

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Radio Producer, National Prison Radio
REPORTS TO:	HMP Styal Project Manager
SALARY:	£30,000
CONTRACT:	12 month fixed-term
LOCATION:	HMP Styal (10 miles south of Manchester city centre)
LEAVE:	24 days per annum
HOURS:	Full time

ABOUT THE PRISON RADIO ASSOCIATION (PRA)

The Prison Radio Association (PRA) is an award-winning charity that has revolutionised communication in the criminal justice sector.

We developed and run National Prison Radio (NPR), the world's first national radio station for people in prison, providing practical advice, support and inspirational content to people behind bars. The service is available in prison cells across England and Wales via in-cell television.

We're also developing the Prison Radio Podcast Network – a brand new resource for people leaving prison and others who are involved in the criminal justice system – with funding from the National Lottery's Reaching Communities fund.

We're leaders in using audio to change lives, working with a wide range of statutory bodies, government departments, charities and broadcasters, including national BBC radio networks.

In 2020 we were named Production Company of the Year at the Audio Production Awards and are nominated in five categories at the 2022 ARIAs.

OVERALL PURPOSE OF JOB:

You will work alongside people in prison to create life-changing content for National Prison Radio.

As a key part of a small team of producers in HMP Brixton, you will lean on your highly-developed radio skills to help people make the most of their time behind bars. By supporting prisoner-producers you will assist them in developing important skills, creating content that builds an audience, encourages action and provides much-needed information and inspiration.

People who live on prison wings are at the centre of the production process. Your job as Radio Producer is to help make that content sound professional, tight and must-listen.

You'll be line managing a number of prisoner-producers, learning to understand the prison environment and coming up with inventive new ways of engaging our audience. You'll pass on your professional expertise and will leave prison at the end of each day knowing that your programmes can make a difference to the lives of the 80,000 people behind bars across the country.

KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- 1 To work inside HMP Styal, alongside people serving sentences, to produce pre-recorded radio programmes and items for National Prison Radio.
- 2 To produce additional content for National Prison Radio in other settings as and when required.
- 3 To source stories and lines of programming for development into National Prison Radio formats.
- 4 To assist in the day-to-day running of the PRA's flagship project at HMP Styal.
- 5 To line manage a small number of prisoner-producers – being their first point of contact for all production-related issues, overseeing their regular appraisals, ensuring they are gaining the greatest benefit possible from working with the PRA.
- 6 To produce content for National Prison Radio on-air campaigns as required by the HMP Styal Project Manager or other senior colleagues.
- 7 To establish and maintain positive links with staff and departments within HMP Styal and the wider criminal justice sector.

MAIN DUTIES:

- To work alongside prisoner-producers in the production of high-quality radio output.
- To facilitate the generation and development of programming ideas to improve National Prison Radio's content.
- To ensure that all content, including music, is appropriate for play on National Prison Radio, and compliant to the Ofcom broadcasting code and the HMPPS Prison Radio Guidelines.
- To ensure that completed programmes are delivered on time and in a format suitable for broadcast.
- To be responsible for the use of production resources as agreed with the HMP Styal Project Manager.
- To take a share in running National Prison Radio production team meetings in HMP Styal, including communicating strategic direction and ensuring all members of the team are contributing fully to the project.
- To ensure that all security requirements, disciplinary requirements and good order are maintained in the project, and to ensure the safety of prisoners, staff and visitors within the project.
- To support the HMP Styal Project Manager to work with HMP Styal staff to ensure the smooth running of the PRA's partnership with HMP Styal.
- To work with HMP Styal staff to manage the employment of prisoner workforce, ensuring all appropriate security checks are carried out in line with the HMPPS Prison Radio Guidelines.
- To effectively manage prisoner-producers, including holding regular performance appraisals.
- To share responsibility for ensuring the upkeep of the premises and its contents.
- To ensure all administrative tasks connected with the running of the project are completed to a high standard.

OTHER DUTIES:

- To develop key contacts and relationships with other producers and talent.
- To contribute to the production of PRA support materials as required and other areas of the PRA's work.
- To represent and be an ambassador for the PRA.
- To undertake any other duties as reasonably requested by the Managing Editor, National Prison Radio.

KNOWLEDGE, ESSENTIAL SKILLS and EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- A thorough understanding of and commitment to the aims and values of the Prison Radio Association.
- A solid understanding of the criminal justice system and the role of education and training within it.
- Experience of production of pre-recorded and live programmes.
- An understanding of campaigns and how to realise learning objectives through them.
- Sound editorial judgement.
- Proven ability to generate good story ideas.
- Excellent research skills.
- First rate communication skills, the ability to deal confidently and effectively with staff at all levels as well as external contacts, both in person and on the telephone.
- Ability to work well as an individual and within a team environment – with the ability to contribute and share ideas and knowledge.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills to prioritise workloads meet deadlines and respond flexibly to rapidly changing priorities.
- Solid production skills with the ability to use self-op studios, digital editing and location recording equipment.
- IT skills and knowledge of computer packages (including Outlook and Word).
- Attention to detail, the ability to work speedily and accurately under pressure.

COMPETENCIES

- Excellent communicator who is confident in representing the PRA in public if required.
- Good collaborative worker and relationship builder – experience of working up successful partnerships.
- Resilience and commitment to the goals of the Charity with high levels of self-motivation and enthusiasm – can maintain personal effectiveness when under pressure.
- Good planner and strategic thinker with experience of prioritising and managing complex workloads to agreed deadlines.
- Strong influencing and negotiation skills – ability to present sound arguments to convince others.
- Analytical – identifies gaps, data, and key influencers and can translate analysis into practical action plans.
- Flexibility – adapts and works effectively with a variety of situations, individuals or groups.