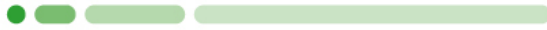


# COMMISSION ON ENGLISH PRISONS TODAY



## Questionnaire Report

This simple questionnaire has served as a trigger to encourage ideas and discourse. It's purpose was to initiate a conversation. The following questions were asked:

**Question 1:** What principle do you think should lay the foundation for the penal system, cutting the crime rate and healing damage done by crime or punishment?

- A) Cutting crime and healing damage
- B) Punishment
- C) Both

**Question 2:** Within two years of release, 64.7% of all prisoners are reconvicted – often for more serious offences than their original conviction. This has led many to call prisons 'universities of crime'. Do you agree?

- A) Yes
- B) No

**Question 3:** Earlier in 2007 the prison population reached a record level of over 81,000. In 1997, the average prison population was just over 61,000. Do you think that the prison population at the moment is...

- A) Too High
- B) Too low
- C) About right

**Question 4:** It costs the same to build nine hospitals as one prison; do you think we should build more prisons and send more people to prison?

- A) Yes
- B) No

**Question 5:** Should mentally ill people be in prison?

- A) Yes
- B) No

**Question 6:** From what age do you think children should be held criminally responsible for their actions?

- A) 10 years old
- B) 14 years old
- C) 16 years old

**Question 7:** 66% of women in prisons are mothers. Many claim that imprisoning mothers also punishes children as the family is broken up. What do you think would be the most appropriate penalty for mothers?

- A) Prison
- B) Community-based sentences
- C) Depends on Crime

**Question 8:** Should long-term prisoners be encouraged to learn and be employed doing skilled work, with a decent wage and paying tax and national insurance while in custody?

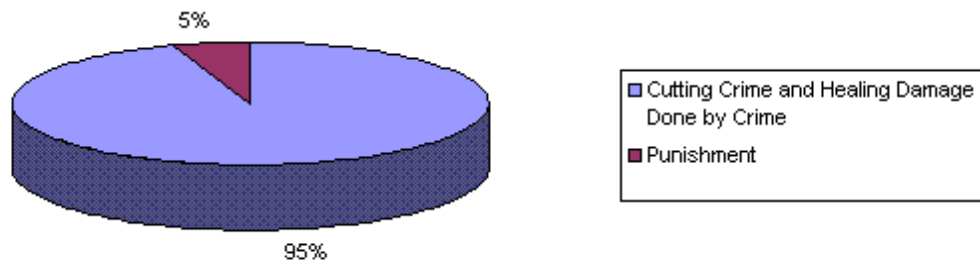
- A) Yes
- B) No

**Question 9:** Who or what do you think has the biggest impact on the size of the prison population?

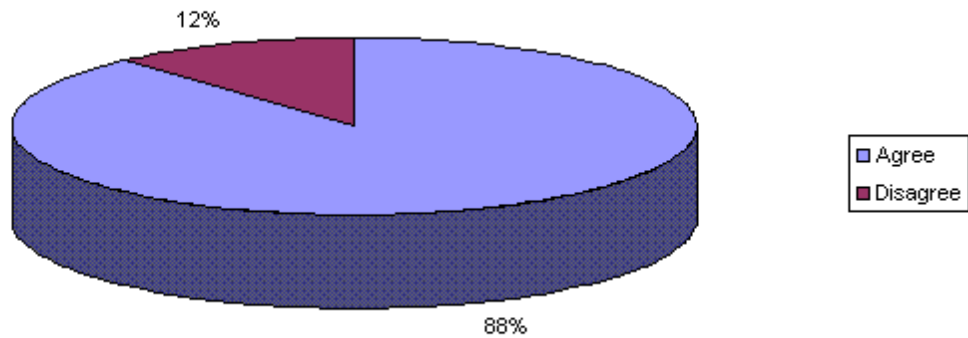
- A) Crime
- B) The Media
- C) Politicians

This are the results of over 800 responses.

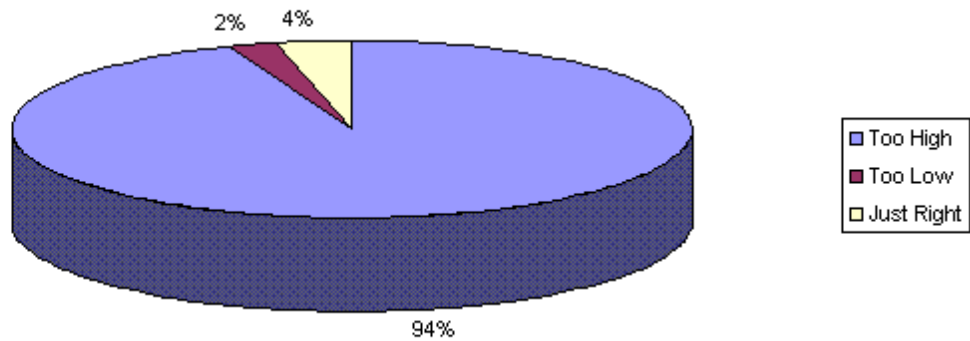
**What principle should lay the foundation for the penal system?**



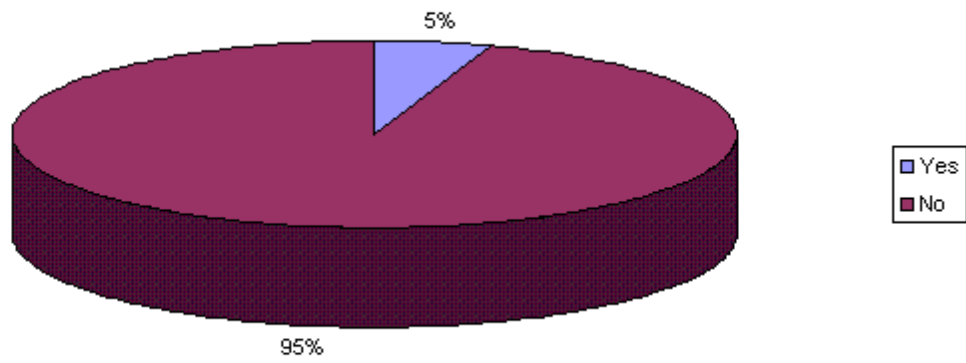
**64.7% of all prisoners are reconvicted. Do you agree prisons should be termed "universities of crime" to describe them?**



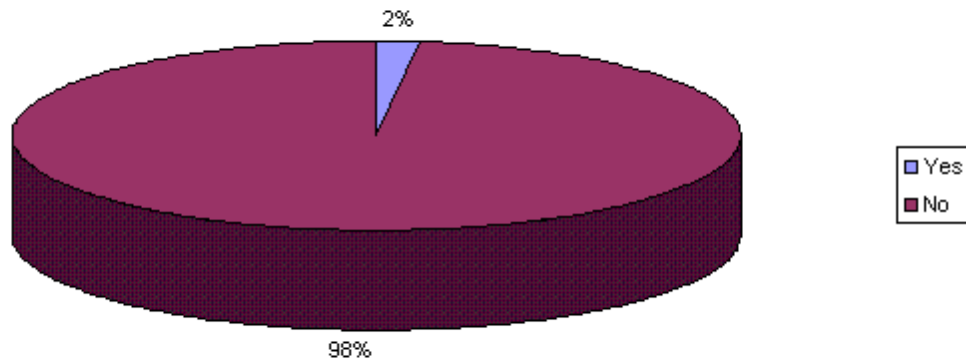
**How do you feel about the current prison population?**



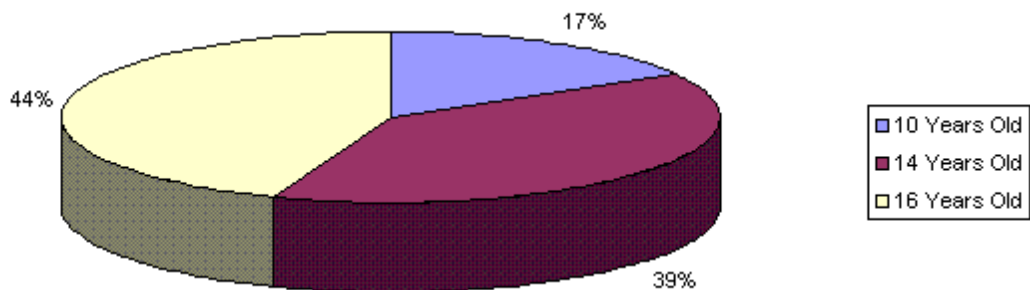
**It costs the same to build one prison as nine hospitals. Should we build more prisons?**



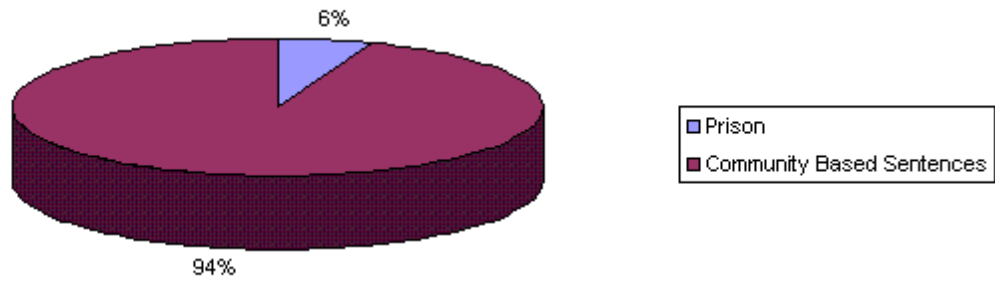
**Should the mentally ill be in prison?**



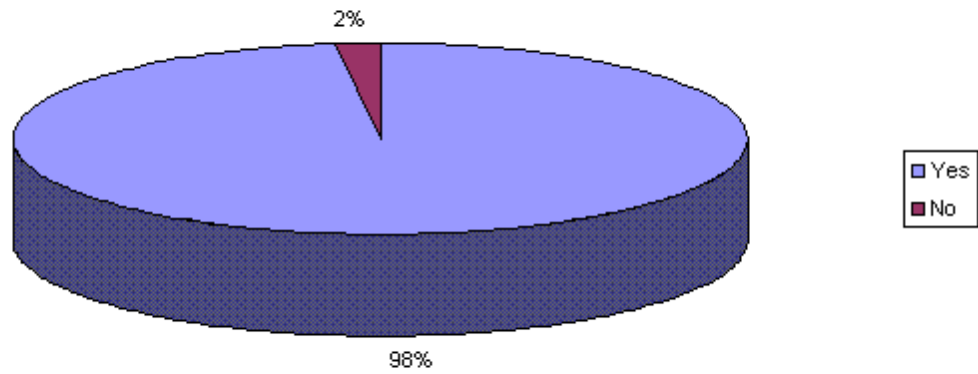
**What age should children be held responsible for their actions?**



**What should be the most appropriate penalty for mothers?**



**Should long term prisoners be encouraged to learn and be employed with a decent wage paying taxes and national insurance while in custody?**



**Who or what do you believe has the biggest impact on the size of the prison population?**

