

Prison and Probation Service – in brief

Mission and tasks

The mission of the Prison and Probation Service is to contribute to reducing criminality. This mission is shared by the police, the prosecution service and the courts.

The work of the Prison and Probation Service is limited by some general requirements:

1. Human worth
2. Inviolability
3. Law enforcement
4. Public sense of justice

The primary task of the Prison and Probation Service is to enforce (implement) *sanctions*:

- Custodial sentences, that is, prison sentences served in state and local prisons
- Supervision activities in connection with release on parole and suspended sentences, including community service orders and electronic tagging, undertaken by the Probation Service

Based on the above requirements of how to attain the mission, the dual primary task can be worded as follows:

- ***Control and security***
- ***Support and motivation.***

The Prison and Probation Service must carry out the control necessary to enforce the punishments and motivate offenders to become law-abiding citizens.

Fundamental value

In 2006, we had a very strong ambition to determine the fundamental value of the activities of the Prison and Probation Service. This value was supposed to reflect how we do our work in the best possible manner. At the same time, the value was to be simple and norma-

tive to the individual employee.

Later that year, the value defined as 'the art of balancing between a strict and soft approach' was presented. This value covers all prison and probationary activities and reflects the two facets of the primary task.

Guidelines for the work

Principles

At the beginning of the 1990s, the Prison and Probation Service prepared a programme of principles. These principles describe how (it is possible) to solve the primary task. Six principles apply to the way that the Prison and Probation Service is to plan its activities:

1. Normalisation
2. Openness
3. Responsibility
4. Security
5. Least possible intervention
6. Optimum use of resources

Visions

The Prison and Probation Service also pursues a number of general visions reflecting the future development wanted by management and staff. Visions have been formulated for:

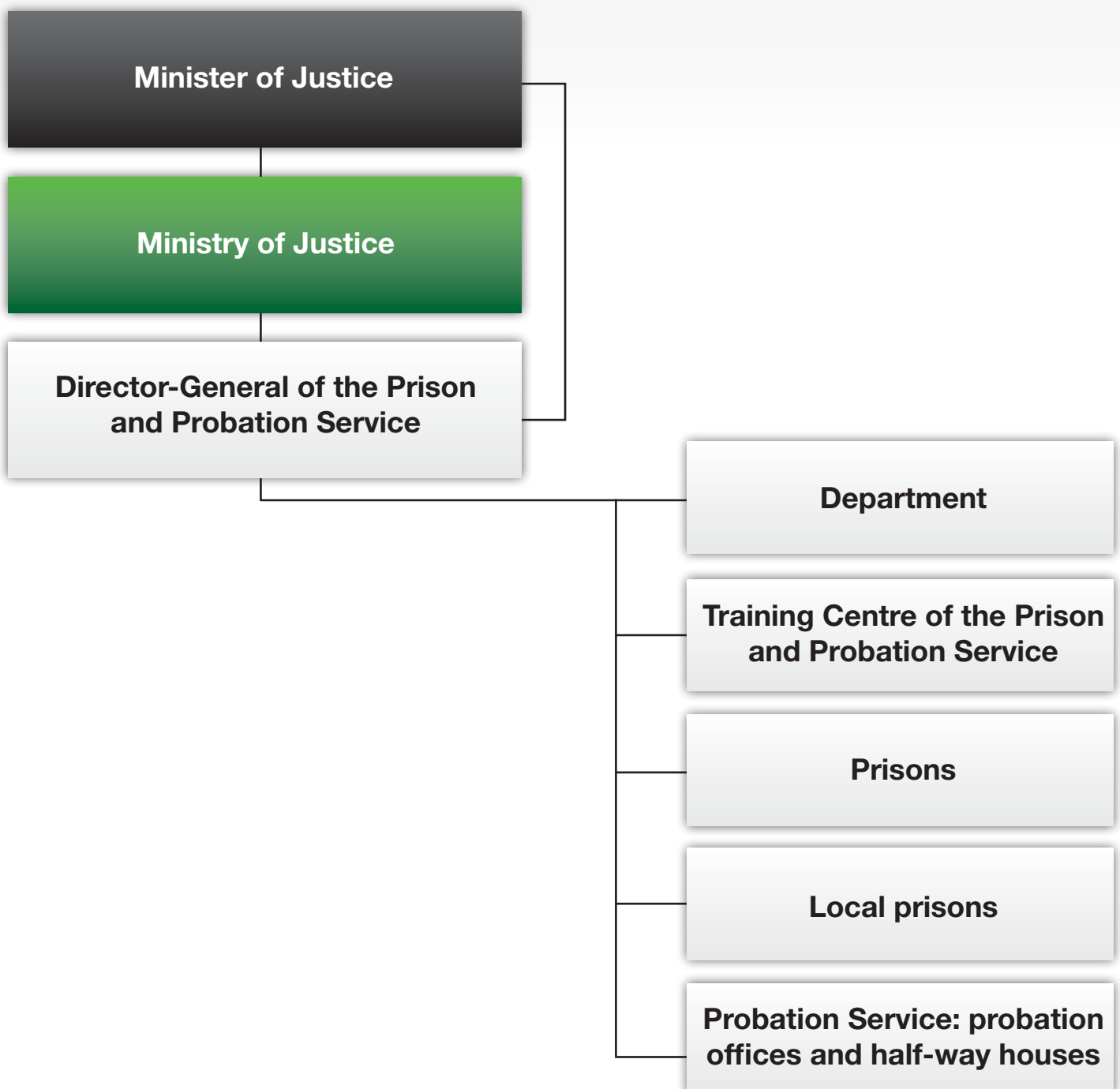
1. Organisational development
2. HR and staff
3. Rehabilitation
4. Security
5. Physical facilities
6. IT technology

Multi-year agreements

Since 1999, the Prison and Probation Service has been subject to political multi-year agreements running for four or five years. The multi-year agreements describe the financial framework and the operational and development targets to be realised by the Prison and Probation Service during the contractual period.

Organisation – Institutions

The Prison and Probation Service falls under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice.



The Prison and Probation Service has activities at almost 80 locations all over Denmark, including 10 workplaces in Greenland and on the Faroe Islands.

The Department of Prisons and Probation

which undertakes the following tasks:

- Assistance to the Minister
- General management and strategy
- Financial, resource and contract management
- Planning and development (relating to treatment of inmates, HR and organisation)
- Construction of prisons and other construction works
- Drafting of statutes and rules
- General security
- International cases
- Research, evaluation and documentation
- Examination of specific cases, such as complaints and petitions for pardon

The Staff Training Centre of the Danish Prison and Probation Service

which undertakes the following tasks:

- Basic training of prison officers
- Further training and management training

Prisons, where inmates serve their prison sentences. The intention is that all offenders are to be placed in an open prison, unless they are to serve a long sentence or have previously attempted an escape, or they abuse the freedom offered in an open prison. In those situations, the offenders will be admitted to a closed prison.

Denmark has:

- Five closed prisons with 920 places
- Eight open prisons with 1,380 places
- The Ellebæk institution for detained asylum-seekers with 118 places as well as two minor units for detained asylum-seekers in the local prisons of Aabenraa and Tønder,

which have a total of 17 places

Local prisons, where remand prisoners and offenders serving short prison sentences are placed.

Denmark has:

- The Copenhagen Prisons with 545 places, most of which are at the Western Prison
- Thirty-six local prisons and four detention units (at the state prisons of Nyborg, East Jutland, Vridsløselille and Sdr. Omme) with 1,600 places in total

The Probation Service, which has 14 offices all over Denmark and runs eight half-way houses.

The **probation offices** are ordinary offices that are open only in the daytime. The probation offices have the following tasks:

Supervision of:

- Parolees
 - Offenders subject to a suspended sentence
 - Offenders sentenced to community service
 - Offenders sentenced to electronic tagging
 - Offenders sentenced to treatment (sections 68 and 69 of the Criminal Code)
- Preparation of pre-sentence reports for use in court
- Casework related to remand prisoners in local prisons
- Crime prevention activities of a more general nature

The eight **half-way houses** have a total of 180 places. They are residential institutions for offenders during the last period of their incarceration before going back into society and for clients under supervision.

Financial resources

Total 2009 budget: 390 mio. euro, Two thirds of which are for salaries and one third for operations.

Price per day for each place in:

- Closed prisons: 265 euro
- Open prisons: 156 euro
- Local prisons: 136 euro

Staff

The Prison and Probation Service has a good 4,600 employees (full-time equivalents). Just under two thirds of the employees are uniformed staff and a good one third are non-uniformed staff.

Each year, about 370 employees experience violence, threats, etc., from inmates. Approx. 70 per cent of those incidents relate to

threats only, 25 per cent to both violence and threats and 5 per cent violence only.

On average, each employee is absent about 18 days a year due to sickness.

Staff satisfaction (2008-2009): 85 per cent are satisfied or very satisfied with working at the Prison and Probation Service.

Inmates/clients

Key figures

Prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants:	65
Total number of places in state and local prisons:	4,100
Capacity utilisation, management target:	92 per cent
Sentenced prisoners:	Approx. 2,230 per day
Remand prisoners:	1,200 per day
Female prisoners:	155 per day
Detained asylum-seekers:	50 per day
Young offenders under the age of 18: (corresponding to 0.6 per cent of all inmates)	20 per day
Ethnic inmates: (other than Danish):	22 per cent
Admissions:	17,200 per year

Probation Service (offices and half-way houses)

Residents of half-way houses:	Approx. 165 per day
Offenders subject to electronic tagging:	Approx. 160 per day
Clients under supervision:	Approx. 7,800 per day
Pre-sentence reports:	Approx. 9,400 per year
Community service orders:	Approx. 3,600 per year

During incarceration

Occupation

Sentenced inmates of institutions under the Prison and Probation Service have a duty of occupation; remand prisoners have a right, but no duty, to work. Inmates must be occupied for 37 hours a week and receive wages. If they are ill, they receive sick pay. Inmates may be occupied under treatment programmes or with production activities (workshops, agriculture, production schools, etc.) or education.

Leisure time

Inmates may pursue sports activities, watch television, play games, read, etc., in their leisure time.

Self-catering

Inmates of state prisons have to do their own shopping at the prison grocery store, cook food and do their own dishes, cleaning and laundry. Inmates of local prisons receive deep-frozen meals.

Leaves

Inmates may be granted leave from the prison for various purposes.

- Every third weekend for visits to family or friends, provided that certain time conditions have been met
- For special purposes (seriously ill close relatives, funerals, court hearings, medical examinations, etc.)
- Day release (leave every day) for education or employment purposes

It is a condition for leave that the risk of abuse of the leave is deemed non-existent. Moreover, leave may be subject to various additional conditions.

About 55,000 leaves are granted per year. Abuse in the form of re-offending occurs in 0.1 per cent of cases. Altogether, abuse in the form of failure to return, late return or return while under the influence of alcohol or drugs occurs in about 2.3 per cent of cases.

Escapes

The closed prisons have not seen any escapes 'over the wall' since 2004. The local prisons saw two escapes 'over the wall' in 2008, while the figure for open prisons in 2008 was 90 escapes.

Release on parole

Offenders serving a prison sentence of at least three months may be eligible for release on parole when they have served two thirds of their sentence. Inmates who have stable personal circumstances or have made a special effort ('give and take') may be released on parole when they have served half the sentence.

About 3,000 inmates are released on parole every year, and about 1,100 inmates are refused release on parole, corresponding to about 30 per cent.

About 7,700 inmates are released every year; however, many offenders serve less than three months and are therefore not eligible for release on parole.

Alternatives to custodial punishment

The number of prison places has been largely constant for the past 30 years, except in recent years when about 500 places were added. The major reason why it has been possible to keep the number of places so constant is that Denmark has focused on alternative forms of punishment so that the smallest possible number of offenders are imprisoned.

The Probation Service takes care of the large group of offenders who are found suitable for non-custodial sentences. The offenders always have to comply with a number of conditions; failure to comply with those conditions results in imprisonment.

There are several alternatives to imprisonment:

Community service

Community service may be an element of a suspended sentence or a condition for release on parole.

The offender has to perform unpaid work for a public institution or an institution promoting public welfare. Such institutions may be sports clubs, churches, drop-in centres, residential schools for 14-18-year-olds, museums, theatres, second-hand shops and youth associations.

The work must be of a kind that would otherwise not be carried out. The hours of work required are between 30 and 240 hours, and the work must be carried out during the offender's leisure time within four to twelve months.

The Probation Service checks that the offender appears at the community service workplace and carries out the work.

Electronic tagging

Offenders sentenced to up to three months' imprisonment may apply for permission to serve under the home curfew detention scheme. The offender is then provided with an electronic tag, an electronic transmitter, around his or her ankle.

Various conditions must be met in terms of job, home and participation in crime-prevention programmes, and the offender has to stay clear of alcohol and drugs. The offender may only leave his or her home according to an agreed activity plan.

The Probation Service checks that the activity plan and the conditions are observed. If the offender fails to observe the activity plan or the conditions, he or she will promptly be imprisoned in a state or local prison for the remaining sentence period.

Serving a sentence at a treatment institution

Pursuant to section 78 of the Danish Sentence Enforcement Act, offenders with a special need for treatment may serve their sentence in a hospital, in family care or at a suitable home or institution, including the half-way houses of the Prison and Probation Service. Young offenders under the age of 18 are normally placed in a treatment institution rather than in a prison unless this is inappropriate for essential law enforcement reasons.

Efforts and results

Treatment and programmes

The Prison and Probation Service drafts individual action plans for all inmates serving a prison sentence of at least four months. Action plans are an important pre-lease tool. The Prison and Probation Service offers more than 50 different programmes for the treatment of drug abuse, or alcoholism, prevention of violence, sexological treatment, improvement of cognitive skills, etc.

Recidiv

Recidivism is a measure of the number of offenders who re-offend and receive a new sentence, whether suspended or not, within two years of their release or completion of a suspended sentence.

Recidivism, measured in 2008, differs for various groups of inmates and clients.

- Total recidivism rate: 22 per cent
- Recidivism rate for offenders having served a prison sentence: 30 per cent
- Recidivism rate for offenders having served a community sentence: 16 per cent
- Recidivism rate for offenders having served under the home curfew detention scheme: 25 per cent

Applicable rules/agreements

The Sentence Enforcement Act
The Criminal Code and the Administration of Justice Act
Executive orders: 48
Guidelines: 32
Circulars: 61
Multi-year agreement and implementation plan (2008-2011)

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