



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 3

Answered on 23rd June, 2026

First Meeting 2026-2027 Session – Second Sitting

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY**

**HON. KENNETH V. BRYAN
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE
CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN CENTRAL**

TO

**THE HON. NICKOLAS T. A. DACOSTA
MINISTER FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION & HOME AFFAIRS**

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister provide an overview of the programmes and strategies in place to help prisoners with rehabilitation and transition back into society when released?

ANSWER:

The Ministry of District Administration and Home Affairs has two primary departments that work closely together to rehabilitate people in prison and support their successful transition back into society: His Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service (the "Prison Service") and the Department of Community Rehabilitation ("DCR").

Together, the Prison Service and DCR work hand-in-hand with other government agencies and community organisations to reduce reoffending, support rehabilitation and successful reintegration, prevent crime, and ensure the interests of victims and the public are considered.

The Journey of a Person In Prison

From the point an individual enters custody, there is a structured process in place to assess their needs, identify any risks or vulnerabilities, and determine the most appropriate placement within the prison system. Individuals are also introduced to the rules, expectations, services, and opportunities available to them while in custody.

DCR then undertakes an evidence-based assessment to identify the individual's risks, needs, and areas requiring support. This assessment informs a case management plan that outlines appropriate interventions, programmes, and purposeful activities designed to address those needs. The plan is regularly reviewed and updated, referrals are made to relevant services, and one-on-one offender management sessions are provided as needed.

This plan is a part of a structured system that encourages positive behaviour, personal responsibility, and active participation in rehabilitation. As individuals demonstrate progress and engagement, they may become eligible for lower security categorisations, increased privileges, and additional opportunities for personal development.

This approach recognises and rewards progress, helps maintain safer custodial environments, and supports better reintegration outcomes.

Programmes and Purposeful Activities

During their time in custody, people in prison have access to a range of programmes, interventions, and purposeful activities designed to address the underlying drivers of offending and to build skills for successful reintegration into the community. These include:

- Education and Training – Educational programmes to improve literacy and numeracy, including CXC examinations, certifications, and even degree-level opportunities.
- Vocational Skills – Vocational training and certification to support employability. The Prison Service operates as a City & Guilds Certified Vocational Centre, offering qualifications in plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, auto mechanics, and electrical installation.
- Employment – Individuals may also participate in structured work assignments within the prison, including kitchen services, agriculture, maintenance, cleaning, welding, and other operational functions. Selected individuals may also participate in supervised volunteer work programmes with external government agencies.
- Clinical and Therapeutic Services – Services that support mental health, emotional wellbeing, substance misuse recovery, trauma recovering, and the development of healthy coping strategies. These include counselling, trauma-informed interventions, and evidence-based therapeutic programmes.
- Behaviour Change and Rehabilitation Programmes – Interventions designed to address factors associated with offending behaviour, promote personal responsibility, empathy, and support positive behavioural change. Programmes include anger management, cognitive-behavioural interventions, sex offender treatment, healthy relationship programmes, and female empowerment workshops.
- Restorative, Spiritual and Pastoral Services – Services that provide opportunities for personal reflection, spiritual growth through chaplaincy support, mediation, faith-based programmes and restorative justice initiatives such as the Sycamore Tree Programme.
- Recreational and Wellbeing Activities – Activities that promote physical health, wellbeing, teamwork, and positive use of leisure time, including gardening, art, chess, football, basketball and pickleball.

Reintegration into the Community

The Prison Service also supports reintegration through initiatives such as the Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) Programme and the Enhanced Reintegration Unit, which provide eligible individuals with a structured and gradual transition back into the community while remaining subject to appropriate oversight.

These initiatives are complemented by job-readiness support, including resume development, interview preparation, workplace readiness training, and work-release opportunities with local employers to support successful reintegration.

The Conditional Release Act provides a further pathway for eligible individuals to transition back into the community with greater support. Individuals may be considered for conditional release once they have served 60% of their sentence and their risk is considered manageable in the community. In support of the Conditional Release Board's decision-making process, the Prison Service, DCR, and other relevant agencies provide comprehensive assessments and reports, including consideration of victim impact.

As individuals who are granted Conditional Release transition back into the community, DCR provides structured individual supervision, with a strong emphasis on compliance, alongside practical assistance, including referrals to relevant services and support. The objective is to help individuals maintain stability, address ongoing needs, and successfully reintegrate into society while prioritising the safety of victims and the public.

Successful reintegration requires coordinated support beyond the prison. Through community supervision, transitional programmes, and partnerships with government and community organisations, individuals may receive assistance with employment, housing, life skills, treatment services, and rebuilding family and community connections. Programmes such as the Government's Second Chance Programme and halfway houses such as The Bridge Foundation play an important role in supporting successful transitions.

Recognising that reintegration is a shared responsibility, the Ministry of District Administration and Home Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development and Innovation are working together to strengthen a whole-of-government approach to reintegration. This partnership focuses on identifying gaps and barriers for reintegration and improving coordination across housing, employment, social services, and other critical areas to reduce reoffending and support long-term positive outcomes.

The Ministry has also commenced a new initiative to consult with the Inmate Council to help inform rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. The first engagement session provided valuable insight into the experiences and perspectives of people in prison and reflected the positive impact of rehabilitation efforts already underway, as the members demonstrated a strong focus on personal responsibility, public protection, and the impact of their crime on victims, families, and communities. Council Members also provided constructive recommendations on employment and reintegration support. The Ministry and Prison Service are committed to continuing this engagement, in conjunction with pursuing legislative amendments to the Prison Act (2021 Revision) and the various Prison Rules and Regulations.

By combining structured custody, meaningful rehabilitation, and coordinated reintegration support, the NCFC is working to reduce reoffending, enhance public safety, and ensure that individuals leave custody better equipped to contribute positively to society.