ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
IMPACT REPORT

For awards ending on or after 1 November 2009

This Impact Report should be completed and submitted using the grant reference as the email subject to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk on or before the due date.

Completion of this Impact Report is mandatory. It will not be possible to edit this Impact Report at a later date, as it is designed to provide a statement of the impacts of your project to date 12 months after your grant ends.

Please note that the Impact Report will only be accepted if all sections have been completed in full. If a section does not apply to you, please enter ‘n/a’. Grant holders will not be eligible for further ESRC funding until the Report is accepted. (Please see Section 5 of the ESRC Research Funding Guide for details.)

Please refer to the Guidance notes when completing this Impact Report. In particular, the notes explain what the ESRC means by ‘impact’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Reference</th>
<th>RES-062-23-0212</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Title</td>
<td>Values, Practices and Outcomes in Public and Private Corrections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Start Date</td>
<td>1 March 2007</td>
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<td>Grant End Date</td>
<td>31 December 2009</td>
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<td>Total Amount Expended:</td>
<td>£395,926.37</td>
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Grant holding Institution
University of Cambridge

Grant Holder
Professor Alison Liebling

Grant Holder's Contact Details

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Co-Investigators (as per project application):

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<td>University of Cambridge</td>
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Dr Ben Crewe
1. SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

A Please summarise below the scientific impact(s) your project has had. [Max 250 words]

This study has generated a new understanding of prison life and quality, as well as the work of prison staff and managers. It has been received as such. More specifically, it has challenged a widespread assumption, based in part on earlier studies of private sector prisons, that privately run establishments are consistently strong in areas such as humane and respectful treatment of prisoners by staff. It shows that the meaning of ‘respect’ extends well beyond ‘courtesy’, to include the delivery of much needed services to prisoners, and that many problems in poor performing private sector prisons are linked to deficiencies in the use of staff authority. Even in high-performing private sector establishments, there is a tendency for prisoners to be under-policed. This is connected to the model of private sector staffing, inexperience and the profit motive which drives it.

The Measuring the Quality of Prison Life survey has been thoroughly refined, enabling us to more effectively evaluate aspects of prison quality that matter to prisoners and that are linked to important outcomes, such as prisoner suicide rates. The Staff quality of life survey has been developed and its findings analysed in a way that makes it useful to others, as well as in explaining aspects of the prison experience. The new version of our surveys are being translated, adopted or adapted by several international colleagues and correctional services.

The scientific impact of our research is likely to be accelerated once these articles are published. We are receiving continual requests from the field, internationally as well as domestically, to discuss the implications of our work and future developments of it.

B Please outline the findings and outputs from your project which have had the scientific impact(s) outlined in 1A. [Max 250 words]

C  Please outline how these impacts were achieved. [Max 250 words]

We have disseminated our findings to the academic community at the following conferences:

Panel (comprising three separate papers) at European Society of Criminology conference, Ljubljana, September 2009

Paper at Scandinavian Network on Confinement meetings, Oslo, Oct 2009 and Oct 2010

Paper at Prison Fellowship Conference, New Zealand October 2010

Paper at International Corrections and Prisons Association Conference, Barbados, October 2009

We have been invited to give guest presentations in which we have reported or drawn upon the results of the study at the following universities:

University of Kent, November 2010, University College Dublin, November 2010
Invited speaker, Lancaster University, April 2010.

D  Please outline who the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can include specific academics/researchers through to broader academic groups. [Max 250 words]

Richard Harding, Western Australia
John Rynne, Griffith University, Queensland
Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit, University of Nottingham
Tony Taylor, Victoria University Wellington, NZ
David Faulkner, Oxford University
Andrew Jefferson, Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims, Copenhagen
Peter Sharff-Smith, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Copenhagen

Our growing understanding of the relational dimensions of prison life has begun to shape the thinking of probation and desistance scholars, such as Fergus McNeill and Shadd Maruna

2.  ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

A  Please summarise below the economic and societal impact(s) your project has had. [Max 250 words]

The research has begun to shape thinking and practice among practitioners about the strengths, weaknesses and characteristics of imprisonment in both the public and private sector. It has influenced public and private sector bids for the prisons that are currently being market tested. It has also led to direct changes in management priorities in the prisons within our study. Our findings on the importance of staff experience and professionalism in determining prisoner quality of life have generated considerable interest among practitioners. We have fed directly into staff development work in HMP Forest Bank, and into Prison
Service thinking about the nature of staff-prisoner relationships. We have been in contact with trade unions in Australia and New Zealand about developments in their prison systems.

Our revised version of the Measuring the Quality of Prison life survey has been taken on by the Standards Audit Unit within the National Offender Management Service, which is also seeking to develop a version of the survey to use in the context of probation work. NOMS has also retained an interest in adopting our Staff Quality of Life survey.

Our invitation to assess the quality of life at HMP Rye Hill on behalf of the Office of Contracted Prisons and G4S has allowed us to shape practice directly by informing both parties about the state of the prison.

We are beginning to understand some of the links between prison quality and reconviction outcomes. This has considerable economic and social implications.

B Please outline the findings and outputs from your project which have had the economic and societal impact(s) outlined in 2A. [Max 250 words]

We have provided detailed staff and prisoner quality of prison life survey result reports, provided to each of the seven prisons involved in the research. We also produce a Prisons Research Centre annual report which we distribute widely to practitioners.

The results from both studies constitute original and significant contributions to ongoing debates about prison privatisation, the nature of modern penalty, and the outcomes that can be legitimately expected from different types of prison regime. A revised version of the Measuring the Quality of Prison Life survey has been developed through conceptual and statistical analysis, has clarified our understanding of the variations in prison life, and has been adopted by NOMS as a ‘moral’ measurement tool to be used within all prisons and to check performance, and outcomes. As NOMS move to more outcomes-driven contracting, our survey is likely to become a standard part of the measurement process.

And see publications above.

C Please outline how these impacts were achieved. [Max 250 words]

We have engaged in a great deal of feedback and dissemination to practitioners and policymakers, including:

- The senior management teams of each of the seven main establishments in our study
- Attendees of the annual Prisons Research Centre steering group meetings
- Members of the Criminal Justice Alliance (seminar, April 2010)
- Members of the Prison Service Management Board (Aug, 2009)
- The Public Sector Prison Service’s bids unit (day seminar, Nov. 2009)
- The NOMS Race Equality Action Group (day seminar)
- The NOMS personnel directorate
- Uniformed staff from HMP Forest Bank (day seminar, Dec. 2009)
- Prison governors and Probation chiefs from the East of England region (seminar, May
2010), and the Thames Valley region (day seminar, June 2010)
- Directors and executives from the private sector and private prison controllers (Dec. 2008).
- Senior managers in the Northern Ireland Prison Service (two-day training module, Sept 2010)
- Practitioners taking the Institute of Criminology’s M.St. course in Applied Criminology, Penology and Management.

We have also had many direct, informal discussions with senior practitioners in both sectors about our findings. Our interviews with stakeholders and practitioners have served as a form of two-way knowledge transfer, providing opportunities for information-sharing and reflective space for interviewees, a number of whom have followed up with further informal discussions.

Details of our work have been published in an article in the Financial Times

We are guest editing an edition of Academy for Justice Commissioning magazine in January 2011.

D Please outline who the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can be at a broad societal level through to specific individuals or groups. [Max 250 words]

[See section above for full list of beneficiaries]

Senior managers at HMP Garth, HMP Dovegate, HMP Rye Hill, HMP Lowdham Grange, HMP Forest Bank, HMP Bullingdon, HMP Altcourse

Senior practitioners within the National Offender Management Service, including the chief executive and chief operating officer of NOMS, and senior executives at the private companies currently managing prisons in England and Wales (G4S, Kalyx, Serco). Bid teams within both sectors.

Third sector organisations, including the Prison Reform Trust and the Howard League for Prison Reform

Prison Services in Northern Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia, and so on.

3. UNEXPECTED AND POTENTIAL FUTURE IMPACTS

A Unexpected Impacts

Please note which, if any, of the impacts that your research has had were unexpected at the outset of the research, explaining where possible why you think this was the case. [Max 250 words]

We did not anticipate being asked to use our measurement tools in HMP Rye Hill, and therefore to play such a direct role in feeding back to the prison, G4S and the Office of Contracted Prisons about its state. Additional data collection in HMP Lowdham Grange and
HMP Altcourse was opportunistic, but has significantly enhanced our understanding of variations in quality and culture within the private sector.

The revisions that we made to the Measuring the Quality of Prison life survey were more significant than we expected. Our revisions were partly based on early phases of fieldwork, which revealed the need to increase the number of survey items addressing issues of staff professionalism and bureaucratic efficiency.

We have learnt more than we expected about prison life generally, in particular, the importance of ‘staff professionalism’ in determining prisoner quality of life.

There has been more international interest in our findings than we expected, particularly in Australia and New Zealand, where there has been a new drive to privatise and compete prison services.

B Potential Future Impacts

If you have a clear idea of the impact your research is likely to have in the future please detail these below. [Max 250 words]

Under the new government, the prison system is likely to undergo significant change in coming years. A number of prisons are currently being ‘market tested’, and it is expected that a much greater proportion of the prison estate will be privately managed in the future. Changes in the public sector staffing model are reshaping public sector prisons in the image of the private sector. Our research is likely to feed into debates and discussions about these developments, about the determinants of prison quality, the relationship between staff culture and prisoner quality of life, and the potential risks and benefits of increased competition in this area of public services.

The findings from our study of senior managers is likely to impact on the present ‘crisis’ of senior management in NOMS. We have been invited to advise on selection, and professional development, and we are beginning a new phase in the teaching of an applied criminology, penology and management masters’ degree to senior managers in corrections, in part based on our work on this project.

4. IMPACT LIMITATIONS

A Limited scientific impact

Please state below any major scientific difficulties that have limited the scientific impact of your research. The statement should refer to an effect on impact rather than simply detail research difficulties. [Max 250 words]

We originally sought to conduct a follow-up study of the reconviction rates of prisoners released from the four main prisons in our study. We collected sufficient information to allow us to check these rates for the two Local prisons, however, not enough prisoners are directly released from the two training prisons for a follow-up of these establishments to be viable. We have been made aware of work within NOMS which calculates actual over expected reconviction rates for all establishments in England and Wales and compares these rates to
quality of prison life data. We are currently collaborating with NOMS about access to this data, but, as yet, have not been able to cite it officially. There are some methodological limitations relating to matching. Again, these are expected and inevitable. The effect on impact is related to generalisability and the yet to be pursued precise links between prison quality and outcomes on release.

B  Limited economic and societal impact

ESRC recognises that some of the research it funds will not have an economic or societal impact in the short term. Please explain briefly below if this is the case for your project, and refer to your grant application where relevant. [Max 250 words]

n/a

C  No impact to date

Please note that ESRC projects are evaluated on the basis of their scientific and/or economic and societal impact. Grant holders are expected to report any future impacts as they occur using the Impact Record, downloadable from the ESRC Society Today website.

If you have no impacts at this stage, please give reasons below. [Max 250 words]

n/a
5. DECLARATIONS

Please read the statements below. Submitting this Impact Report to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk confirms your agreement.

i) This Impact Report is an accurate statement of the impacts of the research project to date. All co-investigators named in the proposal to ESRC or appointed subsequently have seen and approved the Report.

ii) Details of any subsequent impacts will be submitted via an Impact Record as they occur.

Thank you for completing this Impact Report. Your Impact Report will be considered along with your End of Award Report in the evaluation of your research.

You are now invited to complete the confidential Nominations form, which will assist with the evaluation of your project.