

# The Diploma

IN PUBLIC SERVICES

## How to become a... Prison Officer

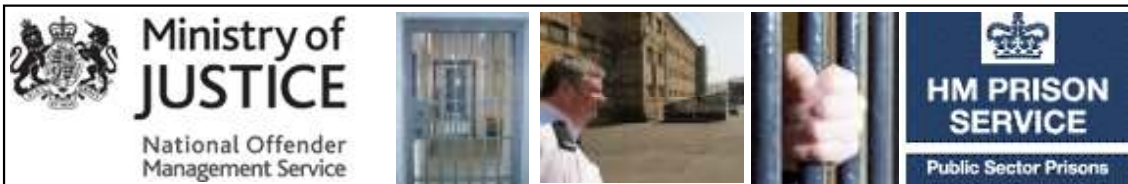
£14,500 per year depending on location  
Promotion to: Governor

### Job Description:

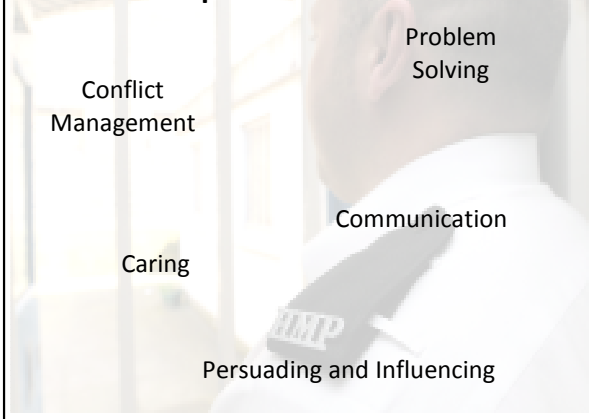
In addition to custodial duties, Prison Officers are called upon to build up and maintain close relationships with those in their charge. This is a complex challenge, balancing authority with a large amount of understanding and compassion.

As a Prison Officer you will be expected to undertake varied duties and tasks, such as carrying out security checks and searches, taking care of prisoners and their property, providing appropriate care and support and writing fair, perceptive reports.

As a prison officer you will be expected to work a variety of shifts, including nights, weekends and some long days. Normal weekly working hours average 37 hours over the shift cycle.



### Personal Competencies



James left school and enrolled in a local college to take a Foundation Diploma in Public Services. After this he applied to join the Prison Service as an Operational Support Grade (OSG) prior to becoming an officer at a prison which houses female prisoners. After 2 years James transferred to a High Security Prison and was allocated a task as Intelligence Analyst, a role which included terrorist monitoring.

In his interview James was able to talk about the research he had done into the current visiting procedures in his Diploma project which really impressed the panel. He had many of examples of times when he had communicated well and solved problems using his Diploma and personal, learning & thinking skills experience. Having completed his work placement in a police department James had some knowledge of the stages before prison which his future employers felt would give him better empathy and caring skills.

For more information try visiting:  
[www.prisonerservice.gov.uk](http://www.prisonerservice.gov.uk)  
[www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u)  
[www.skillsforjustice.com](http://www.skillsforjustice.com)

### Training and Qualifications

There is no minimum level of qualification to become a Prison Officer but all applicants must be over 18 and be British or Commonwealth citizens. You will need to pass a medical and eyesight test as well as a fitness test. You will also be required to show your competency as a Prison Officer by achieving your Custodial Care NVQ Level 3, within 12 months of joining the Service and you will need to undertake an annual fitness test.