

Basic *facts*

The Swedish Prison
and Probation
Service

2007



Kriminalvården

Issued September 2007:
Swedish Prison and Probation Service
Head Office
Department of Information
601 80 Norrköping
Sweden
Tel : +46 (0)77 22 80 800 www.kriminalvarden.se
Additional copies available from the Publishers: Fax: +46
(0)11 496 35 17 Order No.: 5000

Introduction

The Swedish Prison and Probation Service is part of the judicial system, the mission of which is to implement criminal and social policies, i.e. to reduce criminality and increase social security.

The principal responsibilities of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service include:

- to implement prison and probation sentences (including community service and contract treatment).
- to supervise conditionally released offenders.
- to implement community service orders in connection with conditional sentences and to carry out personal case studies in criminal cases.

The Prison and Probation Service implements these responsibilities by:

- taking action to prevent offenders from reoffending.
- maintaining a humane interest in people, providing good care and actively influence progress while allowing for a high level of security as well as the privacy and legal rights of the individual.

Contents

Crime.....	4
Penalties	6
Young offenders	7
Custody, detention	9
Transport service.....	12
Non-custodial care.....	13
Personal case studies	13
Probation	14
Supervision.....	15
Intensive supervision, IS (tagging).....	16
Contract treatment.....	18
Community service	19
Prison/Institute.....	20
Life imprisonment.....	20
Young people	21
Foreign nationals	21
Women	22
Escaping, paroles.....	23
Special actions before release.	23
Checks and security.....	24
Drugs.....	26
Activities	28
Crime and drugs related programmes.....	29
Work	30
Other structured activities.....	30
Education.....	30
Personnel.....	32
Costs.....	32
Organisation.....	33

Crime

How many crimes are reported each year?

Around 1.2 million crimes are reported in Sweden each year.

What type of crimes is reported most?

In 2006, more than 65 % of all crimes were thefts.

Number of reported crimes

- 583,000 thefts and burglaries
- 148,000 crimes against property
- 136,000 thefts from motor vehicles
- 66,650 bicycle thefts
- 77,000 assaults
- 56,200 shoplifts
- 56,500 frauds
- 36,500 car thefts
- 66,850 drug crimes
- 46,150 unlawful threats
- 34,600 cases of abuse
- 27,300 cases of drink driving
- 15,000 break-ins
- 8,600 armed robbery
- 4,150 cases of violence against officials
- 4,200 rapes
- 1,650 sexual coercion and exploitation

How many crimes were fatal?

There were 91 murders, manslaughters and assaults with a fatal outcome.

How many crimes were solved?

In 2006, 416,000 crimes were investigated and solved, a percentage of 34 %.

Source: BRÅ (Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention)

Penalties

What penalties are applicable according to the Swedish penal code?

The penalties applicable by the court are fines, imprisonment, conditional sentence, probational sentence, custodial youth care and committal to specialist treatment.

What penalties are implemented by the Swedish Prison and Probation Service?

Imprisonment, intensive supervision (tagging), conditional and probational sentences with community service, probational sentence with special treatment plan, i.e. contract treatment, are penalties implemented by the Swedish Prison and Probation Service.

Prison

Fixed-term prison sentences are seldom longer than ten years and never shorter than two weeks. However, in the event of a reoffence or the sentence referring to more than one crime, a fixed-term sentence may be exceeded.

Person sentenced to life imprisonment can be conditionally released subject to the Government imposing a time limit on the sentence.

Intensive supervision

Intensive supervision with electronic monitoring (tagging) is an alternative way of serving a prison sentence. The convicted person is monitored 24 hours a day using a transmitter attached to the ankle. A person sentenced to a maximum of six months in prison can apply for intensive supervision.

Conditional sentence with community service

A conditional sentence is generally applied when a person has committed a one-off crime. The sentence can be combined with community service subsequent to an agreement with the convicted.

Probation

Probation is a non-custodial sentence over a trial period of three years where the convicted person is put under supervision during the first year. Misbehaviour can lead to an extended trial period.

Probation with community service

Probation is supplemented by an order to carry out unpaid work. The court decides the number of working hours from a minimum of 40 and a maximum of 240 hours.

Probation with special treatment plan – contract treatment

Contract treatment is an alternative to imprisonment for a period of up to two years subject to drug abuse (or any other circumstance requiring treatment) playing a significant role in the crime.

What penalties apply to young offenders?

In Sweden, the age of criminal responsibility is 15, which means that teenagers under the age of 15 cannot be imposed a criminal penalty. Young people under the age of 18 are only sentenced to imprisonment in exceptional cases and usually subject to actions in accordance with the Child Welfare Act. Young adults under the age of 21 cannot be sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Child Welfare Act

The purpose of the Child Welfare Act is to keep the youngest offenders out of the prison and probation system. Instead, young offenders are sentenced to closed juvenile detention centres.

Most young people committing a serious crime or reoffending at the age of 15 – 17 are not sentenced to imprisonment so as to protect the young person from the potentially harmful effects of imprisonment.

Who decides whether a young offender should be sentenced to closed juvenile detention?

Closed juvenile detention is another fixed-term penalty ordered by the court and based on the seriousness of the crime.

Who is responsible for the closed juvenile detention?

The National Board for Institutional Care is responsible for the closed juvenile detention.

Is it true that all prisoners are released after half the sentence is served?

No, prisoners are never conditionally released after having served half their sentences these days. A conditional release would only take place when two thirds of the sentence is served. However, conditional release is not possible until at least one month of the sentence is served. Nor is conditional release possible if the imprisonment is combined with probation.

Custody/detention

The three most important coercive measures in the Swedish judicial system are apprehension, arrest and remand.

During what circumstances does an apprehension take place?

Apprehension usually takes place in connection with a person being arrested. However, in urgent cases, an apprehension may take place 'on site' and immediately reported to the prosecutor who will then decide whether the person in question should be arrested or released.

When does an arrest take place?

The prosecutor decides whether to make an arrest or not. An arrest is a provisional deprivation of liberty that often occurs prior to remand.

Who is responsible for issuing the remand order?

The court issues the remand order upon the recommendations of the prosecutor.

When is a remand order issued?

A remand order is issued when a person is suspected of a crime which carries a minimum prison sentence of one year. One of the following three conditions must apply:

- risk of escaping
- risk of hindering the investigation
- risk of continued criminal activity

A remand order can be issued irrespective of the nature of the crime if the suspect:

- is unknown and refuses to provide a name and address
- is not a resident of the country.

What are the circumstances for a remand order?

When the minimum sentence for a crime exceeds two years and there is no obvious reason for a remand order not to be issued.

How many remand prisons are there in the country?

There are 32 remand prisons and 1,847 prison cells.

What are the alternatives to remand?

Alternatives to remand are supervision, travel ban and report order.

Does the same apply to juveniles?

Any juvenile 15 years of age or older can be served with a remand order though juveniles between the ages of 15 - 18 can only be held on remand on specific grounds. The alternative is committal to a special youth detention centre.

How many juveniles under the age of 18 are held on remand each year?

11 juveniles were held on remand in 2006.

How many women are held on remand each year?

93 women were held on remand in 2002 while 2006 saw an increase of up to 113 women.

Does the remand prison take in any other persons except for those held on remand?

Yes, other persons can also be placed in a remand prison for a couple of days, i.e. individuals on remand in accordance with the Social Service Act, Child Welfare Act and Misusers Act as well as asylum seekers awaiting deportation.

What is the maximum period of remand?

The law does not stipulate a maximum period of remand. However, a new remand hearing is required if legal action is not taken within 14 days.

How long before a person on remand and sentenced to prison is institutionalised?

For most people on remand, the waiting is less than 15 days. A small number of people may have to wait longer owing to the lack of prison places.

How many people held on remand escape each year?

In 2006, 10 people held on remand managed to escape, 2 of whom directly from the remand prison.

How many people are held on remand every day?

In 2006, on average of 1,831 people were held on remand every day.

Average number of people on remand for 2005 – 2006 per category.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Year</i>	
	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Apprehended/arrested	38	43
On remand	1,504	1,517
Enforcements	373	316
Decision by Probation and Parole Services	11	10
Detained according to Aliens Act	46	25
Remanded in accordance with the Child Welfare Act	1	-
Remanded in accordance with the Misusers Act	-	1
Other	7	9
Total	1,981	1,922

Transport Service

What is the role of the transport service?

The Prison and Probation regularly requires secure and efficient transport of its clients. The Transport Service is responsible for planning and carrying out these transports.

The Transport Service provides overseas and national transports, primarily between prisons and detention centres. Other transports, e.g. to and from court or hospital visits are part of the standard service offered by prisons and detention centres.

How is the Transport Service organised?

The Transport Service offered by the Prison and Probation Service is currently located in Gothenburg though there are plans to move the head office to Arvidsjaur. Transports are carried out by drivers based at one of the 24 local offices around the country. A total of 346 people are employed by the Transport Service.

How many clients are transported each year?

In 2006, around 41,976 clients were transported nationwide and 1,029 overseas.

What is the cost of the transports?

In 2006, a national transport cost less than SEK 2,700, an overseas transport slightly more than SEK 43,200 while a transport on behalf of the Migration Board cost SEK 62,650. The Prison and Probation Service usually bears the cost of transports carried out on behalf of other Government authorities.

Non-custodial care

What is the basic concept of non-custodial care?

The basic concept of non-custodial care is to focus on the supervision of persons on conditional release or probation with or without contract treatment/community service, intensive supervision with electronic monitoring, work at remand centres and to prepare personal case studies.

What is a personal case study?

A personal case study is an investigation into the personal situation of a suspected criminal.

When is a personal case study carried out?

A personal case study may be ordered in conjunction with taking legal action, a suspect making a confession or when there are reasonable grounds to suspect a person of a crime. These days, a personal case study is no longer compulsory and is normally only carried out when probation is the likely penalty.

How many personal case studies are carried out each year?

27,051 personal case studies were carried out in 2006, most of which by non-custodial care personnel.

What is the purpose of non-custodial care in the remand prisons?

The principle purpose of non-custodial care is; to carry out personal case studies, contact potential clients and provide curative resources.

What is the purpose of non-custodial care in the prisons?

In Sweden, prisoners are conditionally released after having served two thirds of their sentence subsequent to which the released prisoner is monitored. In order to provide stability throughout the treatment period, the non-custodial care officer keeps in constant contact with potential clients.

Average number of non-custodial care clients per crime and year

Year	2005	2006
Probational sentence	7,266	7,315
- of which contract treatment	1,268	1,256
- of which community service	1,179	1,256
Conditional release	4,930	4,809
Intensive supervision	313	427
Intensive supervision with social integration	74	95
Total clients	12,583	12,646
Plus conditional release with community service	783	700
Plus institutionalised clients with supervisor	2,384	2,260

Are there different types of probation?

Yes, apart from the basic probation, there is contract treatment and community service.

What types of crimes lead to probation?

1,448 crimes of violence, 1,278 thefts and 1,302 drugs crimes/trafficking in addition to 1,128 drunk driving, 705 crimes against the public and the State, 454 frauds/embezzlements, 187 armed robberies, 136 traffic offences (not drunk driving), 88 sex crimes lead to probation.

How many people were sentenced to probation in 2005?

12,928 clients were sentenced to probation, 6,947 of whom to basic probation and 6,035 conditionally released.

How many of the people sentenced to probation were women?

12,982 people in total were sentenced to probation, 1,496 of whom were women, i.e. 11.5 percent.

Who is responsible for executing a probation sentence?

Around 50 percent of the clients are assigned a supervising probation officer in the capacity of either a professional or layman. The rest is handled by non-custodial care officers.

How many clients have a layman probation officers?

In the beginning of 2007, 5992 clients had a layman probation officer.

What is the reward?

A layman probational officers is currently paid SEK 150/month in addition to compensation for costs of SEK 250/month.

Does the job of a layman probation officer require special training?

No. However, a genuine interest in people and social issues, a good mental health and – if possible – a connection with the environment and interests of the client are required.

How often do the probation officer and client meet?

Apart from the initial consultation immediately after sentencing, nothing in the law regulates the number of contacts. Instead, the occurrence of contacts is based on the needs of the client.

What happens if the client does not comply?

If it is a serious case of non-compliance, the Probation Liaison Committee may decide to extend the period of supervision. In case of probation, the matter may be referred to court and in case of conditional release, the remaining sentence may be forfeited (maximum one month).

How many clients on probation are drug addicts?

It should be mentioned that the following information relates to the number of clients misusing drugs during their final two months of freedom and clients misusing alcohol to the extent that it caused physical, mental or social damage to the client or the immediate surroundings of the client.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Drugs misuse</i> <i>No. / %</i>	<i>Mixed misuse</i> <i>No. / %</i>	<i>Alcohol misuse</i> <i>No. / %</i>	<i>No known misuse</i> <i>No. / %</i>	<i>Total</i>
2006	2,957/28	1,787/18	1,880/19	3,515/35	10,139

Intensive supervision

What is intensive supervision?

Intensive supervision means that a person sentenced to a maximum imprisonment of 6 months can serve his or her sentence at home using an electronic monitoring device around the ankle. It is the responsibility of the offender to apply for intensive supervision.

What type of crimes was primarily committed by persons sentenced to probation in 2006?

<i>Crime</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Of which women</i>
Violent crime	458	10
Sexual crime	61	-
Theft	111	18
Armed robbery, including serious	3	-
Fraud, embezzlement, credit deception	63	5
Crime against the public and state	227	23
Motoring offence	186	25
Drunk driving, including serious	1,476	158
Drugs/goods trafficking	270	26
Crime against Military Service /Non-combatant Service Act	34	-
Other	145	10
Total	3,034	275

How long were the prison sentences for the prisoners who had their sentences changed to intensive supervision?

<i>Sentence (S)</i>	<i>2005 No.</i>	<i>2006 No.</i>
S<1 month	107	123
S =1 month	1,379	1,395
1 month<S<2 month	55	51
S=2 months	620	553
2 months <S<3 months	23	22
S=3 months	321	326
3 months<S	381	564
Total	2,886	2,886

Is a convicted person under intensive supervision allowed to drink alcohol while serving his/her sentence?

While serving a sentence, a convicted person is not allowed to use addictive substances (alcohol, narcotics). A person sentenced to intensive supervision is either breathalised or required to provide the home visiting probation officer with a urine sample.

Is a person sentenced to intensive supervision allowed to work?

Yes, intensive supervision requires that the convicted person is in some form of part-time employment.

What happens if the person sentenced to intensive supervision violates the rules and regulations?

Noncompliance usually leads to the sentence being served in a prison.

Has anyone declined or discontinued an intensive supervision sentence during 2006?

5,879 were offered intensive supervision (IS)

4,489 applied for IS

3,034 commenced IS

260 discontinued IS.

Contract treatment

What is contract treatment?

Contract treatment is primarily intended for recurrent drug addicts where there is clear link between the crime and the addiction. Instead of serving a prison sentence of up to two years, the convicted person signs a contract with the court to undergo a treatment programme at an institution or at home and/or to partake in non-custodial care. 1,439 persons were sentenced to contract treatment in 2006.

What happens if there is a breach of contract?

If the client discontinues the treatment or chooses not to comply in any other way, the contract treatment is changed to a prison sentence.

What type of crimes was primarily committed by persons sentenced to contract treatment in 2006?

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Of which women</i>
Violent crime	223	8
Sexual crime	8	-
Theft 142	10	
Armed robbery, including serious	46	4
Fraud, embezzlement, credit deception	42	6
Crime against the public and state	91	8
Motoring offence, not drunk driving	7	-
Drunk driving, including serious	494	73
Drugs/goods trafficking	266	46
Crime against Military Service/ Non-combatant Service Act	-	-
Övrigt	28	5
Total	1,347	160

Community service

What is community service?

Community service is an order issued by the court in connection with probation or a conditional sentence. Community service is an alternative to a person being sentenced to a period of imprisonment of maximum one or two months.

Who is sentenced to community service?

Mostly juveniles convicted for less serious crimes. In 2006, 1,108 people were sentenced to community service.

What is the extent of the 'sentence'?

Between 40 and 240 working hours.

What work tasks are generally given?

The tasks generally involve unpaid work for non-profit organisations, religious organisations or other voluntary organisation. The tasks may also entail being part of a working party or carrying out various types of public services.

What type of crimes was primarily committed by persons sentenced to community service in 2006?

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Of which women</i>
Violent crime	363	16
Sexual crime	18	-
Theft ¹⁰⁵	6	
Armed robbery, including serious	34	J
Fraud, embezzlement, credit deception	38	3
Crime against the public and state	120	12
Motoring offence, not drunk driving	17	-
Drunk driving, including serious	238	34
Drugs/goods trafficking	152	13
Other	23	1
Total	1,108	88

Prison/Institution

What is the role of the prison/institution?

The role of the prison/institution is to prepare the prisoners for their return into the society and to counteract any adverse effects of the imprisonment. The imprisonment should from the outset prepare the prisoners for their release.

Is a convicted person subject to punishment in the prison?

No. The imprisonment is in itself a punishment.

How many clients are imprisoned each year?

Around 10,500 are sentenced to prison each year.

How long were the prison sentences?

<i>Sentence (S)</i>	<i>No. of new intakes 2006</i>
S<2 months	3,107
2 months<S<6 months	2,972
6 months<S<12 months	2,023
1 year<S<2 years	969
2 years<S<4 years	859
4 years<S<10 years	413
S<10 years	71
Life	14
Total	10,428

How many prisoners are serving life?

In September 2007, 160 prisoners are currently serving life, 5 of whom are women. The oldest life prisoner is 79 years old and the youngest 23 years old.

What is the average number of prisoners per day?

The average number of prisoners per day in 2006 was 4,781 which based on a total number of prison places of 4,930 constitutes a capacity utilisation rate of 97 percent.

What type of crimes was primarily committed by persons sentenced to prison in 2006?

<i>Crime</i>	<i>%</i>
Theft	15.5
Drugs/goods trafficking	21.9
Violent crime	16.8
Drunk driving, including serious	11.6
Crime against the public and state	8.1
Motoring offence, not drunk driving	6.9
Fraud, embezzlement	6.3
Armed robbery, including serious	4.0
Sexual crime	3.5
Crime against Military Service Act	0.1
Other crimes	5.4

What is the age distribution among the prisoners?

The prisoners are aged 16 and older. 93 % are between the age of 21 and 54. The average age is 35 years and the largest group of prisoners, i.e. 27.4 %, are aged between 35 and 44.

How many prisoners are under the age of 18?

In 2006, 7 juveniles were sentenced to prison. All were 17 years of age and male.

How many of the prisoners are foreign nationals?

2,903 foreign nationals were sentenced to prison in 2006, i.e. 28 percent of all prisoners. 157 of these were women, i.e. 5.3 percent. Foreign prisoners represented 114 countries. There are no statistics relating to immigrant prisoners holding a Swedish residency.

How many of the prisoners are women?

711 women were sentenced to prison in 2006, i.e. 6.8 % of all prisoners.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of women</i>	<i>Percent</i>
2003	730	6.8
2004	775	6.8
2005	717	6.7
2006	711	6.8

What crimes had the women committed?

136 were sentenced for theft, 203 for drugs crime/trafficking, 93 for motoring offence though not drunk driving, 64 for fraud and embezzlement, 69 for drunk driving, 45 for crime against the public and state, 66 for violent crime, 8 for robbery including serious robbery and 5 for sexual crime.

How many children accompanied their mothers to prison?

7 children accompanied their mothers to prison in 2006. The children spent on average 7 months in prison.

How many were young women under the age of 18?

No woman under the age of 18 was sentenced to prison in 2006.

What is contact supervision?

Contact supervision means that all prison officers are given the responsibility of supervising a handful of prisoners. These responsibilities involve planning for education and treatment together with the prisoners and providing assistance on a daily basis.

Escapes and paroles

How many prisoners escape from Swedish prisons?

652 prisoners escaped in 2006. 137 directly from the prison, 123 of whom escaped from open prisons with no tangible escape security and 14 from high security prisons. 2 escaped during transport and 513 in connection with visits outside the prison.

How many paroles are granted each year?

40,491 paroles were granted in 2006, 24,066 from open prisons and 16,425 from high security prisons.

How many of the paroles were subject to nonappearance?

The number of paroles that are taken advantage of have declined considerably (halved) over the past twelve years. In 2006, there were 298 nonappearances or failure to return to the prison on time (0.7 %) compared with 602 nonappearances in 1994.

Special actions before release

The aim of the special actions taken before release is to reduce the risk of the inmate reoffending and facilitate the reintegration into society. The following four special release actions have been in effect since 1 January 2007.

Conditional release – allows for the prisoner to spend time outside the prison during the day and to work, partake in educational or vocational programmes or organised activities.

Care service – allows for the prisoner to spend time at a family care home or care and treatment centre for the purpose of participating in various treatments.

Half-way house – allows for the prisoner to interact with an environment that is more exposed than an open prison at the same time as benefiting from the support and assistance

provided by the Prison and Probation Service and other authorities.

Extended conditional release – allows for the prisoner to serve his/her sentence at home under controlled circumstances (intensive supervision with tagging). The prisoner shall work, attend educational or vocational programmes, receive treatment or participate in organised activities.

Checks/security

What measures are taken to improve on prison security?

Throughout 2006, the Prison and Probation Service has endeavoured to develop a strategic security policy covering all aspects of security.

A revised structure of security in the form of a security group has gradually been introduced at central level and a restructure implemented at regional and local levels.

A new prison security classification has been introduced with the closed prisons being classified from A - E while the open prisons make up class F. Class A prisons are subject to the highest level of security.

The overall purpose of a more transparent security classification is to ensure that the prisoners are admitted to the most appropriate institution. The classification is based on the prisoner risk assessment carried out by the Prison and Probation Service.

Class A prisons are equipped to deal with the most precarious prisoners while preventing other prisoners from being subjected to an excessive level of security. The classification of a prison is based on the following:

- ability to prevent escapes
- ability to prevent attempted escapes
- ability to handle demanding prisoners

New security units

New security units are currently being built at Kumla, Hall and Saltvik prisons for completion in 2008/2009. The units are purposebuilt for a small group of prisoners (less than 1 percent) whose refusal to work, tendency to cause trouble and attempts to commit serious crimes during their time in prison undermine the rehabilitation of other prisoners.

The units will offer the highest level of security ever available within the Swedish prison system. The prisoners will undergo an extensive programme of activities and treatments. The personnel working with this highly demanding group of prisoners will also undergo an exclusive selection procedure.

What security procedures exist in the prisons?

All prisoners are subjected to a number of daily checks and security measures.

Body searches are often carried out several times a day, the most regular body search being the so-called superficial body search, i.e. on top of the prisoner's clothes. Regular body searches are also carried out in connection with internal and external transfers. In addition, the prisoners are body searched before and after visits from family and friends.

Prisons are entitled to check incoming post and to retain post the content of which is deemed to pose a risk to the life or health of another person or the order and safety at the prison.

A violent prisoner may be placed in solitary confinement (locked in a cell 24 hours a day except for during the daily exercise).

Prisoners may be fitted with an electronic device (tagging) when visiting a hospital or in connection with a supervised visit or release or when the personnel is monitoring and listening in on a telephone call.

Prisoners are also required to provide urine samples for testing for alcohol or narcotics. Blood and breath tests are also carried out following a parole.

Drug addiction

The following information indicates the number of prisoners believed to be drug addicts prior to imprisonment.

How many of the prisoners are sentenced for drug crimes?

2,280 prisoners were primarily sentenced for drug crimes/goods trafficking.

What percentage of the prisoners are drug addicts?

In 2006, 6,355 drug addicts were sentenced to prison. The proportion of drug addicts in prison has increased.

66 % of prisoners with a sentence of two months or more are drug addicts compared with 48 % of the prisoners with a sentence of less than two months.

What is done to prevent the use of drugs in prison?

Checking the prison cells and the public areas of the prison is one way of preventing the drugs from being used in prison. In 2006, 81,542 thorough prison cell checks and 81,541 methodical checks of other premises were carried out in addition to urine tests.

Does the Prison and Probation Service use sniffer dogs to detect drugs in prison?

Yes, the Prison and Probation Service uses sniffer dogs to detect drugs. In mid-2007, 12 drug sniffer dogs were in service. This is a significant increase from 2002 when only 2 sniffer dogs were in service.

How is it possible to control the use of drugs in prison?

The prisoners can be asked to provide a urine sample if suspected of using drugs. Random urine tests are also carried out. A total of 98,500 analysed tests were carried out in 2005. A prisoner is on average required to provide a urine sample for drugs analysis every 18th day.

Are certain prison places allocated to drug addicts?

On 1 January 2006, 1,488 prison places were allocated to drug addicts, 490 of which at one of the seven drug rehabilitation clinics.

Is it possible for the Prison and Probation Service to keep the prisons completely free of drugs?

The development of methods used for detecting and reducing the use of drugs is incessant and constitutes a fine balance between the prisoner's integrity and contact with the surrounding world and the application of rigorous restrictions.

Is the problem with drugs first and foremost a matter of control?

Control is essential but not a sufficient component for dealing with the drug problem. Programme activities and motivational exercises are equally important to the long-term and constructive management of drugs.

Prison activities

What is the purpose of prison activities?

In the Swedish prison system, it is the actual deprivation of liberty and not the prison operations that make up the punishment. Instead, the time in prison should be used to reduce the risk of reoffending by creating opportunities for the prisoner to abstain from a criminal life once out of prison.

Are all prisoners offered the same opportunities?

No, obviously not. Taking into account the length of the sentence and circumstances of the prisoner, the prisoner's need for education, vocational training or medical, psychological or any other treatment may, if required, replace the more traditional tasks.

What activities are available?

In 2006, the total activities available were distributed as follows:

- vocational work 21 %
- intern service 17 %
- education 12 %
- crime and drug rehabilitation programmes 4 %
- other structured activities 13 % of which self-management 3 %
- parole 2 %.

What determines the activity offered to a prisoner?

Many prisons run a special introduction programme which allows for the prisoner to become acquainted with the prison and informed about relevant laws and regulations at the same time as the prisoner's theoretical knowledge, interests and motivation is assessed. This assessment then forms the foundation for the activities offered to the prisoner.

Crime and drug rehabilitation programmes

Many crimes are committed as a result of addiction or lack of understanding. What preventative measures are taken by the Prison and Probation Service?

The Prison and Probation Service are investing heavily into breaking criminal behaviour and increasing knowledge and understanding. In addition to traditional methods, e.g. education and social rehabilitation, a large range of national treatment programmes are offered.

What is the purpose of these programmes?

The programmes are based on the crime or addiction of the prisoner. The purpose of the programmes is to reduce the risk of the prisoner reoffending and give the prisoner an insight into the cause of addiction and criminality and the consequences of such addiction and criminality for the prisoner and the surrounding world, e.g. crime victims.

Work

What work is available?

The manufacturing of the Prison and Probation Service is purely market-orientated. The objective of the manufacturing is for the prisoner to carry out work that is as similar as possible to the work available outside the prison walls.

Industrial, agricultural and forestry work is carried out as well as service related/office work and craftsmanship. Some of the products are made at the prison and sold via wholesalers and retailers. These products are sold under the brandname of KrimProd.

Do the prisoners get paid for their work?

Yes, they even get paid for studying or partaking in other activities. The pay is approx. SEK 10/hour.

Other structured activities

What other structured activities are available?

Social skills training is an example of a structured activity that teaches the prisoner to deal with everyday tasks such as cleaning, doing the laundry and cooking as well as managing his/her finances.

Education

What educational opportunities are available?

The education available, usually on a part-time basis, is either theoretical or practical. Educational programmes include basic adult education, vocational training, post-secondary education, labour market training, parental guidance, etc..

How is the education organised?

The Prison and Probation Service is responsible for the education offered to prisoners under the supervision of the Swedish National Agency for Education. Around hundred secondary school teachers covering various subjects are employed by the Prison and Probation Service.

What is basic adult education?

Basic adult education is equivalent to primary and secondary school education.

What is vocational training?

For various reasons, such as the length of sentence, most prisoners do not complete their vocational training while in prison. However, it is possible for a prisoner to commence a qualifying training programme in prison and then complete the training once outside prison.

Around twenty prisons in liaison with the National Labour Market Board offer labour market orientated training. The advantage with this liaison is that if a prisoner is unable to complete his/her training while in prison, he/she can resume the training following release.

What is the function of the educational associations?

The educational associations usually help organising studies and meaningful leisure activities primarily in the form of cultural programmes and study circles. Musical programmes, lectures and courses relating to creativity, nature and environment are examples of other contributions made by the educational associations.

Personnel

How many people are employed by the Prison and Probation Service?

In september 2007 9,279 people were employed by the Prison and Probation Service.

How many are women?

45,6 % of the employees are women.

What is the average age of the employees?

The average age is 44.

Are there different professional categories?

Yes, there are managers, prison inspectors, non-custodial care inspectors, prison and personnel administrators, prison officers, manufacturing managers, programme supervisors, medical staff, property caretakers and warehouse staff, kitchen staff, cleaners, inspectors, administrative officials and assistants.

Which is the largest professional group?

Prison officers make up the largest professional group with 5,420 employees.

What is the percentage of sick-leave?

In 2006 the percentage of sick-leave was 6,4 %.

Costs

What is the annual cost of the Prison and Probation Service?

The cost of the Prison and Probation Service is slightly more than SEK 5.6 thousand millions per annum.

A prisoner costs on average SEK 1,767 per day. A non-custodial client costs on average SEK 164 per day. A client in custody costs on average SEK 1,925 per day.

Organisation

GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

THE PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICE
Headoffice in Norrköping

Prison and Probation Board

Transport Service in Gothenburg

30 Probation Boards

6 Regions
With Prison, remand prisons
and probation units

Northern Region
Office in Härnösand

Stockholm Region
Office in Stockholm

Central Region
Office in Örebro

Eastern Region
Office in Linköping

Western Region
Office in Gothenburg

Southern Region
Office in Malmö

