

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

HMP & YOI CORNTON VALE



Tom McMurchie  
Acting Governor

REDUCING REOFFENDING

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Cornton Vale provides custodial facilities for remand and sentenced women (including young offenders) in all sentence ranges and supervision levels.

Design Capacity **375**

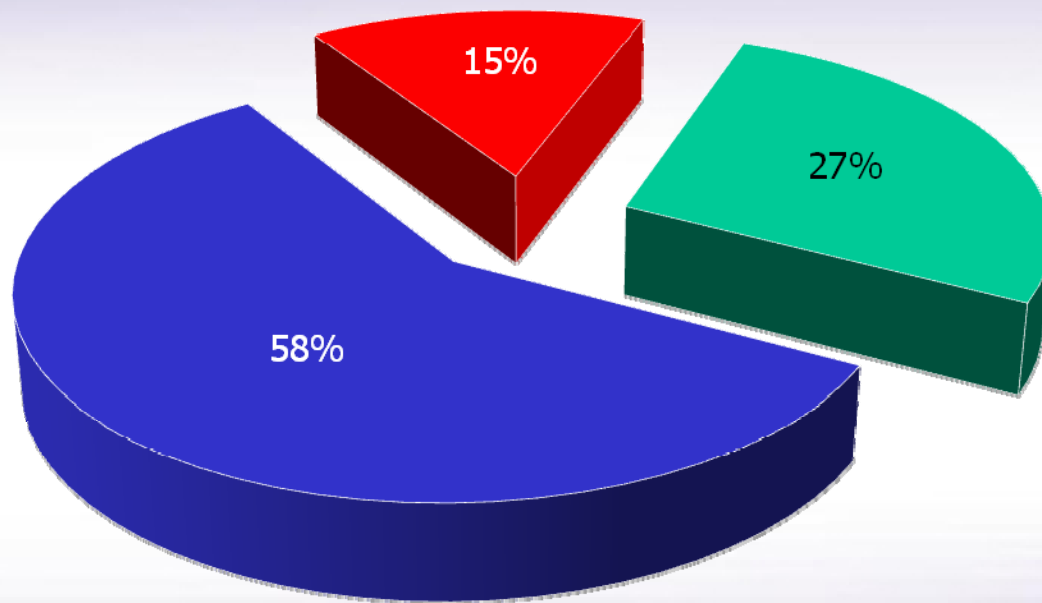
Assessed Operational Limit **440**

Highest Population **456** March 09

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**26th March 2009**  
**456 Women Offenders**

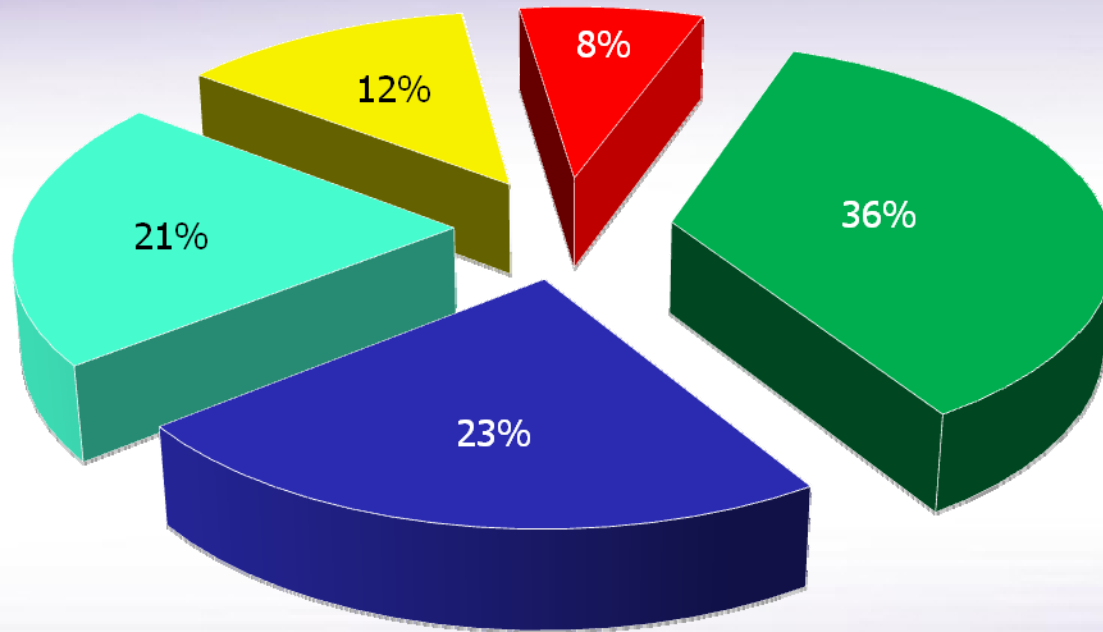


remand	124
short term	265
long term	67

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**26th March 2009**  
**456 Women Offenders**  
**332 convicted**



0-1 year	118
1-2 years	77
2-4 years	70
4-10 years	41
10-Life	26

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## Women Convicted Receptions

	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08
< 6 mths										
6 mths <2yrs										
2yrs < 4yrs										
4yrs >										
Life										

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## Women Convicted Receptions

	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08
< 6 mths	344	285	283	339	357	385	505	521	519	474
6 mths <2yrs	124	134	112	148	162	203	156	162	220	276
2yrs < 4yrs	16	24	22	28	38	37	38	46	45	59
<b>STP Total</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>809</b>
4yrs >										
Life										

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4yrs >	17	12	10	21	22	20	14	11	15	20
Life	1	3	3	0	2	3	1	4	1	0
<b>LTP Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>

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<b>STP Total</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>

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4yrs >	17	12	10	21	22	20	14	11	15	20
Life	1	3	3	0	2	3	1	4	1	0
LTP Total	18	15	13	21	24	23	15	15	16	20
< 6 mths	69%	63%	66%	63%	61%	60%	70%	70%	65%	58%

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Men and women are different.  
Equal treatment of men and women  
does not result in equal outcomes.



- Prison is proportionately harsher for women because prisons and the practices within them have for the most part been designed for men
- Different Pathways into offending
- Need versus Risk
- Relatedness/relationship issues
- Problems presented differently (complex/inter-related)
- Women use emotional rather than rational language
- Emphasis on Multi-disciplinary case conferencing

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Breaking the cycle of female offending



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Sustained or improved  
physical and mental well being



Mental health problems are far more prevalent among women in prison with up to 80% of women in prison having diagnosable mental health problems.

Around 70% have a disclosed history of abuse or trauma, though the stigma around disclosure suggests that this figure is an underestimate.

Around 50% have an active history of self harming behaviour whether through cutting, overdose or hanging.

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Sustained or improved  
physical and mental well being

Mental Health Strategy

Training for Prison Officers

ACT2Care - Assessment, Context, Teamworking

Sensory Room

External Partnerships

Well Person Clinic

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## Reduced or stabilised substance misuse

Drug addiction plays a huge part in all offending and this seems to be disproportionately the case with women with 95% of women experiencing addictions problems.

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## Reduced or stabilised substance misuse

Risk and Needs Assessment

Enhanced Addictions Casework Services [Phoenix Futures]

Medication

Addictions Officers

Throughcare Addictions Services [TAS]

218 Project

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## Employability Prospects Increased



Many of the offenders in Cornton Vale are parents and often the sole carer of their children when in the community. Many do not expect to be in employment.

Given the educational qualifications, the social and personal skills of many of the women and the high degree of drug problems, finding suitable employment is likely to be very difficult.

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## Employability Prospects Increased

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Purposeful Activity

Community Based Placements

Community Based Partners – ROOP, Apex, Job Centre Plus

Young Enterprise Scotland

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## Maintained or improved relationships with families, peers and community

Women prisoners are far more likely than men to be primary carers of young children and this factor makes the prison experience significantly different for women than men

Women tend to be located further from their homes than male prisoners, to the detriment of maintaining family ties, receiving visits and resettlement back into the community

Women's imprisonment has a harsher effect on the lives of their friends and families and most especially their children, whose lives can be devastated and whose lives too become chaotic

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Maintained or improved relationships with families, peers and community

Children and Families Strategy

Families involved in Induction, ICM & Pre Release

Parenting Programme Co-facilitated by Aberlour

Mother & Child arrangements

Families Outside

Community Facing Prisons?

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## The ability to access and sustain suitable accommodation

Lack of appropriate accommodation is frequently mentioned as a problem for female offenders

Women who receive a custodial sentence are likely to lose their accommodation and be homeless on release

A high proportion of female offenders have difficulty in identifying a suitable address for release under HDC Arrangements

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The ability to access and sustain  
suitable accommodation

Local Authority engagement through Links Centre

Four Square – Preventing Homelessness Promoting Inclusion

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Improvements in the attitudes or behaviour which lead to offending & greater acceptance of responsibility in managing their own behaviour & understanding of the impact of their offending on victims and on their own families.



Prisoner Programmes at Cornton Vale are currently over-orientated towards the needs of long-term prisoners. The balance of priority needs to be adjusted to take account of the needs of the remand and short-term convicted population, who are by far the majority and have a much higher recidivism rate.

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Improvements in the attitudes or behaviour which lead to offending & greater acceptance of responsibility in managing their own behaviour & understanding of the impact of their offending on victims and on their own families.

Integrated Case Management

Core Plus Model – Women Specific

Prisoner Programmes – Accredited and Approved

Staff Training Strategy

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## SPS Women Offender Strategy

underpinned by 4 core principles:

The SPS will adopt a holistic, individualised women centred approach

The SPS will foster positive relationship skills

The SPS will create a safe, secure, and supportive environment designed for women

The SPS will engender an understanding of women's routes into offending

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