



# Prison population in Lancashire

March 2023



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## Summary

There are five prisons in Lancashire with a combined population of 3,747 as at March 2023. The prison population in Lancashire represents 4.4% of the England and Wales population, excluding immigration removal centres. This figure has remained fairly static over the last ten years.

Although the combined operational capacity of these establishments totaled 3,747 in March 2023, the actual *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure (CAN) was 3,257 for the month. The Lancashire prison population as a percentage of the *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure was 115%, a slightly higher figure than for all prisons in England and Wales (excluding immigration removal centres), at 110%. 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 population percentage at 96%, yet still shows is mostly full to capacity.

**Table 1 - Prison institution normal accommodation, March 2023**

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	692	692	845	808	117%
HMP Kirkham	734	616	699	590	96%
HMP Lancaster Farms	495	495	560	548	111%
HMP Preston	426	426	680	665	156%
HMP Wymott	1,093	1,028	1,144	1,136	111%
<b>Lancashire total</b>	<b>3,440</b>	<b>3,257</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>3,747</b>	<b>115%</b>
<b>All prisons (England and Wales, excluding immigration removal centres)</b>	<b>80,756</b>	<b>76,808</b>	<b>85,503</b>	<b>84,372</b>	<b>110%</b>

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

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

\*In-use CNA is baseline CNA less those places not available for immediate use, for example: damaged cells, cells affected by building works.

The operational capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime.



## 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.

- HMP Garth** is a closed category B prison in Lostock ward, Chorley
- HMP Kirkham** is an open category D prison in Kirkham south ward, Fylde
- HMP Lancaster Farms** is a closed category C prison in Bulk ward, Lancaster
- HMP Preston** is a closed category B prison, in St Matthew's ward, Preston
- HMP Wymott** is a closed category C prison in Lostock ward, Chorley

The five Lancashire establishments employ 1,962 people in total. This has increased by 16% since March 2022. All these prisons were rated 'Acceptable' in 2021/22.<sup>1</sup>

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 Prison Group Directors 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*.

**Table 2 - Prison Population, snapshots March 2014 - March 2023**

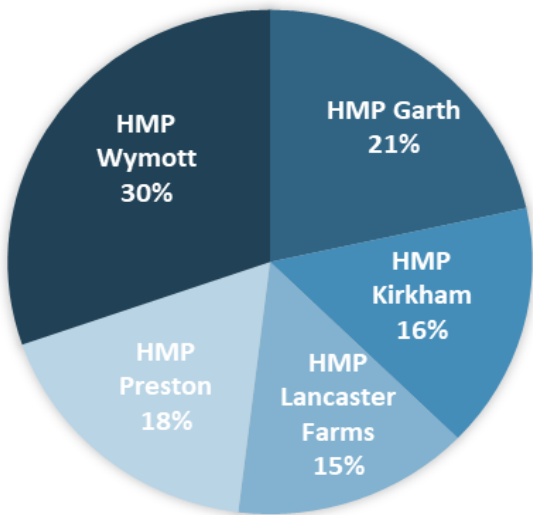
Population in Prison	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23
HMP Garth	666	733	837	842	832	818	812	800	801	808
HMP Kirkham	626	598	592	598	567	645	634	461	498	590
HMP Lancaster Farms	400	543	548	556	547	553	554	498	541	548
HMP Preston	699	676	755	722	670	701	679	645	663	665
HMP Wymott	1,097	1,121	1,152	1,058	1,156	1,147	1,142	976	1,095	1136
<b>Lancashire</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>3,598</b>	<b>3,747</b>
<b>All prisons</b> (England and Wales, excluding immigration removal centres)	84,443	84,324	85,064	84,652	83,875	82,417	83,052	78,008	79,744	84,372
Percentage of prison population in Lancashire	4.1%	4.4%	4.6%	4.5%	4.5%	4.7%	4.6%	4.3%	4.5%	4.4%

Source: Ministry of Justice: Population in Custody

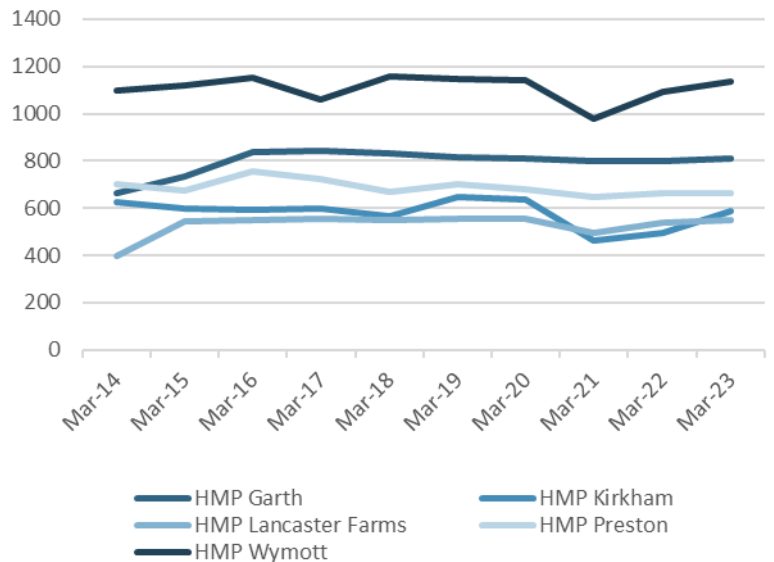


There was a peak in Lancashire's prison populations in 2016 but this number has dropped to it's lowest level in 2021, possibly due to delays in the court process partially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The numbers have risen in 2023 slightly exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

March 2023 Prison Population percentage



March 2023 Prison Population count



Neighbouring prisons, Wymott and Garth in Leyland account for 52% of inmates in Lancashire. Lancaster Has the smallest operational capacity of just 560 inmates, with Wymott having the largest at 1144 inmates, however, both of which have a population usage of over 98% meaning the prisons are almost full to capacity.

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.



## 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. Businesses registering with this scheme benefit as prisoners and ex-offenders have a wide range of skills to suit almost any sector, making them ideal job-ready candidates and as most offenders want the opportunity to turn their backs on crime. Having a job helps them stay out of prison, get their lives back on track and is proven to reduce reoffending.

The **Margaret Carey Foundation** is a charitable trust aimed to prevent people being pulled into crime, and help those already in the system find paths out through training opportunities, resources and environments that support rehabilitation. The charity works by rescuing scrapped bicycles and wheelchairs that are no longer in use. It 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*.

### Source Links

<sup>1</sup> Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service workforce quarterly: March 2022 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<sup>2</sup> Prison performance ratings 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<sup>3</sup> Prisons and probation - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

