

## **Criminology Homework**

### **Criminal Justice System**

The outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted on so many people and organisations in many ways. It has also had an impact on the criminal justice system and prisons.

It has emerged that prisoners with coronavirus symptoms have been locked in their cells in Wandsworth prison for up to 14 days at a stretch. This is the grim reality behind the apparent success, at least in the short-term, in preventing a devastating spread of coronavirus across the prison system.

Yet our prisons are still in the early stages of dealing with this disease. 'The whole estate remains a tinderbox — and, while the outside world rightly focuses on preventing a devastating second or even third wave of infections later in the year, prisons are still climbing their first peak'.

It doesn't have to be this way as governments, courts and prisons administrators across Europe are developing innovative approaches to sentencing to reduce the flow of people into the prison system.

In the United States, the threat of coronavirus in prisons led to plans being brought forward to close one of its dangerous and dilapidated county jails.

Meanwhile, in England and Wales, the government announced that it had installed 447 shipping container cells across 13 prisons, with more to come. Plans to extend the use of the home detention curfew scheme have also been cancelled.

### **Criminology Task**

You will need to carry out some research surrounding prisons in England and Wales. You can choose to focus on one specific prison or a range of them. From the research you have carried out you will need to address the following questions:

1. Can you identify some of the problems faced generally by prisons in England and Wales?
2. Out of the problems you have identified give them a ranking order of which you think are the most important to least important. Write an explanation as to the reasons why you ranked them in that particular way.
3. What recommendations would you make to resolve any of these problems?
4. How do you think the Coronavirus has impacted on prisons? This could be from a systems point of view or inmates or staffing.
5. What recommendations would you make to prisons in England and Wales to help with the problems created by Coronavirus?