



# **Crime costs**

**Richard Garside, Erwin James, Frances Crook interview**



a fine balance • • • •

# Privacy in the digital society

**Tuesday 8 June**

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What can we do to get out of the cycle of crime ...



... and punishment?

## What lies ahead?

The new bunch at the Home Office are, without a doubt, feeling pretty nervous about what lies ahead of them. Their predecessors presided over a big drop in crime alongside a huge surge in expenditure on police and a large growth of our prison population. No one is exactly sure how, and even if, the two are linked. But the challenge that faces this administration is working out how to spend less on our police and how to empty out our swollen prisons, without seeing a surge in crime for which they will be held directly responsible.

The challenge is further complicated by the recession. So far we have not seen the surge of recession-linked crime that had been expected. But when harsh cuts begin to bite, that could all change very quickly. Public order may be threatened by widespread strikes. The police will need to be kept happy, but it looks as if our new Home Secretary, Theresa May, may already be facing backbench revolt after making an unpopular announcement about elected police commissioners. In short, it will be business as usual. Who'd be the Home Secretary? ●

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NS website at [newstatesman.com/supplements](http://newstatesman.com/supplements)**

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**Kids Count** is a grassroots organisation that aims to find practical solutions to a broad range of issues that affect children and young people in urban and rural communities. It is determined to put young people at the heart of policy making and the family.

**Kids Count** has recently launched its Centre of Excellence that offers a diverse range of education, training and workshops.

**Kids Count** needs your support to continue its life changing work. For more information or to become a supporter, or to request a copy of the grassroots document on knife crime, "Bringing the Voice of the Street to The House", please contact Linda Lawrence on 07863200751 or [linda@kidscount.org.uk](mailto:linda@kidscount.org.uk)

Somehow the government must start cutting our bloated crime budgets, but where to start?

# The cost of crime

*By Richard Garside*

*Graphic by Simone Maxwell*

At his creepy press conference with Nick Clegg the day after he finally jostled his way into No 10, David Cameron spoke of the “difficult times” that lay ahead as the Tory-Lib Dem coalition dealt with a “terrible economic inheritance”. The public finances, his newly appointed deputy added, were “in a mess”. Hot on their heels the new Chancellor, George Osborne, has launched a new Office of Budget Responsibility and has accused the Labour administration of being “totally irresponsible” with the nation’s finances.

The new occupants of Downing Street were never going to be dispassionate commentators on Gordon Brown’s government. But whatever the truth of their comments on Labour’s economic stewardship, a decade of cuts and austerity is what everyone is now expecting. So as the Treasury scouts about for budgets to cut, what are the prospects for that mishmash of services – the police, the probation and prison service and the courts – that collectively make up the criminal justice system?

Criminal justice expenditure is spread across various departments of state under the rather Orwellian-sounding “public order and safety” category. In 2007-2008, according to Treasury figures, the UK spent £31.4bn on public order and safety. The biggest-spending departments were the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, followed by the Department for

Communities and Local Government; the Scottish Office and the Northern Ireland Office. Other departments spending smaller amounts were Children, Schools and Families, Transport, the Law Officers’ Department, the Welsh Office, and the Northern Ireland Executive.

This is big money by any standards and a big increase on earlier times. Adjusted for inflation, spending on public order and safety has doubled over the past 20

## Police expenditure has risen in real terms by nearly 50 per cent

years. Margaret Thatcher’s government was “only” spending an inflation-adjusted £15.6bn on public order and safety in 1987-88, a figure that rose to £21.1bn in 1996-97, the eve of Labour’s long period in office.

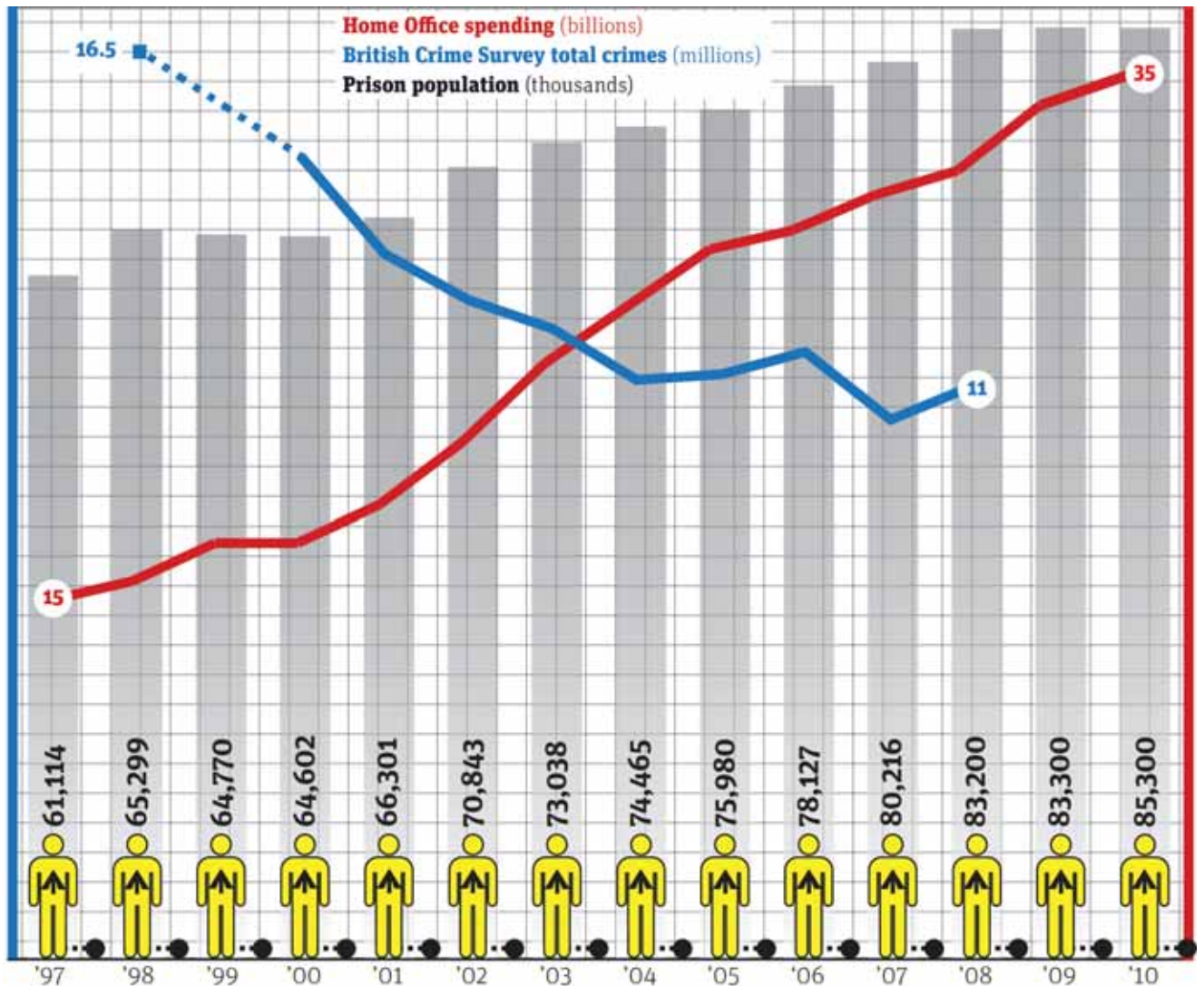
It is not difficult to see where a lot of this money has gone. Take the police, for instance. In 1998, there were just shy of 125,000 police officers in England and Wales. Police numbers dropped during Labour’s first term, as expenditure was squeezed. But, from 2001, the financial spigot was opened and the money gushed out. As a recent report from the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies points out, in the ten years between 1999-2009 police

expenditure rose, in real terms, by nearly 50 per cent. By 2009, overall police expenditure was £14.5bn. Police numbers correspondingly increased to close to 142,000 police officers in that year.

The story is similar for the prison and probation services. Both have witnessed large expenditure rises under Labour, with a corresponding rise in staffing, prisoners and individuals under probation supervision. At a time of supposedly falling crime rates, prison numbers are at a record high. The probation service caseload has grown even faster. This bloated criminal justice bureaucracy is a key part of the legacy the Tory-Lib Dem coalition has inherited from Labour.

That is not to say that criminal justice staff are kicking their heels in happy indolence, the lucky beneficiaries of government largesse. The demands on front-line staff time, if anything, are greater now than they were back in the late 1990s. The massive prison building programme under Labour has accounted for a good deal of additional expenditure. Money has also been squandered on wasteful reorganisation after reorganisation, ill-thought-out and expensive IT projects and other “innovations”. Managerial grades have grown in some areas, often with little obvious rationale. And now David Cameron’s coalition needs to find big savings on public spending.

On the face of it, criminal justice should



be one of the easier targets for public spending cuts. Politically, the public will feel the cuts in schools or hospitals budgets, social security or public transport much more than they will cuts to criminal justice budgets.

Today's sizeable criminal justice system is also something of a historical anomaly. With more than 85,000 inmates, the prison population in England and Wales is close to double what it was 20 years earlier. The previous Conservative governments managed to get by with locking up far fewer people than New Labour felt it necessary to do. There are around 20,000 more police officers now than when the Conservatives left office in 1997. But to what effect? Labour claimed in office that record police numbers and prison numbers were behind the falling crime rates. But, in truth, there is no clear link between levels of crime and

particular criminal justice processes and metrics. Indeed, it is conceivable that the official crime rate would have fallen during Labour's period in office regardless of their various criminal justice reforms.

Yet you only have to state the case for big cuts in police numbers or a halving of the prison population to realise how remote such a prospect currently is. For one thing, individuals' livelihoods are at stake. The Westminster policy-wonks who blithely call for "efficiency savings" here and spending cuts there tend to forget that they are calling for people to be put out of work. And while this is inherent in any discussion over cuts, one should reflect carefully before advocating big cuts too enthusiastically.

But more importantly, public order and safety expenditure is not, fundamentally, about tackling "crime", at least not in the abstract sense of that proposition. If, as

Max Weber argued, the state claims a monopoly on the legitimate use of violence in the enforcement of order, the criminal justice process is the embodiment of that claim. Particularly at a time of economic distress, the maintenance of social order becomes a dominant concern for government. The nature/size of penal regimes is also closely related to the political economic arrangements of any given society. The UK has developed a large criminal justice system, in other words, because it is so bad at addressing social distress and dysfunction in other, more inclusive, ways.

In short, the current economic crisis does offer a great opportunity for radical reductions in public order and safety expenditure. But it is likely to be one that the new government will miss. ●

*Richard Garside is director of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies at King's College London*



A greater focus on rehabilitation would be cheaper and more effective in keeping the reoffending rate low, says Frances Crook

# No going back

*By Sophie Elmhirst*

Frances Crook, director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, does not mince her words when asked about Labour's record in office: it was, in terms of criminal justice and penal policy, "desperately awful". Crook's antagonism is directed squarely at the leadership of the party – particularly the various home and justice secretaries who served in the government. While there was positive work on crime prevention – from Sure Start to working with problem families – she believes ministers were "dazzled by criticism from some of the tabloids". Thirst for popularity led them to crack down disproportionately hard on crime: "As soon as anybody had done anything wrong, there was an incomprehensible viciousness that didn't fit with all the back story of social policy. There was a mismatch, due partly to very simplistic politics."

Crook argues that prison is an expensive and ineffective way to deal with criminality. Between 1995-2009, the prison population grew by 32,500 – with each new prison place costing the taxpayer £100,000 to build, and £41,000 to maintain every year. The current system's reoffending rate is 48 per cent. Instead, she maintains that a greater focus on rehabilitation would not only be cheaper, but more effective at reducing that rate. One plank would be the introduction of paid work into prisons: "I don't want them to potter around in prison when they're 22 as if they're old age pensioners. I'd rather they did something useful... they should pay tax. That would be a rehabilitation revolution." As well as work, Crook would like to see community programmes and sentences that would include community work, curfews, participation in local programmes to gain skills and possible exclusion from specific activities or areas – and benefit the local community.

The new coalition government has picked up on the rehabilitation theme in



**Frances Crook: wants paid work in prisons**

its policy documents, and Crook is hopeful they will take these ideas forward. In the past, she says, Conservative governments have occasionally been "brave" in reducing the use of prison, because they don't have to prove how tough they are. But she has little time for David Cameron's "broken Britain" rhetoric. The UK crime rate, in fact, has fallen – something she believes is not coincidental but a result of Labour's social policies and investment in education. She is unable to offer concrete evidence for this, however – simply saying that a combination of "social pressure" as well as developments on housing and education all helped.

## Promoting reform

An advantage that Crook has identified for promoting her reform agenda is the sombre economic climate. The government is hunting for savings across the public sector, and she is still incandescent at the waste she saw during Labour's tenure – the endless reorganisations of the National Offender Management Service, and the millions spent on the new head-

quarters, while frontline services were starved of investment. However, there are inevitable concerns as cuts loom, particular the effect they will have on employment levels. "Cutting off opportunities for young people could cause social unrest. It did before; it did in the Eighties, when young people couldn't get jobs and there was no support for them... That would be a broken society."

On other key policies, such as the Tories' plan for elected police commissioners, Crook is cautiously positive. "I'm all in favour of the principle of public engagement and involvement at a local level... but I'm not sure that the simple answer is elections." She questions whether they genuinely improve local accountability. Crook also warns the new government: "There are two groups of people you don't take on: the police and the doctors. And they're taking on both."

A final priority for Crook is to change the way children are dealt with in the criminal justice system. She applauds the coalition's decision to end the detention of children for immigration purposes. But she is furious about the recent trial of two boys, aged ten and 11, charged with attempted rape of a younger girl. "What happened to that little girl was appalling... I think she was raped by the criminal justice system." Her lengthy cross-examination, she says, was entirely the wrong way to deal with a child. Equally, child perpetrators should never be treated as adults.

Despite wanting substantive reform of the system, Crook is pleased that Ken Clarke, the new Justice Secretary, has so far been relatively quiet in office. He isn't, as new ministers are wont to do, overturning all that went before for the sake of marking his territory. "A period of peace", Crook believes, would be excellent. It "will allow for a sensible public debate and sensible reform" – two things she craves, after a turbulent decade. ●

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Why shouldn't we treat prisons as community resources?

# Life on the inside can have meaning

*By Erwin James*

It was 1992 and Ken Clarke was obviously in a good mood. He was visiting HMP Nottingham, a category B prison where I was serving a life sentence for murder; the then home secretary came into the classroom where I and seven other prisoners were planning a charity fund raising marathon run around the prison exercise yard, and was keen to know about our progress.

I explained that our sponsors included fellow prisoners, prison staff, teachers, family members and friends of participants, and several local businesses. He was impressed. So much so that when one of our number stepped forward and asked him for a donation he never even blinked. "Certainly," he boomed, and immediately produced his wallet, extracted a crisp, new five pound note and handed it over to our now shaking associate. He liked the fact, he said, that the prison was serving the community – and that we were trying to "put something back". He made more positive, encouraging comments, praised the staff and teachers who were helping us, before finally wishing us luck and departing, leaving us all feeling upbeat and valued.

The jail was actually a dump, a decrepit Victorian building holding 220 prisoners serving sentences ranging from four years to life. Despite the efforts of the cleaning party, it was seriously grimy and, like most prisons at the time, there was a burgeoning hard drug problem. But it managed to work, on the whole, because of good staff/prisoner relations. There were City & Guilds vocational training courses in a variety of building trades with bona fide skill certificates at the end. The prison officers were local men who had been there years and always had time to talk. Life in the jail was far from easy, but there was a definite sense of purpose and meaning to what we were all supposed to be doing there.

Under Clarke's tenure at the Home Office, from 1992-1993, the average prison population for England and Wales was around 44,000. Before him, Douglas Hurd had also kept numbers reasonably low, declaring that prison was a good place "to make bad people worse". Hurd and Clarke both seemed to understand how corrosive and debilitating prison life could be. In the midst of the general chaos, however, there did appear to be opportunities. I had gone in a deeply troubled character



**"Enhanced" prisoner (better privileges) doing press-ups in his cell on H Wing, YO1 Aylesbury**

with no real skills or abilities, chronic social inhibitions and a heavy burden of shame and guilt. The chances that anything good would ever come from the experience either for me or for wider society were slim.

But after being guided into education by a psychologist I began to see possibilities. As the years passed, I came to understand that prison had the potential to be a truly valuable community resource, but that social attitudes towards it, fired mainly by distorted media reporting, worked against that ever being a reality.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW ATCHISON





For prisons to work in the best interests of the community, it needed strong political will. Ken Clarke was a strong confident politician and he appeared to want to make that happen. Sadly in the spring of 1993 he was replaced by Michael Howard who believed that “prison works. It ensures that we are protected from murderers, muggers and rapists.” Howard delighted many in his party with his taunt to wrongdoers everywhere: “If you don’t want the time, don’t do the crime.” Not to be outdone, the budding New Labour leader Tony Blair had come up with his own slogan.

He told the Labour Party conference in 1993 that New Labour was going to be

“tough on crime and tough on the caused of crime”, running it past the *Sun* newspaper headline writer Chris Roycroft-Davis beforehand. Blair asked Roycroft-Davis: “Do you think I’ll get away with this?” Roycroft-Davis says he thought it was “one of the best things a politician had ever said”. Good for selling newspapers, perhaps, but not good for the effect it would have on our prisons.

The “tough” rhetoric continued in the two main parties for the next few years, and I experienced, firsthand, the impact of this unprecedented hike in prisoner numbers. Two new wings were built in the grounds at the prison over the sports field, while the education department and

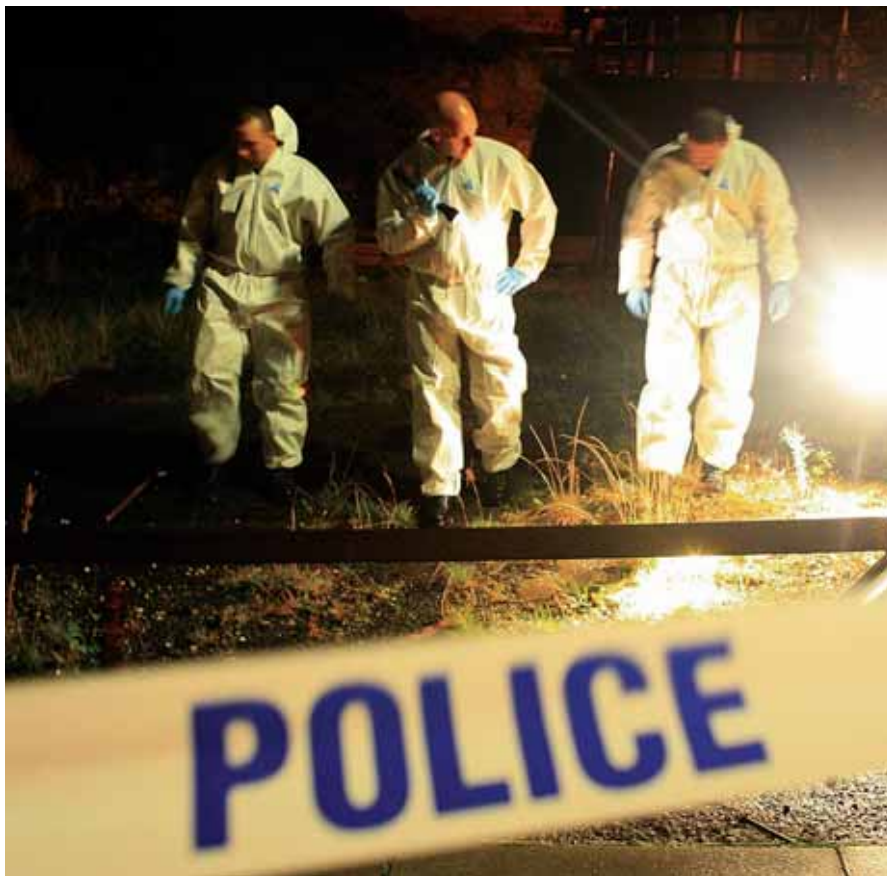
the VTC workshops reduced to a shadow of what they had once been. The prison went from being a place where people worked together to make the best of a difficult environment to being little more than a people warehouse, in which disillusionment hung in the air like just another bad smell.

Following a landslide majority, New Labour had a chance to turn back the tide. But new home secretary, Jack Straw, clung on to his “tough” mantle. Prison life deteriorated. Incidents of suicide among prisoners rose to more than two a week. Overcrowding led to the curtailment of already restricted activities, with prisoners having to spend more and more time locked in their cells. Rates of reoffending soared, to around 70 per cent within two years of release across the board, and have remained high ever since, at a financial cost of about 11bn a year. Indeed, the prison system as a whole has been officially overcrowded every year since 1994.

## Our prisons have been officially overcrowded every year since 1994

Currently it stands at a new record of over 85,000 and rising. The quality of prison life is now lower than at any time in the past 20 years and the system is failing so badly that it is effectively causing as much harm to society as the criminal activity of those from whom it is meant to be protecting the public. I benefited from my 20 years in prison, developing skills and abilities that have enabled me to become a contributing member of society. What I achieved, with the help and encouragement of some of the finer people who work in our prisons, amounts to a measure of the potential that our prison system could hold for the majority of those who end up in it, instead of the minority. Anyone who wants to succeed in turning their life around in prison today has an even bigger mountain to climb. But Ken Clarke is back in charge of justice and prisons. He once gave a murderer a five pound note. Proof, if you like, that even in a prison crisis, hope springs eternal. ●

*Erwin James served 20 years of a life sentence for murder and was released in 2004. He is now a trustee of the Prison Reform Trust and works full time as a freelance writer*



Knife crime: police investigate the fatal stabbing of four-year-old Ryan Hawkins, in 2007

The two parties have some serious disagreements over crime to sort out

# Cell mates

*By Ben Ferguson*

## Crime

The crime scene in England and Wales is not as grim as the headlines suggest: murder rates are at their lowest levels for 20 years, with 651 deaths recorded in the 12 months to November 2009. The number of violent crimes – including robbery, mugging, assault, domestic violence, and gun and knife crime – is down by 49 per cent since 1995, and the Home Office says burglary is down by 35 per cent since 2002.

But there's still room for improvement. A larger year-on-year percentage of violent crime involved the use of knives, and drug-related offences are up 6 per cent, although the reclassification of cannabis makes this statistic look worse than it is.

In order to fix "broken Britain", the Tories are talking tough on two topics: antisocial behaviour and knife crime.

According to David Cameron, Asbos are "blunt instruments". Instead, the government will bring in grounding

orders that allow the police to act on anti-social behaviour without criminalising young people.

The Conservatives are targeting drink- and drug-fuelled violence by giving the police and local authorities the ability to take away licenses from premises where problems occur. They've also increased the penalty for serving underage customers alcohol to £20,000.

Only one in five charges of knife crime currently results in a prison sentence and the Tories are guaranteeing that anyone convicted of knife crime will go to prison. They want to crack down on people carrying knives by introducing mobile knife scanners on streets and public transport.

In other areas, the Conservatives will teach schoolchildren about sexual consent to try and stop sexual violence, and create a police national cyber crime unit to deal with identity theft and internet fraud.

However, some plans have already come under criticism. The outgoing home secretary, Alan Johnson, told the *New Statesman* that the coalition government's plan to reform the DNA database will make it much harder for courts to convict sexual offenders. Opposition from Labour will be strong in this area.

Above all, the Home Secretary, Theresa May, is likely to find herself battling against cuts imposed because of the budget deficit.

## Police

Spending on the police in England and Wales grew by nearly 50 per cent between 1999-2009. Out of last year's £35bn budget for public order and safety, £14.5bn went to the police.

So where did all this money go? Alan Johnson denies the claim that the police are the last non-reformed public service. He points out, for example, that neighbourhood policing – introduced in 1997 – was an area where Labour made a considerable difference.

Brought in to tackle antisocial behaviour and put communities back in touch with their local forces, neighbourhood policing, Johnson believes, also contributed to a 65 per cent reduction in domestic violence under Labour. It created jobs for 14,000 new police officers alongside 16,000 police community support officers. Britain now has a bigger police force than ever before, with 141,510 trained personnel.

With a look to the future, Alan Johnson says the coalition government "must pro-

tect frontline policing” in the face of budget cuts. And it’s here where the coalition parties might disagree. The Deputy Prime Minister and Liberal Democrat leader, Nick Clegg, promised to put 3,000 extra police on the streets nationwide, funded with money saved by scrapping ID cards. Although plans to bring in ID cards have been scrapped, so too have been those for extra officers.

The Tories’ big plan to get rid of local police authorities in an effort to make the police more accountable was written into the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill last week. Police constables will now answer to an elected commissioner – like a sheriff – whom the public will vote in at each local election. The commissioner’s job will be to apply to local councils for police funding and set police priorities for their community.

But there’s growing anger from the police that the move will undermine their independence. The Association of Chief of Police Officers president, Sir Hugh Orde, reckons that police independence may be jeopardised, and also fears the possibility that “lunatics” will gain control over local forces, as typical voter turnout in local elections is very low.

This scheme won’t apply to the police in Scotland and Northern Ireland, whose money and legislation is passed from their own governments. Scotland, in fact, already has fully elected local police authorities, while the Police Service of Northern Ireland underwent ten years of reform before 2001. In 2007, the 29 districts that covered policing in Northern Ireland were amalgamated to become eight, with one chief constable in charge of the lot.

Some people anticipate similar reform

## Police are unhappy about plans for elected commissioners

in England and Wales, with the Tories perhaps merging some of the 43 police forces as a way of getting the police back on their side. This idea was last put forward by the then home secretary Charles Clarke in 2005, but his efforts lost momentum without the support of other politicians or the police. This time round, Sir Hugh thinks it’s a good idea, as a way of saving money on IT and administration and helping fight organised crime which

operates across geographical boundaries.

While it is clear that changes are overdue in England and Wales – the last time the police service was restructured was back in 1964 – we will have to wait and see what form this will take.

## Prisons

Britain’s prisons are bursting at the seams. Total capacity reached 97 per cent at the start of May and a priority for the new Justice Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, will be to bring this figure down.

When New Labour pledged to be “tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime”, it was already inheriting in 1997 an overstretched prison estate from John Major. As prison populations rose to 85,000 in April this year – an increase of 15 per cent between 2002-2010 – overcrowding could no longer be ignored.

The Conservatives have promised in their manifesto to end overcrowding by 2016. While they’re looking at two options for doing this, the Liberal Democrats offer up a third option that could put a strain on the parties’ marriage.

The first option is to increase capacity. The Tories were planning to sell off the old prison estate and build more, ►



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► smaller prisons in their place. But, with property prices slashed during the recession the proposal is in tatters.

David Cameron has hinted in the past that prison ships are potentially a way around this issue. These would be an alternative to the giant Titan prisons that Labour were building. Scrapped by the coalition, Titans were initially an alternative to the early release programme – considered to have undermined the sentences of 80,000 criminals.

Second, the Conservatives pledged in their manifesto that they would deport all non-EU prisoners immediately, which would also create extra space. It's unsure whether this will go ahead, but government plans to extend Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre to create Europe's biggest asylum removal centre suggest it might. Inspectors last week condemned the plans as "oppressive".

And third, the Liberal Democrat option: send fewer people to jail. While Cameron says this can be done by cutting crime, the Liberal Democrats – in the days before coalition – wanted to replace short-term custodial sentences with community rehabilitation schemes.

If the Liberal Democrats get their way on this, cutting short-term sentences will have the double effect of relieving pressure on the prison system as well as reducing the rate of reoffending.

## Rehabilitation

A recent report by the National Audit Office (NAO) found that 60 per cent of prisoners serving short sentences are reconvicted within a year of release. Given that in 2008-09, the cost of looking after short-sentence prisoners, not including education and healthcare, was £286m, failure to rehabilitate is proving very expensive. According to the Tories, nothing short of a "rehabilitation revolution" is needed.

There is no single body that deals with rehabilitation. The National Offender Management Service oversees the running of all 140 prisons in England and Wales. It runs the probation service and manages the prison population, but delegates many of its duties to prison governors. Each prison is then expected to provide the right kind of rehabilitation for their prisoners.

Andrew Neilson, the assistant director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, has said: "Prisons cannot provide any meaningful rehabilitation for the large majority of prisoners, as the

We urgently need to put some distance between criminal justice policy and party political competition; the problems of an adversarial political system like Britain's is that you end with an unstable dynamic in criminal justice policymaking.

For example, after a tabloid frenzy around two high-profile cases (Damien Hanson and Elliot White) where prisoners released on parole had gone on to commit further serious offences, the then home secretary, John Reid, gave a speech in which he chastised the audience for their perceived liberal release rates. Result? A subsequent significant drop in release rates. In 2005-06, the Parole Board was releasing 50 per cent of determinate-sentence prisoners and around 23 per cent of indeterminate-sentence prisoners (lifers). By 2006-07, that release rate had fallen to 36 per cent and 15 per cent,

time and resources of prison staff are taken up by security and control."

If the Tories keep their manifesto pledges, they'll turn public-sector prisons into independent, fee-earning prison and rehabilitation trusts, responsible for offenders after they are released as well as while they are in prison, run by governors whose job it will be to deliver the rehabilitation results.

To do this, the Tories want private and

## Overcrowding means that prisoners just languish on their bunks

voluntary specialist organisations to provide education, mentoring and drug rehabilitation to help young offenders, to be funded by the savings made in the criminal justice system thanks to lower levels of crime.

Andrew Neilson said: "Introducing a wave of rehabilitation services for prisoners is certainly commendable, but all the evidence tells us that rehabilitation works far better if offered in the community. The new government needs to focus on strengthening probation and reducing

and those figures continue to fall.

The Parole Board is now so risk-averse that it seriously raises questions about its perceived independence from the state and its institutions. The system is at breaking point, with prisoners suffering endless delays in getting a hearing, spending far longer in prisons that have no facilities or courses for them to complete in order to show a reduction in risk and far longer in open conditions before they are considered suitable for release.

Taking the politics and political partisan competition out of law and order would be a major step to resolving and escaping from the cell of penal populism. Ideally, the coalition now needs set up a Royal Commission to identify a future direction for the criminal justice system. ●

*Matthew Evans is the managing solicitor at the Prisoners' Advice Service*

the avenues available to the courts to send people to prison in the first place."

The Liberal Democrats prefer probation to prison. As well as replacing short-term sentences with community sentences, they want to create more neighbourhood justice panels – a restorative justice scheme that makes criminals confront their behaviour by engaging with their victims. A coalition clash might occur here, as the Conservative Party has been heavily critical of community sentencing in the past.

Budget constraints will invariably decide the outcome of these pledges. However, the NAO warns that if the cash doesn't go to the right place, many short-sentence prisoners, especially those who are unmotivated, will spend most of their time in their cells.

Andrew Neilson seconds this. "Before there is any talk of rehabilitation for prisoners, politicians must first address the issue of chronic overcrowding. Some prisons are operating with over 190 per cent overcrowding. All this means is that prisoners languish on their bunks for years with no access to work or purposeful activity."

If this continues, so will the cycle of crime. ●

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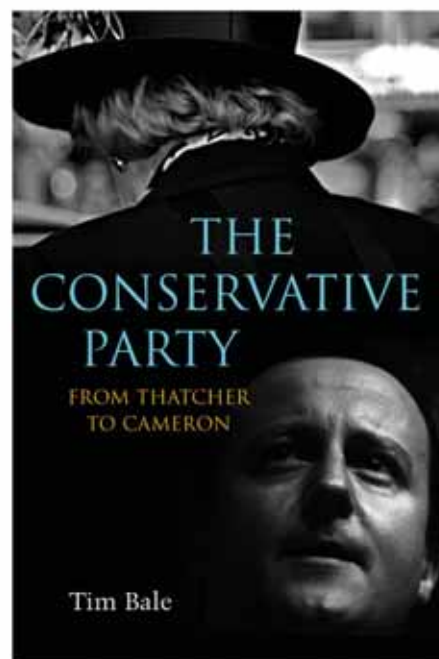
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# Further information

Your guide to some of the leading organisations and pressure groups in the sector

## Association of Chief Police Officers

The Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) has been, since its foundation in 1948, the main organisation that develops police policy in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland's forces are coordinated separately, by the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland.

[acpo.police.uk](http://acpo.police.uk)

## Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (CCJS) is an independent charity that informs and educates about all aspects of crime and the criminal justice system.

[crimeandjustice.org.uk](http://crimeandjustice.org.uk)

## Centre for Social Justice

A centre-right British political think tank set up by Iain Duncan Smith, the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) focuses on finding new ways to fight poverty.

[centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](http://centreforsocialjustice.org.uk)

## Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers is an independent crime-fighting charitable organisation in the UK which people can ring

anonymously to pass on information about crimes.

[crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

## Criminal Justice System

The vast network that makes up the legal system in England and Wales comes under this umbrella title; the different agencies working within the system include the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the courts, the National Offender Management Service and the Youth Justice Board. There are separate systems in place in Scotland and in Northern Ireland.

[cjsonline.gov.uk](http://cjsonline.gov.uk)  
[scotcourts.gov.uk](http://scotcourts.gov.uk)  
[cjsni.gov.uk](http://cjsni.gov.uk)

## Home Office

The Home Office is the government department for immigration control, security and order. It is also in charge of UK policy on crime, drugs and counter terrorism. Among the sub-organisations that are part of the Home Office, there are the police, the UK Border Agency and MI5. The Secretary of State is Theresa May.

[homeoffice.gov.uk](http://homeoffice.gov.uk)

## Howard League for Penal Reform

Founded in 1866 and funded by voluntary donations, the Howard League for Penal Reform is the oldest such organisation in the world.

[howardleague.org](http://howardleague.org)

## Justice

Justice is a UK law reform and human rights organisation. The stated objectives of Justice are to promote human rights, improve the legal system and access to justice, and to raise standards of EU justice.

[justice.org.uk](http://justice.org.uk)

## Liberty

Also known as the National Council for Civil Liberties, Liberty is an organisation that protects civil liberties and promotes human rights.

[liberty-human-rights.org.uk](http://liberty-human-rights.org.uk)

## Ministry of Justice

Oversees the criminal justice system, with responsibility for the courts, the probation system and our prisons. It also oversees burials, elections, paternity testing and many other subjects. The Secretary of State for England Wales is Ken Clarke. The governments

in Scotland and Northern Ireland oversee their own justice systems.

[justice.gov.uk](http://justice.gov.uk)

## Napo

The Trade Union and Professional Association for Family Court and Probation Staff is a campaigning group that represents more than 9,000 probation and family court staff throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

[napo.org.uk](http://napo.org.uk)

## Police Federation

There are three different such federations in the UK: the Police Federation for England and Wales, the one for Northern Ireland and the Scottish Police Federation. All three are part of the European Confederation of Police (Europol).

[polfed.org](http://polfed.org)  
[policefed-ni.org.uk](http://policefed-ni.org.uk)  
[spf.org.uk](http://spf.org.uk)

## Victim Support

Victim Support is an independent charity for victims and witnesses of crime across England and Wales.

[victimsupport.org.uk](http://victimsupport.org.uk)

## Robbed

When a Police Officer is severely injured, or worse killed, in the line of duty, their family is robbed.



The officer's partner may have to be a full time carer for the rest of their lives and the children may never know what it's like to have two able bodied parents - or two parents at all.

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More than ever we are relying on your donation. So, if you can make a contribution, you'll be providing invaluable support for people who risk everything on your behalf - and all too often, lose all too much.

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**Police Dependants' Trust,**

3 Mount Mews, High Street, Hampton, TW12 2SH

Telephone 020 8941 6907

email office@pdtrust.org



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