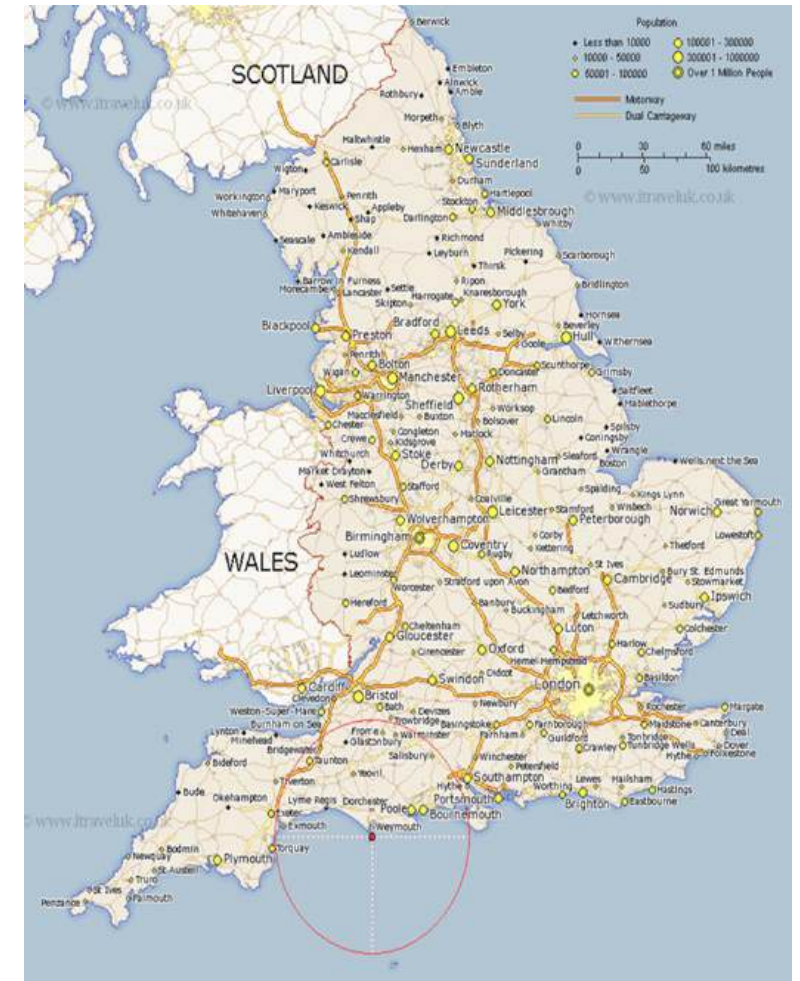


A Nebraska-USA Corrections Teacher's Visit to a Prison in England-UK

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A Nebraska Corrections Teacher's Visit to a Prison in England- UK

My goal: To discover the many differences and similarities between these two correctional facilities!

The People:

- My very good English friend Samantha (Sam) of 25 years has been working in His Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS) at Portland Prison for over eighteen years in a variety of different prison service roles. I spent the day with Sam last summer in the prison where she is currently a Prison Offender Manager (POM) in an English medium/maximum security all-male prison.
- I have been a teacher for almost 40 years; I have worn many hats in Education all over the world. The last seven plus years of my teaching career I have been an ESL-ELL-Literacy Teacher (*English as a Second Language/English Language Learners*) at Tecumseh State Correctional Institution, an all-male medium/maximum correctional facility within Nebraska Dept. of Correctional Services (NDCS).

A PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

- **These are MY work/teaching experiences & endeavors...**
- People who work in the field of corrections have different perspectives and duties within their (*correctional*) job role. Corrections(or any)staff will have very different upbringings, educational backgrounds, life/travel/past work experiences, a variety of perspectives & political views ...also opposite or alike mindsets and values.
- I can only share my views/experiences/perspectives and my frame of reference of working in a prison.
- Please note that every correctional facility/prison whether in the same state, country or overseas have their own unique characteristics and can be very different and yet similar in many ways.
- **As an NDCS Corrections Teacher in Nebraska at TSCI (the last 7 years) I am going to share some of the differences & similarities I perceived and learned from my visit to one of His Majesty's UK prisons in Southern England ... (I asked a lot of questions!)**

Our Roles in each Facility/Prison...

• **Stephany's Role for the last 7 years**

- **Education:** I am a Nebraska State Certified Teacher with the Nebraska Department of [Adult] Education, teaching at Tecumseh State Correctional Institute (TSCI).
- **Teaching incarcerated students from all over the world** with a wide variety of learning levels how to speak, write and read in English ... many of my students can speak some English at a functional level but need to learn to write English. Several of my students had also never been in a classroom before and did not know how to write their own name or tell time.
- **College Correspondent Liaison** for incarcerated individuals wanting to take Jr. College or University classes long distance.
- **Weekly Safety, Sanitation and Maintenance REP** for our education building and responsible for the weekly safety tool report in our building.
- When I very first started teaching in prison , I taught a **creative writing** course for a semester– I loved this!

• **Sam's Roles over 18 years**

- A **Uniformed Officer/UO** for 12 years
- **Manager--Induction Unit** on the wings/housing units for new prisoners coming into Portland Prison-UK. They are on the induction wing for 2 weeks getting everything sorted for their sentence in prison.
- **Family Links Officer** in the Resettlement Department for four years
- **Ran Family Visits** (Sam: *"These are different to normal visits when the lads are unable to move from their seats. On family visits they have the freedom to move round, sit on the floor, and play with their children."*)
- **Current role** is a **POM** – **Prison Offender Manager** – probation officers in the community are call **COM**.
- *"I work closely with COM, my role is very busy; essentially, we assess the lads for their risks and try to work with the prisoner to help reduce their risk of reoffending by working with them and getting them to do a variety of Offending Behaviour programmes. I work part time now and have a caseload of 30 prisoners. If I were full time in the London area I could have well over 100 on my caseload!"--SAM*

The language we both use working in corrections is very different at our facilities...

- **Tecumseh State Correctional Institution/TSCI-** Tecumseh, Nebraska

- We use the term ***‘incarcerated individual’***—also the term ***‘inmate’*** but we are trying to move away from using the term ***‘inmate.’***
- We normally use the words ***‘facility’*** or ***‘site’***—rarely use the word *prison*, never use *convict*
- We use the title CO or Correctional Officer or ‘guard’, also a CO can start out as a Corporal (when you first start in custody and CO’s can move up the ranks to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major) The UK does not use these military types of titles for prison custody job titles.
- I will sometimes use the terms ‘guys’, ‘gentlemen’ or ‘my students’ with our population.

- **HMP/YOI Portland Prison-Portland, England**

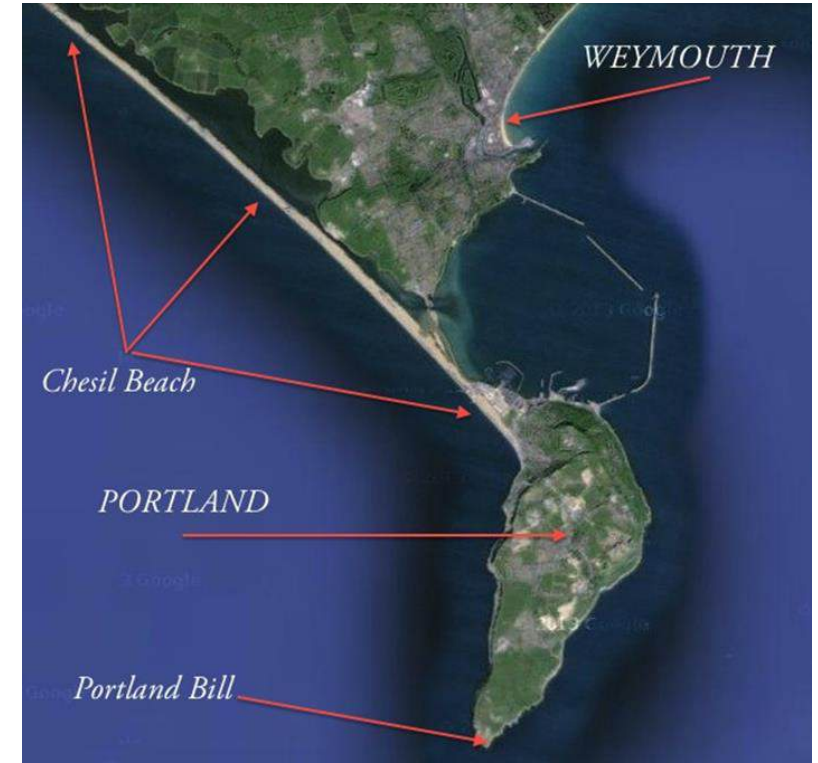
* (*His Majesty’s Prison-Youth Offender Institution*)

- Sam’s site (*and most UK prisons*) only use the word ***‘prisoner’*** and nothing else. Even though ‘offender’ is in the title of her workplace/prison they only use the term ***‘prisoner’***—*never* use ‘corrections/correctional.’
- They also only use the word ***‘prison’*** not facility/site/correctional center. Even though her place of work has ‘*Institution*’ in the title—they only use the term ***‘prison.’***
- My friend will sometimes use the term ***‘lads’*** ***‘blokes’*** or ***‘young man/men’*** when referring to the ***prisoners*** on her caseload.

HMP/YOI Portland PRISON... is located on the Island of Portland, England, a very short distance across the ocean from the city of Weymouth in the English Shire/County of Dorset. Portland is an island (south/very bottom of England) but is also a *bigger* town with a population just over 13,000. There are two prisons on the Island of Portland.

★ Portland Prison is right in the middle of a neighbourhood. **It was built in 1848.**
{Razor wire removed due to being deemed inhumane}





Where is Portland, England? *(It's an island!)*



More photos of HMP/YOI Portland, England
(Me out front of HMPS Portland Prison, England)

A few QUICK CURRENT STATS/FACTS about both of our prisons ...

Tecumseh State Correction Institute, NE

- **Population:** 1039 (as of Feb. 25th, 2025), our TSCI facility is designed for only 960 incarcerated individuals. All inmates share a room/cell except those in the special housing units (120) and those on Death Row (11).
- **TSCI** is the only prison in Nebraska that houses Death Row and currently has 11 men on Death Row. The term used now for Death Row incarcerated individuals is... **ISDP's**-- The Inmate(s) Sentence to the Death Penalty.
- The highest populations from outside the USA doing time at TSCI are Hispanic inmates from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico and other Central/South American countries.
- Our male inmates who were transgender on the outside before they were sentenced can wear and purchase makeup from our canteen/commissary as well as female undergarments and continue their medical treatments they were seeking on the outside.
- Our canteen sells blush, lipstick, eyeshadow and eyeliner; as well as bras and women's underwear.

Portland Prison, England

- **Population:** 500 prisoners (Feb. 2025) **but** almost all of them have their own room/cell.
- There are no sex offenders in Portland Prison. Those convicted of a sex crime in the UK go to a specific prison for sex offenders only
- There is NO Death Penalty in the UK, it has been completely eradicated and has not been used since August 1964.
- The highest current populations from outside the UK are Albanians. Prisoners from other countries outside the UK/foreigners tend to come in different patterns/waves over the years. In the past there was a large population of Sudanese and Somalis.
- I was told, even if the prisoner was transgender outside, *"No prisoners at Portland Prison are allowed to dress in any female attire or wear any makeup. It is for their own safety and protection."*

INFORMATION ABOUT USA & UK

USA

• Current Population & Crime STATS:

- **USA**= 340,110,988 (July 2024)
- **Current Homicides** in the USA =19,252 (2023)
- **Homicides** committed ***by firearm*** =13,529 (2023)
- 50-55% of Suicides are gun related (2024)
- Highest homicide Rate **YEAR ever on record** in USA =1980
- Highest (**city**) number of homicides in **2024** =**Chicago**
- Highest (**city**) number of homicides in **1984** =**Miami**
- Highest (**city**) number of homicides in **1964** =**Detroit**
- **Current state** with most murders (per capita)= **Mississippi**
- **Current state** w/highest number of murders = **California**
- **Current safest state** = **Vermont**
- **Current state with the lowest crime rate** = **New Hampshire**
- **Current state with the lowest violent crime** = **Maine**

UK-United Kingdom of Great Britain

(England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)

• Current Population & Crime STATS:

- **UK** = 69,138,192 (2024)
- **England** = 56,489,800 (2024)
- **Current** homicides in the **UK** = 570 (2023/2024)
- **City** with the **highest** homicide rate = London
- **Highest** homicide rate **YEAR ever** in UK = (2002/2003)
- **Homicides** committed ***by a firearm*** in **UK** = 22 (2023/2024)
- **Homicides** using **knife**/sharp object in **UK** = 262
- Overall **safest** place to live in the **UK** =Shetland Islands, (Northern Island off Scotland)
- **Lowest** crime rate most **south** in UK/England = Turo, Cornwall
- **Overall lowest** crime rate in **UK** = Exeter, England
- **Current #1 most** (popular) **crime** in **UK** = **Fraud**

MORE INFO ABOUT USA & UK

USA (...and Nebraska)

- Most recent number one killer in US = Heart disease
- Recent highest type of crime = Larceny-theft
- Recent second highest crime = Burglary
- There are 10 prisons that The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services operates.
- Nebraska does NOT have any privately run prisons– they are all run by the state.
- The average daily population of inmates in all the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) facilities/prisons is approximately 5,880 people.
- THE USA has federal and state prisons.
- Nebraska does not have a federal prison.

UK-United Kingdom of Great Britain (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)

- Most recent number one killer in UK = Dementia
- Second highest crime in UK = Theft (Fraud #1)
- As of 2024, there were 141 prisons in the United Kingdom, including prisons in England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
- England and Wales: 122 prisons
- Scotland: 15 prisons
- Northern Ireland: 4 prisons
- Two types of prisons in UK: Government or Private
- 14 of these 141 are privately run in the UK
- The average length of a prison sentence for all offences in England and Wales was 20.9 months in 2023, compared with 11.4 months in the year 2000.

Info, Explanations & Opinions of Private Prisons in the UK

My friend Sam's prison/workplace is government run, and Sam shared, *"I do not agree with private prisons ... they are making profit off victims of crime; this is not right."*

- **Other explanations & opinions against private prisons I found in my research and interviews while visiting Portland Prison, England:**

- 1) The UK government privatized prisons in the 1990s to address overcrowding.
- 2) **Private** prisons are often criticized for poor standards of care, unsafe working conditions, and lower pay.
- 3) In 2018, the UK government took back control of Birmingham Prison from G4S, a private company due to poor conditions.
- 4) Some government officials say that **private** prisons are not up to the task of running prisons.
- 5) Others say that the drive for profit affects the quality of prison regimes and may compromise safety for both staff and prisoners.
- 6) Many citizens and government workers over the last couple decades have called for the abolition of privately owned prisons in the UK.

Types of prisons in the USA:

- **State Prisons:** There are 1,566 state prisons in the United States.
- **Federal Prisons:** There are 98 federal prisons in the United States. The Federal Bureau of Prisons operates these prisons at five different security levels.
- **Local Jails:** There are 3,116 local jails in the United States.
- **Juvenile Correctional Facilities:** There are 1,323 juvenile correctional facilities in the United States.
- **Immigration Detention Facilities:** There are 142 immigration detention facilities in the United States.
- **The United States also has** *Military Prisons, *Civil Commitment Centers, and *State Psychiatric Hospitals. ***Texas** has the most prisons and jails in the United States.
- As of June 2023, there were **158 private prisons** in the United States. The Biden Administration was trying to weed private prisons out. These prisons house about 8% of the total state and federal prison population.

[March 2024.]

The USA also has Private Prisons like the UK ...

I have found in my research there are pros and cons with private correctional facilities in the USA. There are arguments for both private and state-run prisons.

Cost savings

- Private prisons can be more cost-efficient than public prisons.
- The private company is responsible for the day-to-day costs of running the prison.
- Private prisons can charge the government a consistent amount per inmate, which makes budgeting easier.

Improved population management

- Private prisons can house more inmates, which can reduce overcrowding in public/state prisons.
- This can save the government money on operating costs and staff.

Job creation

- Private prisons can often create local jobs for people in a community, including guards/officers, cleaners, cooks, medical staff, Doctors, nurses, and administrative support.

Other benefits

- Private prisons can be built more quickly.
- Some reports suggest that private prisons are less dangerous. *(No further info on this)*
- Private prisons can offer innovative programs to reduce re-imprisonment rates/vocational skills training.

Concerns

- Private prisons may exploit prisoners and employees for corporate gain.
- Privatizing prisons may leave the most expensive inmates in public/state prisons.
- Market concentration may lead to higher prices and lower quality.

What does HM Portland Prison (England) look like on the inside?





***500 prisoners live at HM Portland Prison across 7 UNITS. Units are color coated by the stairwells, railings and the cell doors. There is sometimes a mixture of single and double cells—BUT most have a single room. Each cell has a kettle, TV and a lockable cabinet. (Portland Prison houses 50-70 people to a unit). Above right photo-VERY typical single UK single prison cell.**

***The Portland Prison rooms , or cells, now have a phone in each room (they do not have tablets/iPads like our population at TSCI). The Portland prisoners can have 20 approved people on their phone list and one legal number. TSCI inmates can have 30 approved people on their phone list.**

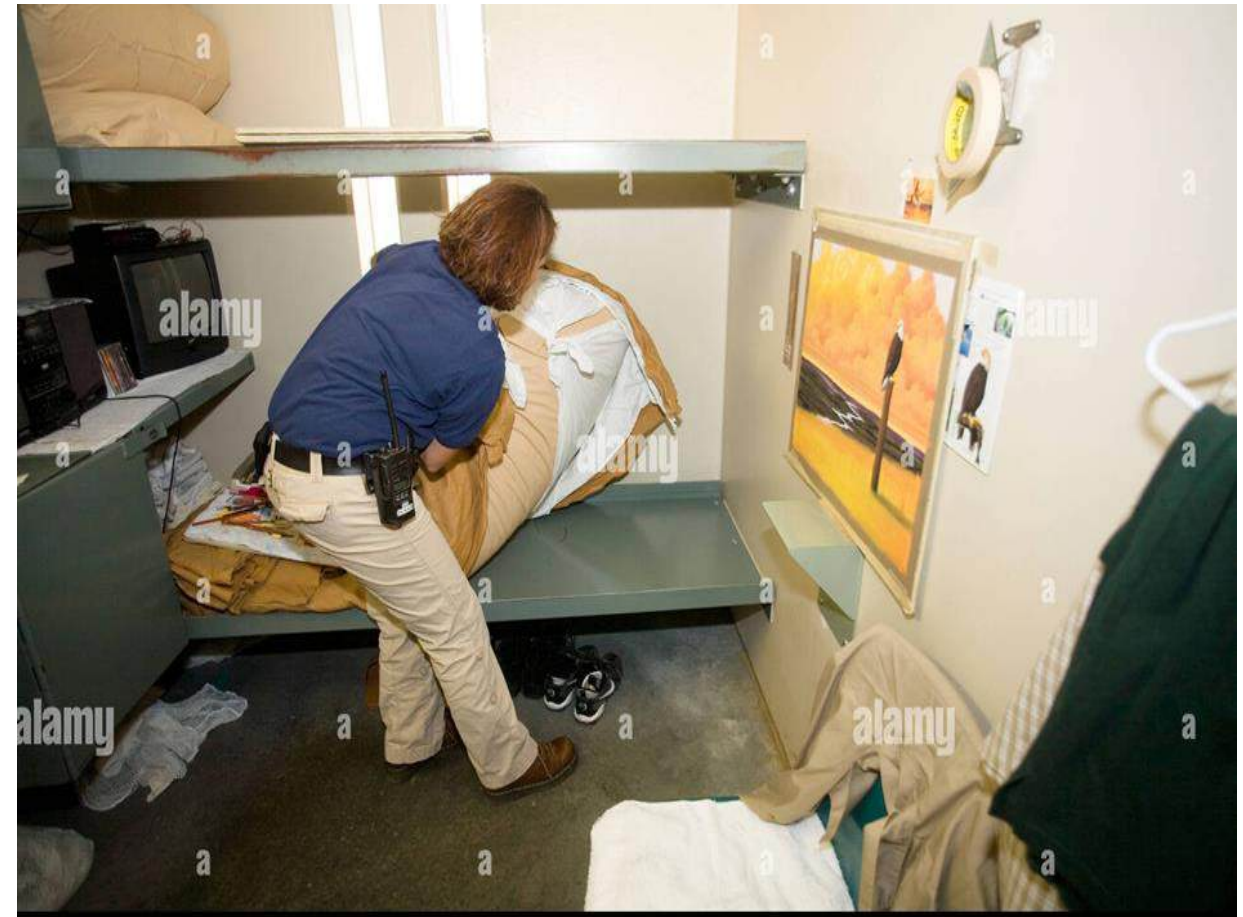
***Each Portland Prison UNIT has a communal kitchen and laundry facility where the inmates or prisoners do their own personal laundry—sheets/bedding, towels go to the prison laundry.**

Below: *ALL Galleries/pods in Portland and most UK prisons have pool tables/ping pong tables and couches and chairs—making it more of a ‘homelike environment’ my friend Sam told me when she toured me around to the different Units.

★(*Personal Antidote-I asked my TSCI students if they thought pool tables were a good idea, and the majority said BAD idea because if that one person wants to fight it can get dangerous—yes, they would like them but too risky for the most part.*) NDCS does provide PING PONG tables but only in the gym or called A&R /athletics and recreation.



Examples: TSCI typical two-man cell



Male prisons in the UK are organized into 4 categories:

Category A

- These are high security prisons. They house male prisoners who, if they were to escape, pose the most threat to the public, the police or national security.

Category B

- These prisons are either local or training prisons.
- Local prisons house prisoners that are taken directly from court in the local area (sentenced or on remand), and training prisons hold long-term and high-security prisoners.

Category C **(Portland Prison where I visited is a C category)*

- These prisons are training and resettlement prisons; **most prisoners are located in a category C.** They provide prisoners with the opportunity to develop their own skills so they can find work and resettle back into the community on release. It is still a secured facility.

Category D - open prisons

- These prisons have minimal security and allow eligible prisoners to spend most of their day away from the prison on license to carry out work, education or for other resettlement purposes. Open prisons only house prisoners that have been risk-assessed and deemed suitable for open conditions.

YOI-Youth Offender Institute (UK)-Youth Justice info...

- **YOI** is a term used for prisoners ages 18-21
 - HM Portland Prison, England is classified as a **YOI**
 - My friend told me they have a few 'lifers' at her prison (which doesn't always mean a life sentence) and many 'old timers' at her prison with longer sentences. Right now (2/2025) they have "*a bit of a mixed bag*" my friend Sam stated.
 - Sam stated ...**Not** all the prisoners at YOI Portland Prison are between ages 18-21, at any given time 50-70% can be between 18 and 21. A lot of numbers depend on overcrowding and what bed space is available.
-
- UK Children aged 15 to 17 accounted for 74% of the offending population, while making up 36% of the 10 to 17 population in England and Wales. Boys accounted for 86% of the offending population compared with 51% of the 10 to 17 population in England and Wales. (GOV.UK Jan 25, 2024)
 - The Youth Justice System (we say Juvenile Justice) in England and Wales is nationwide and works to prevent offending and reoffending by children. The youth justice system is different to the adult system and is **structured to address the needs of children**. They use the word children a great deal when discussing the UK Justice System.
 - 2021-2022--13,800 children were cautioned or sentenced. The number of children who received a caution or sentence has fallen by 13% in the last year with a **79% fall over the last ten years**.

Youth Custody Service-UK

(Some info about UK's Youth Justice, the UK does not use the word Juvenile like the USA)

What YCS does:

- **YCS** is a specialist service within HM Prison & Probation Service. **YCS** focus on the care and rehabilitation of children and young people aged 10 to 18 in custody.
- The children and young people in YCS care are among the most challenging and vulnerable in our society.
- **YCS** enables the children and young people in Youth Custody Care to access education and develop new skills so that they can live positive and crime-free lives on their release.
- Anyone under 18 who is sentenced to custody is sent to a secure center for children, **not** to an adult prison. Children aged under 15 would typically be held in a secure children's home, while those aged 15 to 18 would be held in a YOI or secure training center.
- My friend Sam's prison-workplace does not house anyone under 18.
- Neither one of us works within Youth Justice. We work with legal aged adults over age 18.

UK Prison staff ranking...

- **Governor** (Head of the Prison)—dress is business attire
- **Deputy Governor** (Second in command)—dress is business attire
- **CM – Custodial Manager** - uniformed
- **SO – Senior Officer** - uniformed
- **Officer** – uniformed (like our American CO's)-nickname “Screws”
- **OSG - Operational Support Grade** – uniform staff who do things like the mail room, escort vehicles, staff the wings at night, search grounds
- {UK Programming staff/Community staff/Prisoner Case workers/managers, vocational trainers, teachers, religious coordinators, Chaplains, etc.}—These prison workers have free dress, it is business casual attire. **No** open-toed or sling back shoes, denim or t-shirt type of clothing. Dresses/skirts to the knee or below.

TSCI Custody Staff/Leadership Ranking ...

- Warden
- Deputy Warden
- Associate Warden
- Housing Administrator*
- Public Information & Litigation Officer*
- Major*
- Captain
- Lieutenant
- Sergeant
- Corporal
- Officer

** all equal/lateral positions*

- Programming Staff:

(Secondary Education-HS & GED, ESL studies/Substance Abuse Counselors/Mental Health Medical-dental, vision, skilled nursing/Religion/Athletics & Recreation-Hobbies/Library Services/Community-Restorative Justice Classes/Parenting Classes/Re-entry programs/Vocational Theory classes/Career readiness classes/College or University Correspondence Courses/Sex Offender and Violent Offender Courses)—*Programming staff & some housing staff and leadership roles have free dress/business casual attire. Prison Military ranks wear a custody uniform and appropriate ranking badges.*

Some Nebraska Prison Info...

Nebraska prisons are categorized by security level, and include medium, maximum, and community custody facilities:

- **Nebraska State Penitentiary (NSP):** Nebraska's largest prison, which houses maximum and medium security inmates, as well as three minimum security housing units. NSP also administers the death penalty at NSP.
- **Tecumseh State Correctional Institution (TSCI):** A maximum/medium custody facility for adult males, including a restrictive housing unit for inmates sentenced to death and other offenders.
- **Nebraska Correctional Center for Women (NCCW):** Has minimum, medium, and maximum-security levels.
- **Community Corrections Center – Lincoln (CCCL):** Has an operating capacity of 680 inmates—community custody.
- **Community Corrections Center – Omaha (CCCO):** Has a capacity of 180 inmates—community custody.
- **Lincoln Correctional Center/D & E /NOW RTC:** Has a capacity of 1350 inmates-MAX.
- **Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF):** Has a capacity of under 100 inmates--MAX.
- **Omaha Correctional Center (OCC):** Has a capacity of 712 inmates—minimum/medium.
- **Work Ethic Camp (WEC):** Has a capacity of 175 inmates—minimum/medium.

PRISON Food: Differences & Similarities

TSCI-Nebraska

- Mon-Friday, always a sack **breakfast**; some type of sugary **generic** cereal (never a name brand), sometimes generic Pop tarts, everyday there are makings for a peanut butter & Jelly sandwich, powdered milk, no fruit, **no** instant coffee.
- A jar of Folger's instant coffee from the TSCI Canteen is \$8.00 (average earnings for a TSCI inmate is \$24.00 a month) TEA BAGS ARE NOT ALLOWED!
- **Lunch** is a HOT/served meal in the dining hall. Sometimes depending on staffing levels, the hot lunch can be picked up in a Styrofoam clamshell or delivered to the Units.

HM Portland Prison-England

- Always a sack **breakfast** with cereal, bread/butter for toast in the Unit kitchen, teabags, sugar packets and real milk.
- Tea is a big part of the English/UK culture. Prisons can and do drink throughout the day. There is a kettle or hotpot provided in every room. Tea bags are free.
- **Lunch everyday** is either a hotpot soup, noodles or pasta meal for one (all instant food), it also comes with a roll and butter.
- The instant soups & noodles can be made with the prisoner's kettle or communal kitchen.
- They call lunch → 'dinner' or 'noon meal'

Prison Food Continued

TSCI-Nebraska

- TSCI calls the evening meal **supper**, or **dinner**. Served usually anywhere from 4pm to 5:00pm—lock down for the night is 5:45pm and if the facility was running behind or short staffed or inclement weather conditions—the evening meal will be served in the Units in **‘to-go’** containers.
- Supper/dinner is a hot meal and served in the dining hall or mostly called the **‘chow hall’** and you need to get into the **‘chow line’** and show your ID with photo so it can be swiped—only one meal per inmate.
- Some inmates (may try to) let others use their card to get an extra meal because the inmate doesn’t want to eat or maybe ‘owes’ someone money or has a ‘debt’ so paying it off in food.
- There are **‘special diet’ trays** for lunch and supper available for diabetics, those with severe allergies, gluten intolerances, digestive track issues, etc.

HM Portland Prison-England

- Portland Prison calls the evening meal **‘tea’** (from the phrase **‘teatime’** which commonly said all over the UK—the term supper is sometimes/rarely used but that refers to a later meal/big snack about 8-9pm)
- Portland prisoners **‘order’** their meals in advance because the prison kitchen is so old and inept it is more cost effective to have 500 evening meals catered into the prison that put in a whole new kitchen for 500 people/prisoner.
- The Portland evening meal or **‘tea’** is a cooked/hot meal. The prisoners order their meals two weeks in advance and get to choose from a wide variety of menu options, all diet Friendly.
- I do not have a copy of their menu order form, but I did view it when visiting and it seemed to have good choices & seemed healthy ... broccoli chicken bake, fish dinners, different meats and vegetables. Pizza delivery is a weekly item—hundreds of individualized prepped dinners/boxes of pizza are delivered to the prison daily.

Observed Differences Between Facilities

- 1. In the UK incarcerated individuals can VAPE** (no tobacco) in all prisons. The UK prison employees must leave the grounds to smoke/vape– There is NO smoking at any NDCS facilities by anyone—not even in your car in the state parking lot.
- 2. In the UK the prisoners have free dress ...** (each facility depends on the Governor's rules). Nebraska inmates must wear khaki shirts/pants uniform.
- 3. The prisoners at UK Portland Prison do their own laundry** (except for towels/linens).
- 4. My friend's prison there is a TRUSTEE dorm (unit) that is very nice.** Prisoners can work up to this living accommodation. **It looks like an upscale modern apartment** complex with nice, big rooms, private bathrooms (*like a studio apartment*). Landscaped gardens all around it. These are usually older inmates who have been there awhile and may have a longer sentence.
- 5. Even though my friend's UK prison is medium/max security prison some prisoners can leave for the day to work** and return to eat/sleep/shower.

Differences continued...

6. My friend's prison/workplace a prisoner CAN have multiple people in their room (cell). At TSCI NO one is allowed in another's room. Only the incarcerated men that cell/room is assigned to can enter that room. The inmate will be taken to holding or worse, SEG/RHU if an inmate is found in another's room. *My friend and her colleagues do not like this rule at their prison, it makes it easier for prisoners to get into fights/get jumped or assault staff...and do drugs. *More cameras at TSCI.*

7. ALL UK galleries/pods within the Unit have multiple pool tables and ping pong tables. TSCI only has ping pong tables, and they are in the REC/GYM.

8. My friend's prison has (soft) lounging couches, high back chairs and footrests throughout the units. My facility (most NEB prisons) only have ALL metal furniture for tables, seats/chairs, picnic tables and benches that are bolted to the floor.

9. My friend's prison is a very 'old school' type of building(s) using skeleton keys on a big ring to open every gate, door, cell door or hallway door. My facility is much more modern and runs on mostly automatic doors ran by central control within my facility. My friend's prison was built in 1884 and TSCI in 2001.

Differences continued...

10. My friend's UK prison workplace the main evening meal "tea" is catered into the prison because the kitchen facilities are so old with so many problems and not equipped enough to handle feeding over 500 men every evening. Currently cheaper to cater in food than to build a whole new wing with a modern kitchen.

11. My friend's workplace the prisoners' have their own kitchen on each unit where the prisoners can make their own food, heat items up or sit in the kitchen and eat meals, or have a cup of tea/coffee, etc. TEA IS FREE!

12. There are no sex offenders at my friend's prison, they are not mixed in with their population or GP (general population)—Sex offenders generally have their own facility in the UK. The 2nd prison on the UK island of Portland is called 'The Verne' and this facility exclusively houses sex offenders only. At TSCI we have a mix of all felonies/crimes housed together. There is one very small PC gallery at TSCI.

13. UK prisoners are allowed to attend funerals for close family members and HMPS will help cover costs to get you there. NDCS does not allow any incarcerated individuals to attend funerals under any circumstances.

Differences continued...

14. In the **UK** if you are visiting a loved one in prison, **HMPS will assist in the cost** of the public transportation (trains/taxis/buses) that get you there and back or HMPS will help pay for gas money for your vehicle.

15. If the **UK** prison/facility is a lengthy journey for the family/friends-- **HMPS will assist in the cost of a nearby hotel.** You must apply for assistance. They feel contact for the prisoner is important for rehabilitation and reduces recidivism. NDCS does **not** do this.

16. My perspective of my NE facility is it is more aimed at making the incarcerated individual work within the prison... like the massive TSCI laundry facility that launders NPS, the NE Women's facility's clothing/linens as well as some hospitals and hotels.

17. The NDCS/TSCI pay is only \$3.78 a day for an 8+ hour shift for an incarcerated individual. It is non-stop all-day work, and the conditions are sweltering in laundry with a row of massive driers and the soiled items the TSCI laundry receives are not for the faint hearted.

18. \$3.78 is also the pay for one shift/day of working in the TSCI kitchen. Individuals working in the massive TSCI woodshop that makes all the desks, tables, chairs, bookshelves, signs/logos for schools and state agencies, pays a little better, maybe \$5-6 a day. They can receive bonuses in laundry and in the woodshop.

19. Our TSCI Education Teaching assistants make \$3.78 a day, and our building's Cleaners/Porters make \$3.78 a day.

20. A TSCI shower porter/cleaner makes \$1.21 a day cleaning showers/floors/walls.

Differences continued....

- 21. (UK) Family & friends can mail presents** to their loved ones in prison; books, clothes, shoes, snacks, magazines, toiletries, etc. Allowed to MAIL it directly to their loved ones who are locked up. It must be thoroughly searched. My friend said this makes it easier on the UK prisoner who doesn't have a prison job (*"Jobs for prisoners in England are few and far between my friend stated, you are lucky to have a job in prison."*) -- **and the UK prison system is not trying to make a profit off their prisoners** buying items in the canteen/prison shop—fair prices. NDCS canteen items are much **more expensive** than on the outside.
- 22. At TSCI, an inmate's package must be mailed through a 3rd party, and** it can be **books only** that are posted in the mail (no other type of gifts) and only certain kinds of books. Amazon is not allowed. Barnes and Noble and a few other book vendors send the books to inmates from their families and friends.
- 23. Family/friends in NE can put money on the inmates' books/\$ account** and they inmate is able to purchase items from the canteen/commissary with their account.
- 24. NE inmates are not allowed to spend over \$100 a week at the canteen** (it just changed from \$85 a week). Items in the canteen have gone way up in cost-- but inmates' salaries have stayed the same.
- 25. NE inmates must purchase their own** Tylenol/Ibuprofen, cold/flu meds, eyedrops, nose spray, toiletries, phone time on their tablets, pens/pencils, notebooks, copies of paper, toothpaste, needles and thread etc.
- 26. In UK prison cells there is already a TV in each room.** In NE prison cells the inmate must buy their own TV—a 15-inch size TV only.

License vs. Parole ...

- In the UK, incarcerated individuals can get out of prison and do their time on a 'LICENSE' ... it's called, 'you're out on license' where a prisoner does their actual prison time on the OUTSIDE.
- This is not parole or community like with NDCS—they are serving their time while living a pretty normal life out of prison. The individual must have a decent support system/home to be allowed to go 'on license'. (*They are not in a half-way house*)
- HOWEVER, there are stipulations that must be followed!! No drinking, no pubs, often a curfew, cannot hang around certain friends, must maintain a job, if convicted of a sex crime you cannot own/have a mobile phone, computer, laptop, iPad/tablet, etc. This is where many stumble.
- Random spot checks are carried out. If caught, or if someone snitches on the person 'on license' they are ticketed, lose their license, and go straight back inside (no court) and start their sentence from when they left 'on license'.

Sentencing Differences ...

- **The Sentencing Structure in the UK is much different than Nebraska.**

***Many** mitigating factors **must** legally come into play when someone is found guilty of a crime and then sentenced (by a judge or jury) to do time in Prison within the UK Criminal Court/Penal System.*

**Age *Family background/upbringing (product of your environment), *past abuse whether *verbal or physical, *adverse childhood experiences, *poverty levels, *Education (access/lack of), *learning difficulties, *Special needs in education *family support on the outside, *skills/training, *children/family on the outside, *substance abuse and so forth.*

***AGE** is the biggest sentencing FACTOR & along with the seriousness of the crime ... plus all others mentioned above.*

*“In the UK we do **not** believe in throwing a life away as you do in America; where handing out a ‘life sentence’ seems to be quite common, even normal in the USA... doing a full life sentence in the UK is rarely heard of... You can read study after study, and it will show that life sentences, the death penalty or where quite frankly you’re murdering a person... and even decades in prison, or a life of punishment in prison does **NOT** deter crime... most prisoners need proper support, role models, perhaps trauma therapy, skills training and caring guidance with a strong belief in self and simply needing to just grow up.”—My friend SAM in the UK*

UK & USA Life Sentence Information

- **As of March 2024, The UK the prison population was nearly 98,000.**
- **Out of these almost 98,000 UK prisoners ONLY 65 were sentenced to LIFE.**
- **In the start of 2025-- The USA prison population was nearly 2,000,000.**
- [As of January 1, 2025], Of these 2 million there were approximately 2,092 people on death row in the United States.
- In 2025, approximately one in seven people in U.S. prisons are serving life sentences, with **over 200,000 USA individuals ‘doing life’.**
- **Racial Disparities USA:** More than **two-thirds of those serving life sentences are people of color.**
- **Age USA:** 30% of lifers are 55 years old or more.
- **Women USA:** One of every 15 women in prison is serving life.
- **Youth USA:** Almost 70,000 individuals serving life were under 25 at the time of their offense.

Side Notes...

- Total Incarceration: ***The US locks up more people per capita than any other independent democracy***, at a rate of 580 per 100,000 residents.
- **Types of Facilities:**
- State prisons: 1,566
- Federal prisons: 98
- Local jails: 3,116
- Juvenile correctional facilities: 1,277
- Immigration detention facilities: 133
- Indian Territory (Native American) country jails: 80
- Military prisons, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals

Differences, I thought made Portland Prison (UK) a better place to do time (*and be employed*)...

- More relaxed atmosphere, better energy, more laughing/joking, cheerier & politer
- CO/Guards will sit down and eat meals with the prisoners
- CO/Guards will play boardgames/cards/help prisoners with homework
- The staff and prisoners will share a cup of tea together/always friendly, but not friends
- The UK Home office **can drop-in** at anytime and may conduct an **unannounced** Inspection at any UK Prison... **and** survey & interview the prisoners .
- Life Skills Classes are mandatory for the youthful offenders (18+)
- Good behavior counts for something!!
- I didn't feel the incarcerated population were looked down upon, the UK staff treated their prisoners very politely and respectfully—staff were always willing to take time, not brush a prisoner off
- Do **not** shackle/restraint inmates like USA/NDCS consistently/constantly does to their incarcerated
- UK Staff are very helpful—they enjoy their jobs, higher professional standard from what I experienced in my visit
- TIME Structure is MUCH shorter—there is HOPE & MOTIVATION!! ***Everyone needs HOPE!***

SIMILARITIES IN BOTH OF OUR FACILITIES

(HMPS England & TSCI/Nebraska)

DRUGS

- Both correctional facilities have issues with staff bringing in/selling drugs.
- MAIN DRUG PROBLEM is the same for both England & Nebraska:
Synthetic Marijuana, SPICE, K2
- K2, SPICE affects the same area of the brain as cannabis (weed), but it contains chemicals made in laboratories and sprayed onto dry leaves. These chemicals are not derived from the cannabis plant. K2 is packaged under numerous brand names, ***including:*** Spice, Green Giant, Bizarro, Geeked Up, Smacked, Black Ninja, Crazy Clown, Scooby snacks, skunk, RedX dawn, Demon, Spike and AK-47. [and others]
- K2 and Spice are just two of the many trade names or brands for synthetic designer drugs that are intended to mimic THC, the main psychoactive ingredient of marijuana. These designer synthetic drugs are from the synthetic cannabinoid class of drugs that are often marketed and sold under the guise of “herbal incense” or “potpourri.”
- State public health and poison centers have issued warnings in response to adverse health effects associated with abuse of herbal incense products containing these synthetic cannabinoids.
- In some instances, the adverse health effects can be long-lasting even after the user quits using the substances; physical as well psychological dangers.

Next similarity - Cell Phones!

- This is a big problem at many prisons/correctional facilities!
- Smart phones are important on the inside to carry out '*business*' to the outside whether it's illegal activities/GANG ACTIVITY-STG's (security threat groups), staying closer with family/friends, partner(s), and just having the control of possessing a phone in prison is power, way to make money, carry out plans/hits, etc. {some eventually ends up 'snitching' about a phone}
- It is also very lucrative for the person/staff bringing the cellular device into the prison/facility.
- At the NDCS Student Training Academy (STA) we learned cell phones are worth \$600 if a standard smart cell phone... or \$1000 for a higher end iPhone or Samsung Galaxy.

Similarities Continued...

1. Overcrowding
2. Recidivism = NEB 28% within 3 years/UK 26.5% within one-year 2023
*(*My friend Sam's workplace/Prison Portland UK the recidivism rate last year was almost 75%!!)*
3. Staffing shortages
4. Corruption
5. Fights amongst inmates & Weapons
6. Gangs/Security Threat Groups (STGs)
7. Staff Assaults
8. Intimidation/Bullying amongst inmates/or with staff to inmates and inmates to staff/staff to staff
9. Theft (amongst inmates)
10. Inappropriate Relationships {staff with inmate/inmate with inmate/staff with staff}
11. Boredom!

This is SO IMPORTANT– NDCS needs this service!

HIS MAJESTY'S PRISON SERVICE--Concerns, problems and complaints information numbers:

*In an emergency CALL: 01305 715 600 if you think a prisoner is at immediate risk of harm. Ask for the Orderly Officer and explain that your concern is an emergency.

*Non-emergency CALL: 01305 715 666--Call this number if you have concerns about a prisoner's safety or wellbeing which are serious but not life.

*Staff Integrity Hotline: 0800 917 6877

(24 hour answering machine)-This number can be called anonymously. If you are concerned about a prisoner being bullied by a member of staff, you can use this number. As this line is managed separately from the prison, you can call this number anonymously.)

*Prisoners' Families Helpline: 0808 808 2003-The Prisoners' Families Helpline can provide confidential support, advice and guidance.

*Unwanted Prisoner Contact: 0300 060 6699-If a prisoner is contacting you and you want them to stop, you can use the Unwanted Prisoner Contact Service.

*Stop prisoner contact you can complete the online form email:
unwantedprisonercontact@justice.gov.uk or contact by phone to the local prison.

REFERENCES

- **Websites:** BBC website, CDC website (Centre for Disease Control), USAFacts.org, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health website, Everydaystat.org, Office for national statistics UK, macrotrends.net UK, prison policy found on www.gov.uk, prisonreformtrust.org.uk, legislation.gov.uk (Prison 1999 Rule), Bureau of Justice Statistics BJS/online, statista.com, nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk—Interviews with staff and population at HMPS Portland Prison--Portland, England.
- **Interviews (questions/statements) I conducted** with Portland Prison staff, as well as interviewing my good friend Sam in depth about her experiences/roles. Also, contacting local court authorities/systems in Dorset & Wiltshire Shires (*counties*) in England asking a variety of questions about their sentencing structures.
- Most statistics are from 2023/2024, I mainly stuck to 2023/2024 because some for 2025 are not out yet. UK tends to them in two-year intervals.

***NOTE:** UK/US spelling differences {offence/offense, labour/labor, neighbour/neighbor, etc.}