Money in Prison -

How do I send money in?

The easiest way to send money to a prisoner is online. Make sure you have your debit card and the prisoners number and date of birth, and go to -

 www.gov.uk/send-prisoner-money

Using the online service, money should reach them within 1-3 working days.

For other ways to send money to a prisoner go to –

www.gov.uk/staying-in-touch-with-someone-in-prison/sending-money

For privately run prisons, check with the prison directly about the best way to send money in.

How much money should I send in?

You can send any amount of money in, but there are limits on how much of this money prisoners are allowed to use each week to order from the prison shop (canteen).

The amount varies depending on whether the prisoner is convicted or on remand, and on their IEP (behaviour) level – most prisoners are on Standard IEP level.

This table shows the maximum amounts that prisoners can spend every week from the money that gets sent into them.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IEP Level | ON REMAND | CONVICTED |
| BASIC | £22.00 | £4.00 |
| STANDARD | £47.50 | £15.50 |
| ENHANCED | £51.00 | £25.50 |

What families need to know



How does money in prison work?

Prisoners are not allowed to use cash in prison, but they have a prison money account that you can send money in to and which their prison wages are paid into. Any money they came into prison with is also put into this account.

* Most prisoners are paid about £12 a week by the prison if they have a job or attend education or a course. The exact amount could be between £4 and £18 and will vary depending on the work that they do and on their IEP (behaviour) level.
* Prisoners on remand and prisoners above retirement age can choose not to work and will receive a lower amount of unemployment pay, normally 50p a day.
* If convicted prisoners refuse to work they will receive no pay, and if any prisoner breaks the prison rules their pay could be reduced for up to 12 weeks (or 6 weeks for young offenders).

What do prisoners need money for in prison?

All prisoners will be provided with the following for free –

* 3 meals a day
* Prison issue toiletries
* Prison issue clothing
* Prescribed medication
* 2 letters a week
* Library access

There is a prison shop (called ‘canteen’), that prisoners need money to order things from. Prisoners can use their prison wages, money they get sent in, and money they came into prison with to buy these things –

* PIN phone credit
* ****Vapes
* Stamps and stationary
* Extra food, snacks, tea & coffee
* Extra toiletries
* Newspapers and magazines

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Prisoners are also charged £1 a week to have a TV in their cell.

What should I do if I think someone is in debt?

Tell the prison…

* Ring the prison’s Safer Custody Hotline – the number for this should be advertised in the Visitors centre.
* Ring the prison and ask to speak to the Safer Custody Team
* Speak to a member of staff on visits whilst at the prison
* Speak to a member of the Visitors Centre staff who will speak to the prison on your behalf.

Encourage the prisoner to…

* Tell staff about it, so they can help.
* Speak to a member of staff about getting support for drug addiction, if you think they are in debt because they are using drugs.
* Only use the prison pin phones to make calls – if they have or are using a mobile phone this will be costing them a lot of money and will get them into trouble.

You should never…

* Get involved in trying to pay back a prisoner’s debt for them – this could make the situation worse, and you could get into trouble yourself, both with the police and with a criminal gang if they are involved in the debt.
* Transfer money to a prison money account or an outside bank account of someone you don’t know, even if your family member asks you to – tell the prison if this happens

Debt in Prison –

What families need to know

What is debt in prison and how does it work?

* When we talk about debt in prison, we mean the debts that prisoners owe to each other
* If the prison knows a prisoner is in debt and their safety is at risk, they will take action to keep the prisoner safe

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**Phone the police and the prison straight away if you are being threatened or blackmailed by someone else about a prisoner’s debt**.

*For advice and support on all aspects of prison you can also ring the national*

*Prisoners’ Families Helpline on* 0808 808 2003 *or email them at* info@prisonersfamilies.org