nd floor Christ Church Precinct  
County Hall  
Fishergate Hill  
Preston  
PR1 8XJ  
E: [insight@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:insight@lancashire.gov.uk)  
W: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight)

## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Prison population .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>The wider impact of prisons in Lancashire .....</b>	<b>3</b>

## 1. Summary

There are five prisons in Lancashire with a combined population of 3,380 as at March 2021. The prison population in Lancashire represents 4.3% 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 3,821 in March 2021, the actual *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure was 3,391 for the month. The Lancashire prison population as a percentage of the *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure was 95%, lower than the figure for all prisons in England and Wales (excluding immigration removal centres), which was 102%. Within Lancashire, HMP Preston had the greatest prison population as a percentage of the *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure at 151%, meaning that there is some over-crowding, HMP Kirkham had the lowest percentage at 70%.

The five Lancashire establishments employ 1,675 people.

## 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

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 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*.

## Prison population in Lancashire

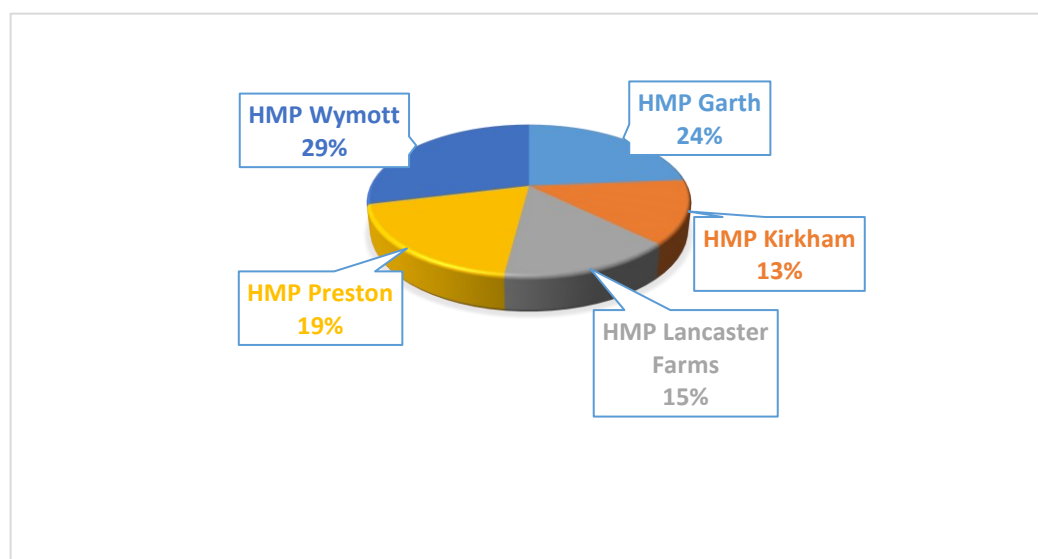
Table 1 shows a snapshot of the prison population at Lancashire prisons in March of each year.

**Table 1 Prison population, snapshots as at March 2013 to March 2021**

Population in Prison	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21
HMP Garth	793	666	733	837	842	832	818	812	800
HMP Kirkham	605	626	598	592	598	567	645	634	461
HMP Lancaster Farms	518	400	543	548	556	547	553	554	498
HMP Preston	695	699	676	755	722	670	701	679	645
HMP Wymott	1,109	1,097	1,121	1,152	1,058	1,156	1,147	1,142	976
<b>Lancashire</b>	<b>3,720</b>	<b>3,488</b>	<b>3,671</b>	<b>3,884</b>	<b>3,776</b>	<b>3,772</b>	<b>3,864</b>	<b>3,821</b>	<b>3,380</b>
<b>All prisons</b> (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
Percentage of prison population in Lancashire	4.4%	4.1%	4.4%	4.6%	4.5%	4.5%	4.7%	4.6%	4.3%

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.



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](#). The [Prison population data tool](#) gives an age breakdown of the prison population.

Weekly and monthly figures are available on the [Ministry of Justice](#) website.

**Table 2 Prison institution normal accommodation, March 2021**

Prison	Baseline <sup>[2]</sup> certified normal accommodation (CNA) <sup>[3]</sup>	In-use certified normal accommodation (CNA) <sup>[4]</sup>	Operational capacity <sup>[1]</sup>	Population <sup>[5]</sup> <sup>[6]</sup>	Population as a percentage of in-use certified normal accommodation (CNA)
HMP Garth	708	708	648	629	89%
HMP Kirkham	657	657	533	461	70%
HMP Lancaster Farms	495	495	560	498	101%
HMP Preston	426	426	680	645	151%
HMP Wymott	1,108	1,105	1,020	976	88%
<b>Lancashire total</b>	<b>3,394</b>	<b>3,391</b>	<b>3,441</b>	<b>3,209</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>All prisons (England and Wales, excluding immigration removal centres)</b>	<b>79,276</b>	<b>76,575</b>	<b>83,477</b>	<b>78,008</b>	<b>102%</b>

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 [Cumbria and Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company \(CRC\)](#) website details its roles and responsibilities as a part of the criminal justice service. The [community payback](#) (formerly known as Community Service) section of the website mentions that nationally over eight million hours of work are completed every year by offenders on a community sentence. This equates to approximately £45 million of free labour provided to local communities as offenders pay back for the crimes they have committed.

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](#) and [HMP Kirkham](#).