

## ***A gloomy self-fulfilling prophecy***



### **£191K spent on Prison Porta-cabins.**

A Freedom of Information reply to us dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 revealed that the estimated cost of newly installed accommodation cabins at Isle of Man Prison, Jurby is £191,366.33.

A previous FOI reply to us dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 disclosed that the overall cost of running Jurby Prison in the single year 2022 was approximately **£7.5 million** and the cost per prisoner was £80,094.50 per year.

The new UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has recently said that the Prison population is far too high and his Prisons' Minister Mr James Timpson went as far as stating that only *1/3<sup>rd</sup> of prisoners* should actually be there, the other *2/3<sup>rds</sup>* should not.

And so why is the Isle of Man Government building yet more Prison spaces?

Would £191K be better spent on addressing the root causes of crime and on personal rehabilitation projects such as drug and alcohol detox programmes or mental health support? Or how about a change of approach and diverting offenders away from Prison by expanding Probation or by introducing home curfews or by making restitution to society via developing community service?

Or how about focusing on effective *Restorative Justice*, whereby the offender directly meets victims face to face to gain an understanding of the serious consequences of the crime committed.

Many residents have commented to us that spending £80K a year per prisoner is a waste of taxpayers' money, a waste of time and more importantly a waste of valuable young lives.

Isn't it truly time to break the expectation of a growing Prison population and end this gloomy self-fulfilling prophecy?

And so, instead of retribution and hastily installing prefabricated Porta-cabins, maybe the time is opportune for a radical and enlightened re-think about the criminal justice system as a whole.

How about prioritising **clemency**?

See link below to the FOI response from the Department of Home Affairs dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

<https://www.ik.im/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/18.07.24-Cost-of-Prison-prefabricated-cabins.pdf>