

their view of a prison officer's job has an historical, firm foundation. Supporters of a proposed new role are not usually very vociferous, even though they may welcome it, because it is untried and *could* therefore prove unworkable or disastrous. It seems that the committee have been given, in their generalized contact with the Service, the impression (correctly) that there are considerable obstacles which prevent a prison

officer engaging in a more constructive task, but they have also been given the impression (incorrectly) that these obstacles are insurmountable. Perhaps the time has come for prison officers who are anxious to extend their professional life to provide solutions to some of the difficulties, and thus not allow less anxious colleagues to misrepresent or under-estimate their intentions, wishes, or abilities to do so.

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