# Consultation on Expectations: Criteria for assessing the treatment of and conditions for women in prison

### Background to this consultation

## Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons) is currently consulting on *Expectations: Criteria for assessing the treatment of and conditions for women in prison*. The *Expectations* have been developed independently by HMI Prisons and set out the criteria by which we inspect outcomes for women in custody. This is the second version of our *Expectations* for women in prison, which we have revised so that we can continue to fulfil our responsibility to deliver independent and objective assessments of outcomes for prisoners. The revision follows a literature review, focus groups and extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders, including women in custody. The *Expectations* incorporate learning from our inspections of women’s prisons and other best practice. They are underpinned by human rights treaties and standards.

## After much deliberation and consultation, we have chosen to retain the four healthy prison tests of safety, respect, purposeful activity and rehabilitation and release planning. Rehabilitation and release planning has replaced resettlement, as it more accurately describes the content of the test. We have thought carefully about the content of each test and made changes to reflect the differing risk and needs of women in prison and to promote the issues that are most relevant to them. For example, the role of safe and healthy relationships now underpins the safety test; relationships with children, families and other people who are significant to women is now central to the respect test and features more prominently in other sections, such as early days in custody. We have integrated the importance of well-being, fostering a community and supporting women to deal with their needs throughout the four tests, rather than limiting these considerations to one test. We hope that these changes will lead to improved outcomes for those held in women’s prisons.

## The final version of the *Expectations* produced following this consultation will include short explanations of the human rights treaties and standards relevant to each *Expectations* area.

## How to participate in this consultation

We welcome comments on any aspect of the draft *Expectations* and have provided a feedback form (below) for this purpose. We have also provided a Word copy of the *Expectations* so that you can make comments or suggest changes to the drafting in the document, as we recognise that it is often easier to provide feedback in this way. You may provide feedback using either or both options. If you are commenting on or suggesting changes to the draft *Expectations* document, please use tracked changes as this allows us to ensure we capture all your suggestions.

As well as welcoming your general feedback, we are asking a series of optional questions (below and set out in the feedback form). Your responses will help us determine if the changes to our *Expectations* will improve outcomes for women.

1. Do the draft *Expectations* describe an environment in which women can be supported to make positive changes for themselves and promote their own well-being?
2. Do the draft *Expectations* promote a healthy and safe community that encourages positive behaviour and fosters positive staff-prisoner relationships?
3. Are relationships with children, families and significant others given enough focus in the draft *Expectations*?
4. Do the draft *Expectations* meet the needs of women in prison? Are there any needs of that have been missed?

### Whether you decide to reply to this consultation using the feedback form or by commenting on the draft directly, please provide your details as requested in part one of the form. We are happy to accept replies from individuals or organisations.

### All feedback should be returned by email to <caroline.wright@hmiprisons.gov.uk> by 31 December 2020. Please contact Caroline by email or call 020 7340 0500 if you have questions or require any assistance to complete this consultation.

### Next steps

Once the consultation period has closed, we will review all the replies we receive, make amendments to the *Expectations*, and publish the final version on our website in March 2021. We will summarise the changes we have made following the consultation and will provide this summary to everyone who participated. The summary will not attribute specific comments to individuals or organisations and we will not publish any consultation replies. Please feel free to publish your own, individual reply to this consultation.

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| **Name:** | **Date:** |
| **Job title and organisation (if applicable):** | |
| **Email address (optional):** | |

Part 1: About you

**Part 2: Key questions and comments**

Please provide any comments or reflections you may have to any of the questions below.

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| **Question** | **Comments** |
| 1. Do the draft *Expectations* describe an environment in which women can be supported to make positive changes for themselves and promote their own well-being? |  |
| 1. Do the draft *Expectations* promote a healthy and safe community that encourages positive behaviour and fosters positive staff-prisoner relationships? |  |
| 1. Are relationships with children, families and significant others given enough focus in the draft *Expectations*? |  |
| 1. Do the draft *Expectations* meet the needs of women in prison? Are there any needs that have been missed? |  |
| 1. Overall/further comments |  |

**Part 3: Specific areas of *Expectations***

If you have comments about specific areas of the revised *Expectations,* please add them to the table below, using the paragraph numbers from the consultation document as references.

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| **Paragraph number** | **Comments** |
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Thank you for taking the time to provide this feedback.

Please send your response to [caroline.wright@hmiprisons.gov.uk](caroline.wright@hmiprisons.gov.uk%20) by **31 December 2020**.

This information is available [on our website](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/about-hmi-prisons/current-consultations/).

Please forward this form to anyone with an interest in this area to comment.