



# JOB of the Week



**Job name:** Prison Officer

**Job description:** A Prison officer supervises inmates in prisons, remand centres and young offenders' institutions.

**Tasks you will undertake in the job:** As a Prison officer, you'll:

- 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

**Essential skills you need to show:** To succeed as a Prison officer, the following personal skills and attributes would give you an advantage:

- 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 work well with other team members
- 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 be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

**Skills required for this job (core competencies):**

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

**Sectors in which Prison officers would normally work:**

You could work in a main prison, juvenile detention centre, on a prison wing or in a unit for prisoners with specific needs. Your working environment may be physically and emotionally demanding. You will be required to wear a uniform.

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

**Salary:** Prison officers are typically paid a starting wage of £22 000, this increases with experience; experienced Prison officers can expect to earn approximately £38 000 per year.



**Working hours:** Working hours are usually around 37-41 hours per week. It is likely that you will work during evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays (on shifts)

## Qualifications to become a Prison officer:

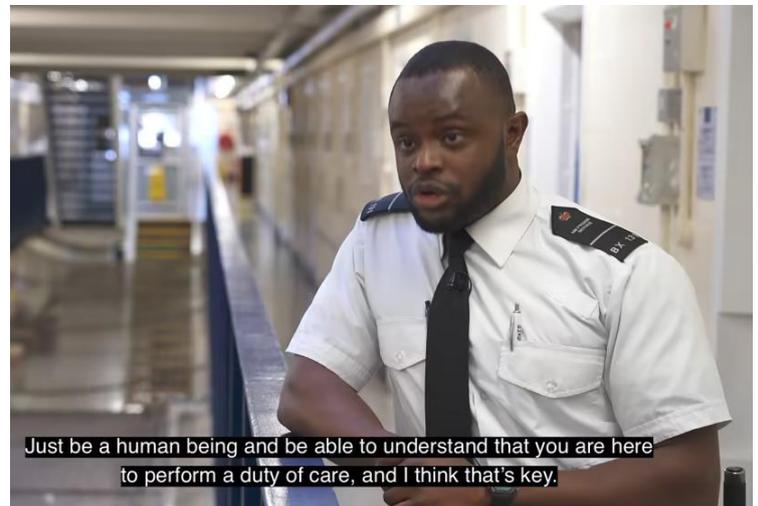
You can get into this job through: an apprenticeship and applying directly

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

**Entry requirements:** 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; take a reading and writing test; take part in role plays to see if you have the right personal qualities for the job; take fitness tests; have a medical and eyesight test and be interviewed



**This job in the future:** The workforce is projected to decline by -0.7%, losing 1 300 jobs; in the same period, 38.1% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 65 100 job opportunities.

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