

51. RELIGION

Issued: July 2002

STANDARD: Establishments enable prisoners to participate in worship and other religious activities that encourage a greater openness to their spiritual dimension and personal development in preparation for release into the community.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Audit Compliance
- Annual Visit Reports
- Chaplaincy Activity Programme
- Request and Complaints

APPLICABILITY:

- Establishments

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

CHAPLAINS AND MINISTERS

Chaplains and Ministers are appointed where required by law.

RELIGIOUS REGISTRATION

Religious registration is processed according to national instructions.

CHANGE OF RELIGIOUS REGISTRATION

The process for a change of religious registration is in place.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship are provided for all faiths.

KEY AUDIT BASELINES

1. Chaplains and Ministers of recognised religions are appointed in line with current Prison Service guidance.
2. Regular meetings take place with all faith Ministers to enhance the ministry of the chaplaincy team.
3. Religious registration at reception is accurately recorded on the Local Inmate Data System (LIDS) and F2050.
4. Chaplains and Ministers are informed of all new receptions as required by national instructions.
5. Chaplains and Ministers have ready access to prisoner information held on LIDS.
6. Written details of all religious provision are available to new receptions.
7. Appropriate Chaplains and Ministers are informed according to national instructions.
8. A change of religious registration is documented in the prisoner's F2050.
9. LIDS is updated to reflect the change of religious registration and the prisoner is informed.
10. Chapels are used for all Christian denominations.
11. An identified and appropriate area is set aside for worship and/or meditation by members of non-Christian religions. Where local agreement is reached between the Chaplain, Ministers and appropriate religious authorities, the chapel may be used for worship by non-Christian faiths, on a reviewable basis.

12. Use of places of worship for other activities is at the discretion of the Governor in consultation with the chaplaincy.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

Time is set aside for all prisoners to have the opportunity to attend weekly corporate worship for a minimum of one hour.

13. Regimes allow the facility for authorised worship, fasts and festivals to be observed and celebrated.

14. Regime activities are arranged so that prisoners are not deterred or impeded from attending corporate worship.

15. All prisoners are free to attend corporate worship other than:

15.1 those on Rule 46

15.2 those in Close Supervision Centres (CSCs) and Special Secure Units (SSUs)

15.3 in individual cases authorised and recorded by the Governor. *[updated 06/01/2004 by PSI 47/2003]*

16. Where prisoners are located in SSUs, facilities are provided for corporate worship, as long as permission has been granted from HQ.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is available to all prisoners.

17. All prisoners are offered pastoral care. This is also available on a daily basis when they are located in health care or segregation.

18. New receptions are contacted by an authorised Chaplain or Minister.

19. Prisoners who have made an application to see a Chaplain are seen within 24 hours. When prisoners have made an application to see a part-time Minister, that Minister is notified within 24 hours and the notification is recorded.

20. An effective system is in place for notifying the appropriate Chaplain or Minister of Religion immediately:

20.1 of a prisoner's family bereavement

20.2 to offer help and counselling especially for family matters and preparation for marriage

20.3 of seriously ill and/or suicidal prisoners

20.4 of the death of a prisoner.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Religious education classes and courses are available.

21. There is a published chaplaincy activity programme pertinent to all faith communities.

22. Necessary staff and facilities are available for such classes and courses to take place.

PASTORAL VISITS

Pastoral visits from home clergy are facilitated.

23. Prisoners, with their agreement, are entitled to special visits from their local clergy or religious leader.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Prisoners are encouraged to observe their religion and their religious obligations are respected by staff.

24. The advice of Chaplains and Ministers (and Religious Consultative Services, as appropriate) is sought in cases of dispute about religious observance.

25. Prisoners considering a change of religion are permitted to attend acts of worship with the agreement of the appropriate Chaplains or Ministers.

26. Prisoners of relevant religion are not required to work on recognised days of religious observance.

27. Any cases of alleged discrimination on the grounds of a prisoner's religion are reported to the Governor and recorded in the Chaplain's journal.

VISITS BY A CHAPLAIN OR MINISTER

Prisoners are not visited by a Chaplain or Minister against their will.

28. Chaplaincy training and appointment guidance notes ensure appropriate standards are observed.

29. Unwanted persuasion of a prisoner to change religious affiliation does not take place.

REFERENCES:**LEGISLATION**

European Convention on Human Rights, Articles 9 and 14
Prison Act 1952
Prison Rules 2000
Young Offender Rules 2000

NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

Annual PSI on Religious festivals
PSI 70/1999 Religious provision for Shi'a Muslim prisoners
PSI 14/2000 Use of incense for private religious practice
PSO _____ Religion (in preparation)
PSO 0200 HM Prison Service standards manual
PSO 2800 Race relations
PSO 4500 Use of incense for private religious practice
PSO 5000 Prison Service catering manual

OTHER

Chaplaincy handbook
Directory and guide on religious practices in HM Prisons
F2050 Core record form
Guidance notes for visiting ministers
IG 28/1996 List of religious registrations for visiting ministers
SO 7A