

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Penal Affairs 2025-2026 Annual Report¹

Introduction

Purpose: Originally formed in 1980, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Penal Affairs aims to increase its members' knowledge of penal affairs and to work through parliamentary channels for reform of the penal system. The group meets regularly and hears presentations for a wide range of people and organisations.

Category: Subject group.

Officers:

- Pam Cox MP (chair)
- Tessa Munt MP
- Lord Garnier KC
- Baroness Prashar CBE

Secretariat: The Prison Reform Trust

- Clerk: Mark Day
- Assistant to the clerk: Emily Evison
- Minute-taker: Julia Braggins

The All-Party Group on Penal Affairs is kindly funded by the Barrow Cadbury Trust.

Meetings of the group

The All-Party Parliamentary Group was reestablished on 17 June 2025 at the inaugural meeting of the group.

Pam Cox MP was elected chair, and Tessa Munt MP, Baroness Prashar CBE, Lord Garnier KC were elected officers.

Since the reestablishment, the group has held the following meetings:

- 15 July 2025: Martin Jones CBE, HM Chief Inspector of Probation: What does the sentencing review mean for probation?
- 14 October 2025: Charlie Taylor, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons: Prisons and the people in them: an overview
- 16 December 2025: Professor Chris Whitty KCB FRS FRCP, Chief Medical Officer for England: The health of people in prison and on probation in England
- 27 January 2026: Kate Green, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester for Safer and Stronger Communities; Andrew Scott, Deputy Head of Community Integration and Senior Commissioning and Partnership Manager for Greater

¹ The reporting period for the group is 17 June to 16 June.

Manchester Probation; and Dr Tom McNeil, CEO of The JABBS Foundation for Women and Girls and former West Midlands Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner: Lessons in devolved and regional justice

- 9 June 2026: Dr Summer Alston-Smith, CEO of Clinks: The role of the voluntary sector in the criminal justice system

The Annual General Meeting of the group has been planned and agreed with the group's officers:

- 30 June 2026: Lord Timpson OBE, Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending

In accordance with APPG rules:

- All meetings are advertised in the all-party notices.
- Full minutes of each meeting are published on the APPG section of the secretariat's website.²

Due diligence statement

All members of the secretariat (Prison Reform Trust) are fully identified. I, Pam Cox MP (chair), understand who else the secretariat members work for and their external responsibilities. I know whether the secretariat members are paid or remunerated, and if so, by whom. They have confirmed they are not part of, working for or funded by a foreign government. I know how the Prison Reform Trust is funded. The secretariat has stated it is not funded, directly or indirectly, by a foreign government. The Prison Reform Trust has a publicly available online presence and appears elsewhere online. The online presence does not confirm or infer a link to a foreign government, now or in the past. Companies House checks have been conducted and results considered.

² See <https://prisonreformtrust.org.uk/policy-legislation/appg/>