



THE INSTITUTE OF PRISON LAW
Accredited for CPD Purposes by the SRA

Certificate of Competency in Prison Law

Course Information Terms and Conditions –
We reserve the right to amend the terms and conditions without prior or advance notice.

DISTANCE LEARNING

This Distance Learning Course is designed for those whose work brings them into day-to-day contact with prisoners, as such it is ideal for Prison Governors, Prison Officers, Solicitors, Fee-Earners and Barristers, academics or indeed prisoners themselves. The course requires no prior prison law knowledge but a reasonable standard of education (GCSE A-C grades) is advisable.

The course, which must be fully completed within one year of initial registration, consists of eight self-contained Modules (with around 16 pdf files) that you download from our web site and for which we supply a username and password following payment. Similarly the eight professional lectures are also accessed online via a username and passwords.

For Prisoner Students We put the lectures on DVDs and send these to you in the post. We email the Modular pdf files to the prison. You will need educational access to a DVD player to view the lectures, and access also to the library to view Prison Service Orders and Instructions – neither of these have presented difficulties at other prisons but you should check first. The best route is to obtain the prison's permission to study the course (which will also help with any funding applications you make), and you also need the permission of someone at the prison for us to email the course modules to them – they need to countersign the registration form (page 3) showing their agreement to this.

Each lecture is delivered by specialist prison lawyer **Julian Conningham**, Solicitor, Partner, Higher Courts Advocate, Conninghams Solicitors. Each Lecture lasts for up to one hour, each Module consists of around six hours work, and each Module ends with a multiple choice examination which you must submit for marking. *There are six CPD points available for each successfully completed Module.*

Successful completion of the course within 12 months of initial registration leads to the **Certificate of Competency in Prison Law** and brings with it membership of the Institute of Prison Law, and allows the Certificate holder to display the 'OK Logo' which is issued by the Institute of Prison Law (who own the copyright to it). The Certificate is gained by successful completion of the eight examinations, with a minimum 80% pass mark in each; if you obtain less than 80% in a module you have the choice of re-sitting it (£29.99 inc VAT) or simply moving on to the next module – in which case you can complete the course but you will not be awarded the Certificate.

COSTS: The total cost of the course is **£829.99+VAT (£995.98)** this includes all Modules, 8 x online video lectures accessible by username and password, registration fees, marking fees (except exam resits as detailed above), a copy of The Prisons Handbook (latest edition) which is a complimentary course text: the course must be purchased as a single entity, in advance of dispatch.

For serving prisoners the Institute has received a bursary that reduces the costs by 50%: £387.23 + vat (total of £464.67)

LECTURER: Julian Conningham Solicitor, Partner HCA.

THE COURSE SYNOPSIS 2017/2018 – 6 CPD Points per module

MODULE 1

1. Course introduction. History and purpose of prison, and the 'mission statement'. Sources and Resources,
2. The Legal framework of prisons. Prison Act 1952, Prison Rules 1999 (YOI Rules 2000). PSOs and PSIs.
3. Overview of what rights prisoners have. An introduction to the essential tools of defending and asserting rights; judicial review and applications to the CHR. Fairness, proportionality and reasonableness.
4. a The prison estate and population. The organisation and structure of the prison service. Staff ranks. Types of institution. Private prisons. An introduction to NOMS.
b Independent Monitoring Boards (IMBs); HM Inspector of Prisons; The Prisons & Probation Ombudsman, probation, chaplaincy, and listener schemes.

MODULE 2

- 1 Request/complaint procedure. 2 Sentence planning. Incentives and privileges schemes. Prison work. 3 Categorisation and Allocation. 4 Funding prisoner legal advice and legal actions;

MODULE 3.

- 1a Child prisoners (15-17); young offenders (18-21), women, mother and baby units. 1b Remand, civil, and foreign national prisoners, immigration detainees and 'terrorist' internees. 2 Healthcare issues. Prison health and the NHS. Healthcare administration and forms. Confidentiality. 3 'Therapeutic' regimes, and Close Supervision Centres. 4 Mentally ill prisoners; care and transfer to hospital.

MODULE 4.

- 1 Maintaining order. Intelligence, segregation, and force. Application to the private sector. 2 Adjudications. Discipline manual, Article 6 requirements. Procedural fairness. Independent adjudicators.

MODULE 5.

- 1 Offending behaviour work, and prison education and courses. SOTP, ETS, Think First, CALM, Alcohol etc. 2 CCRC. 3 Communications; Letters, visits, telephone calls, and computers. Access to the media. 4 Racism, discrimination and religious rights.

MODULE 6.

- 1 Release regimes, and release date calculation. Tags, HDC, temporary licence. Intermittent imprisonment. 2 Licence. Issues re recall and re-offending whilst at risk. 3 The parole system. 4 Risk assessment, denial, licence and recall. Recall procedure and hearings.

MODULE 7

- 1 Life imprisonment. 2 The lifer panels. Representations, procedure and evidence. 3 Case studies/role play; lifer panel

MODULE 8

- 1 Death in custody. Prevention. Procedures; ACCT. Article 2 and investigations. Disclosure and openness. 2 Inquests. 3 Actions for death, assault, false imprisonment, misfeasance, and negligence.