



# Impact Report 2025-26

Prison  
Radio  
Association 

# WE ARE THE PRISON RADIO ASSOCIATION

We believe in the power of audio to change lives. Our mission is to produce high-quality, solutions-focused radio and podcasts that amplify the voices of people with prison experience. These voices can support and inspire all those impacted by crime and the criminal justice system.

National Prison Radio and our radio production training programmes empower people in prison to develop skills, while sharing vital information and inspiration with the whole prison community.

Through our talent development programme and Life After Prison podcast, we offer opportunities and support for people after release.

We inform societal perceptions of the criminal justice system through our public-facing podcasts and our radio productions for the BBC.

Through Prison Radio International, we're building a global community, raising standards, and amplifying the voices of people in prison worldwide.

**“So much talent exists behind bars and the Prison Radio Association plays a huge part in finding and nourishing it. They are a cornerstone of rehabilitation whilst inside.”**

Prison Radio Association supporter

## OUR IMPACT IN PRISON

### National Prison Radio

We run National Prison Radio, the world's first national radio station for people in prison. National Prison Radio reaches up to 80,000 people behind bars across England and Wales, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### National Prison Radio



**“National Prison Radio is our voice.”**

**“With National Prison Radio, I'm not alone, it's like I have a family.”**

National Prison Radio listeners

**82%** of people in prison who have access listen to National Prison Radio.

**83%** say listening to National Prison Radio makes them more aware of support services in prison.

**77%** say listening to National Prison Radio helps them to stay positive in prison.

**93%** say listening to National Prison Radio helps them feel more motivated to change.

**83%** say listening to National Prison Radio has increased their confidence to successfully return to life in the community.

# 38,428

communications from people in prison over the last 12 months, including messages of support to others and feedback that helps us improve the service.

# 5.2m

'on demand' listens to National Prison Radio content via in-cell technology.

# 275

support services featured on National Prison Radio over the last 12 months, across its 24-hour, seven-day-a-week schedule.

# 500

people in 36 prisons in England and Wales recorded for broadcast on National Prison Radio.



## PROVIDING SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT

Last year, we offered radio production training to 35 people serving sentences at HMP Brixton and HMP Styal.

Our training enables individuals in prison to develop valuable skills that extend across the creative industries. It empowers people to find their voices, build confidence and unlock new passions.

**91%** said working on the radio made them feel more confident to secure work on release.



**“It's taught me how to be in a real work environment. No other job in prison has this. I've learnt production, computer and communication skills and how to act in an office, even just making a good cup of tea.”**

National Prison Radio producer at HMP Brixton

**“Prison crushed me and working on the radio has given me back my confidence and my voice.”**

National Prison Radio producer at HMP Styal

# OUR IMPACT AFTER RELEASE

## TALENT DEVELOPMENT

We nurture production and presenting talent within prisons, equipping people with **valuable skills that open doors** beyond their sentence. We are committed to supporting those who have worked with us on National Prison Radio after release, providing opportunities for ongoing professional development through our **talent development programme**.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

We're proud to support talented people during and after their time in prison. Here are two of their stories.



**Chris** worked on National Prison Radio while he was in HMP Brixton and then joined the trainee scheme on release. Since then, he continues to produce and present excellent content for National Prison Radio and has secured work with the BBC, including presenting a BBC Radio 4 documentary.

**“Coming out of prison, I was unstructured, unmotivated and lost. I needed some kind of direction, some kind of scaffolding so that I could climb out of the mental trench I was in. The Prison Radio Association was that scaffolding for me. It made me feel useful and that I mattered.**

**The trainee scheme has helped me gain experience working with the BBC and has actively provided me with ample opportunities to enter accredited apprenticeship schemes and further work in the field of radio production.”**

Last year, we offered training in production and presenting to **ten people** who had recently left prison.

Our trainees produce a podcast called *Outside In*, showcasing their skills to potential employers while also inspiring our listeners.



**“It has given me structure and something to look forward to.”**

James, trainee producer



**Toni** worked on National Prison Radio while she was serving her sentence in HMP Styal and is now the regular presenter of *The Family & Friends Request Show* on National Prison Radio. She has also been shining a light on the realities faced by women in the criminal justice system by speaking at events such as the Women's Health Conference.

**“For me this is bigger than radio. It's proof that when people are given the right opportunities and support, they can rebuild and move forward.**

**Being part of the Prison Radio Association changed the direction of my life. It's given me belief, opportunity and stability and that's something I'll always be grateful for.”**

## LIFE AFTER PRISON

*Life After Prison* is an **award-winning podcast** for people affected by the criminal justice system. Presenters Zak and Jules have both experienced imprisonment. They use this experience and their dynamic chemistry to conduct illuminating interviews with guests who understand life in prison. *Life After Prison* **inspires and supports its listeners after release from prison.**



# 15M

views of *Life After Prison* content across all channels over the last 12 months.

## IMPACT

**87%** of listeners say *Life After Prison* increases their awareness of support services.

**93%** of listeners say *Life After Prison* motivates them to make positive changes in their lives.

**95%** of listeners say *Life After Prison* has given them a better understanding of people affected by the criminal justice system

**“My outlook on life has changed because of Life After Prison. It's given me positivity and confidence in coming out. You guys have inspired me to change.”**

*Life After Prison* listener

## AWARDS



In 2025, *Life After Prison* and the team received the following awards:

🏆 Zak and Jules won the **Silver Award** in the **Best Ensemble Cast** category at the **Audio Production Awards**

🏆 *Life After Prison* received a **Bronze Award** in the **Best Lifestyle Podcast** category at the **British Podcast Awards**.

**“It's made me think there's always life after prison, I thought I couldn't get a job because of my offence, but it's made me realise I could.”**

*Life After Prison* listener

**“Life After Prison helped guide me through the unfamiliarity of having a family member go to prison and how to support them through their sentence and after release.”**

*Life After Prison* listener

# BUILDING OUR INFLUENCE

## PUBLIC-FACING PODCASTS AND RADIO SERIES

We create powerful audio that engages wider audiences and deepens public understanding of imprisonment and its consequences.

By **shining an honest light on the criminal justice system**, we foster a deeper understanding of the challenges and potential solutions within it.

Our **creative, ethical storytelling** encourages meaningful discussion and debate about how society responds to crime, with a focus on restorative solutions.

Some of our podcasts offer continued support to people leaving prison – covering topics like gambling harm and financial literacy – while others aim to deepen public understanding of life behind bars.

**“This podcast is a fantastic window into the reality of our prison system – so unbelievably valuable and important, a message the general public needs to hear.”**

*The Secret Life of Prisons* podcast listener

# 1,266,253

listens to Prison Radio Association podcasts over the last 12 months.



A weekly podcast uncovering the hidden stories of prison life – helping listeners without direct experience understand how the justice system works.

🎧 Listen wherever you get your podcasts



**The Ballad of Scout and the Alcohol Tag** is a powerful, multi award-winning documentary about prison, freedom, addiction, mental illness and poetry.

🎧 Listen on BBC Sounds



Hosted by **prison-based forensic psychologists**, this podcast shares best practice and insights for professionals and those entering the field. In partnership with HM Prison & Probation Service.

🎧 Listen wherever you get your podcasts



Hosted by Ben and Steve – both of whom have **been to prison as a result of gambling harm** – this podcast explores addiction and recovery through honest conversations with those affected.

🎧 Listen wherever you get your podcasts



A BBC Radio 4 series featuring **interviews with people who've been to prison**, exploring the root causes of harmful behaviour. Hosted by forensic psychologists Sally and Kerensa.

🎧 Listen on BBC Sounds

# OUR IMPACT GLOBALLY

# Prison Radio International

## PRISON RADIO INTERNATIONAL

Prison Radio International has been established to **develop support for radio and audio projects around the world** that work with people who are, or have been, in prison.

We aim to **help governments to see the value in supporting prison radio** and we aim to help power-holders see the value in putting people in prison at the heart of prison radio development.

# 78

radio projects in Prison Radio International's community network.

# 27

countries represented within the global prison radio community network.

**“We hope to represent prison radio here in Oklahoma, it has been an uphill battle but in discovering the Prison Radio International network we believe it's possible!”**

Prison Radio International supporter in the USA



Estação Purpurina, prison radio project in Espírito Santo, Brazil

# AWARDS

16 production awards won in 2025/26

2025: Rose d'Or Awards

🏆 Audio – The Ballad of Scout and the Alcohol Tag (Winner)

🏆 Sound Design Award (Gold)

🏆 Music Award (Silver)

2025: Audio Production Awards

🏆 Production Company of The Year (Gold)

🏆 Branded Content Award (Silver)

🏆 Sports Award (Gold)

🏆 Best Ensemble Cast – Zak & Jules (Silver)

🏆 Best New Voice – Scout Tzofiya Bolton (Gold)

🏆 Producer of The Year – Andrew Wilkie (Silver)

2025: Audio & Radio Industry Awards (ARIAS)

🏆 The Creative or Technical Innovation Award (Gold)

🏆 Best New Presenter – Scout (Gold)

🏆 Best Music Award (Bronze)

2025: British Podcast Awards

🏆 Best Network/Publisher (Gold)

🏆 Education Award (Silver)

🏆 Lifestyle Award (Bronze)

2025: International Women's Podcast Awards

🏆 Moment of Compelling Storytelling (Runner up)



# THANKS

Thank you to all our donors and partners who have supported the work of the Prison Radio Association over the past 12 months.



To support our work please visit:  
[www.prison.radio/donate](http://www.prison.radio/donate)

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Prison Radio International

National Prison Radio

LIFE AFTER PRISON

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