

Impact Snapshot 2020

The Prison Radio Association is the charity that started, developed and runs National Prison Radio, the world's first national radio station for prisoners.

Working in partnership with HMPPS, we broadcast programmes made by prisoners, for prisoners into prisons across England and Wales via in-cell television.

We are the voice of the criminal justice sector in prisons, amplifying the support provided by our partners to scale-up their impact.



National Prison Radio: Gold Award Winners

In March 2020, National Prison Radio was honoured with the Gold Award at the annual ARIAS, the Oscars of the radio industry, for Best Community Programming, beating opposition from the BBC and commercial radio.

National Prison Radio (NPR) in numbers

74%

of people in prison listen to NPR

33%

of listeners tune in to NPR every day

10.6

average weekly hours spent listening

198

organisations on NPR over the past year

10,407

communications, including letters and phone calls, from people in prison to National Prison Radio in the past year. Plus...

3,287

messages from loved-ones of people in prison.

"I truly believe I wouldn't be here now if it wasn't for NPR. It's stopped me self-harming many times. I commend all affiliated with National Prison Radio."

National Prison Radio listener, HMP Wymott

"Your voice, your music, your station."

National Prison Radio broadcasts 24 hours a day.
It's available in prison cells across England and Wales.

Our programmes are presented and produced by people with experience of prison. We work closely with our partners to help make our listeners' time behind bars constructive and positive.

National Prison Radio



Porridge | Breakfast show

Sponsored by CFO3, part-funded by the European Social Fund

National Prison Radio provides a positive start to the day, with health tips, uplifting interviews and features.



Love Bug | Family ties

Sponsored by Shannon Trust



Listeners take an hour to write letters to loved ones on the outside. Maintaining family ties are proven to reduce reoffending.

NPR Talk | In-cell inspiration

Thought-provoking interviews, book readings and debate designed to inspire, educate and inform.

Freedom Inside | Meditation

Sponsored by Prison Phoenix Trust



Weekly guided sessions from the experts in prison yoga, which is proven to lower levels of stress and violence in prison.

National Prison Radio and COVID-19

National Prison Radio provided a vital lifeline to people confined to their cells.

Services provided in prisons have been greatly restricted due to COVID-19. Education and training, visits with loved-ones, legal and probation appointments, chaplaincy services and a host of other support were curtailed.

Many have been locked in their cells for up to 23 hours per day. In response, we developed a host of key partnerships, including:

- HMPPS grants and communications teams
- Prisons and Probation Ombudsman
- Parole Board
- Independent Advisory Board on Deaths in Custody
- Open University
- BBC
- Penguin Random House.

Through collaboration with dozens of partners, we built the most ambitious schedule in the station's history, providing crucial education and information during lockdown.

NPR Freephone Line

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we swiftly set up a Freephone line, available to everyone in prison, allowing them a quick and easy way to talk to National Prison Radio.

During the first three months of lockdown we received almost **10,000 calls**, allowing our team to understand what was happening on the ground in prisons, and to put people's concerns directly to key senior people, including the **Lord Chancellor Robert Buckland QC** and Chief Executive of HMPPS, **Jo Farrar**.



Award-winning productions

We create radio programmes, podcasts, media campaigns, films and animations to meet a wide range of objectives. Our network of people with first-hand knowledge of the challenges of prison gives us access to unique insights and expert advice.

Prison Radio Association

Podcasts

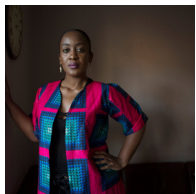
Podcast consumption is growing quickly, with ten million people in the UK currently listening every week.

Our library of podcasts represents the voice of the criminal justice sector. Presenters including Prison Radio Association Trustee **Hilary Inemo-Marcus** (pictured) bring unique perspectives on prison, crime and punishment. Our series have been recognised at the British Podcast Awards.



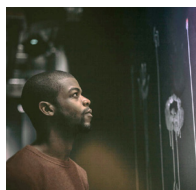
BBC Radio productions

We are a supplier to BBC radio, creating high-end documentaries and dramas to BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 1 and the BBC World Service.



Unchained

A moment of madness led poet Brenda Birungi to prison in 2008. It has defined her life. In this documentary, she hears stories of other women who have served short prison sentences and questions their effectiveness.



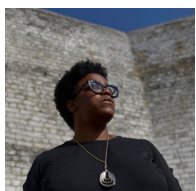
The Listening Room

A unique drama in which the true stories of five people are voiced by actors. All have been impacted by crime and gone through the process of restorative justice, where offenders and victims come face to face.



The Other Tchaikovsky

BBC Radio 4 drama telling the story of Chris Tchaikovsky – the founder of the charity Women in Prison. Her little-known but remarkable life story is told through the words of the people who knew her.



Architecture of Incarceration

As the country prepares to spend billions of pounds building 10,000 new prison places, architect Danna Walker asks why contemporary prison architecture persistently follows a 200 year-old blueprint.

Partnerships across the sector

We are nothing without our partners, whose messages we amplify and whose priorities we reflect in high-quality, impactful content.



Developing future talent

We work with teams of prisoners in our projects in HMP Brixton and HMP Styal. Receiving support from our specialist staff helps to maximise the potential of the experience. This includes mentoring, visits to prospective employers (pictured) and opportunities for further training, volunteering and employment after release.



Ali - Presenter and Producer

"When I first came to National Prison Radio I was serving a sentence in HMP Brixton. I learnt how to be consistent, reliable and stick to the production schedule. I developed my interviewing skills and my computing skills. The staff here encourage you to do more and to believe in yourself. NPR has boosted my confidence.

"I'm applying for university so when I get out I don't have to be in the same position I was when I came in to prison."



Stacey - Presenter and Producer

"My job is to produce, present and edit programmes for broadcast on National Prison Radio.

"I'm an open conditions prisoner which means I'm allowed to leave the prison during the day. I work in Limewood House, a building just outside the prison gates where the PRA has multimedia studios.

"The PRA team have been friendly and supportive and have treated me just like a member of the team rather than a prisoner. I've really enjoyed working with everyone and I hope to continue in media production after my release.

"Working with the PRA has built my confidence and helped me get through my time here at HMP Styal."



"I'd like to thank Phil Copple for answering our questions on the radio. I like the fact he is being open and prepared to talk. Thank you NPR for everything you're doing."

NPR listener, HMP Swaleside, in response to the weekly interview with the HMPPS Director General for Prisons hosted during the COVID-19 lockdown.