

# THE INSTITUTE OF PRISON LAW

AUTHORISED BY THE SOLICITORS REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR CPD PURPOSES  
AND ACCREDITED BY THE BAR STANDARDS BOARD OF ENGLAND & WALES

## **CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY IN PRISON LAW**

MAY 2008 – APRIL 2009

This course is designed for those whose work brings them into day to day contact with prisoners, as such it is ideal for Prison Governors, Prison Officers, Solicitors, Fee-Earners and Barristers. It consists of ten full days, spread across 12 months (for holiday reasons the course is not operated in July or August). Each day consisting of morning and afternoon sessions each of 3 hours duration and each day attracting 6 CPD points. Two half days are spent visiting prisons. The Course leads to the **Certificate of Competency in Prison Law**, and is gained by attendance at 80% of the course and completion of 3 multiple choice tests, with 80% pass mark in each.

### LECTURERS

Barristers: **Hugh Southey, Nick Armstrong & Abigail Smith.**

#### **Day 1. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2008**

- 1 Course introduction. Short history of imprisonment, the purpose of imprisonment, and the Prison Service 'mission statement'. Where to look; sources and resources, practitioner books and useful websites.
- 2 The statutory and regulatory framework of prisons. Prison Act 1952, Prison Rules 1999 (YOI Rules 2000). PSOs and PSIs.
- 3 Overview of what rights prisoners have. An introduction to the essential tools of defending and asserting rights; judicial review and applications to the CHR. Fairness, proportionality and reasons indecision-making.
- 4 a The prison estate and population. The organisation and structure of the prison service. Staff ranks. Types of institution. Private prisons. An introduction to NOMS.
- 4b Boards of Visitors (IMBs), HM Inspector of Prisons, the Ombudsman, probation, chaplaincy, and listener schemes.

#### **Day 2. Friday 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2008**

Morning. Visit to HM Prison Holloway. A public sector multi-functional female establishment that holds adults and young offenders, remands and convicted, Mother & Baby Unit, local prison and training prison functions.  
Afternoon. Risk Assessments. Ruth Mann, Head of Sex Offender Treatment Programmes and Risk Assessments: HM Prison Service.

**Day 3 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

- 1 Request/complaint procedure.
- 2 Sentence planning. Incentives and privileges schemes. Prison work.
- 3 Categorisation and Allocation.
- 4 Funding prisoner legal advice and action; judicial review, CHR, civil actions, adjudications and lifer panels. LA franchise.

**TEST 1 ISSUED – TO BE RETURNED COMPLETED BY 30TH SEPTEMBER**

**Day 4. Friday 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008**

- 1 a Special treatment of child prisoners and young offenders (18-21), women prisoners, mother and baby units.  
b Treatment of remand, civil, and foreign national prisoners, immigration detainees and 'terrorist' internees.
- 2 Healthcare issues. Prison health and the NHS. Healthcare administration and forms. Confidentiality.
- 3 'Therapeutic' regimes, and Close Supervision Centres.
- 4 Mentally ill prisoners; care and transfer to hospital.

**Day 5. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

- 1 Maintaining order. Intelligence, segregation, and force. Application to the private sector.
- 2 Adjudications. Discipline manual, Article 6 requirements. Procedural fairness. Independent adjudicators.
- 3 Case studies, and roll play; adjudications.

**Day 6. Friday 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

Morning. Visit to HM Prison Latchmere House, male category C resettlement prison.

Afternoon. Course revision

**TEST 2 ISSUED – TO BE RETURNED COMPLETED BY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

**Day 7. Friday 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2009**

- 1 Offending behaviour work, and prison education and courses. SOTP, ETS, Think First, CALM, Alcohol awareness, Domestic violence.
- 2 CCRC.
- 3 Communications; Letters, visits, telephone calls, and computers. Access to the media.

4 Racism, discrimination and religious rights.

**Day 8. Friday; 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

- 1 Release regimes, and release date calculation. Tags, HDC, temporary licence. Intermittent imprisonment.
- 2 Licence. Issues re recall and re-offending whilst at risk.
- 3 The parole system.
- 4 Risk assessment, denial, licence and recall. Recall procedure and hearings.

**Day 9. Friday; 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009**

- 1 Life imprisonment.
- 2 The lifer panels. Representations, procedure and evidence.
- 3 Case studies/role play; lifer panel

**Day 10. Friday 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009**

- 1 Death in custody. Prevention. Procedures; F2052SH. Article 2 and investigations. Disclosure and openness.
- 2 Inquests.
- 3 Actions for death, assault, false imprisonment, misfeasance, and negligence.
- 4 Course open discussion

**TEST 3 ISSUED – TO BE RETURNED COMPLETED BY 30TH APRIL 2008**