

Entrepreneur prisoners bid to turn back on crime

- prisoners compete for funding from business leaders in 'Dragons' Den'-style event
- new scheme gives prisoners skills to start their own businesses on release to cut crime
- figures show offenders who get a job after prison significantly less likely to reoffend

Proposals that were put before the attendees included a graphic design consultancy and personal fitness business, as offenders bid for start-up funding at a unique event inside HMP Thorn Cross, in Cheshire.

The 'Dragons' – comprising local entrepreneurs, the public and ex-offenders who have started their own companies – voted for their favourite plan to help get it off the ground once the prisoner is released.

The winner was announced today by Prisons Minister Damian Hinds and will receive a grant of £400 – backed by Entrepreneurs Unlocked – which will support them in getting their business off the ground upon release, helping them to stay on the straight and narrow. Runners up were awarded £300 each.

Minister for Prisons and Probation Damian Hinds said:

Getting ex-prisoners into work cuts reoffending and makes our streets safer.

Entrepreneurship drives our economy and can provide a promising path for those who are ready to turn their lives around. It is heartening to see prisoners demonstrate the skills needed to succeed in business and life.

The event, which took place in Global Entrepreneurship Week, is the culmination of a 12-week course run by charity Entrepreneurs Unlocked, which aims to give prisoners an insight into the realities of running a business.

Sessions include training in finance, marketing, sales planning and developing a product or service – providing participants with the skills they need to integrate back into society and put a life of crime behind them.

Entrepreneurs Unlocked founder David Morgan said:

The Hidden Entrepreneur event is the first of its kind to showcase the entrepreneurial talent of people in prison. We will highlight this pathway for people that not only reduces the risk of re-offending but also demonstrates the social and economic value of

entrepreneurship.

I am grateful to HMP Thorn Cross for allowing us to host the event, to all of our speakers for sharing their inspirational stories, and to all the businesses who joined us as together we can really make a difference in people's lives by supporting them on their new entrepreneurial pathway.

Attendees at the event heard from a range of inspiring ex-offenders who have been successful in setting up their own businesses. These included H.M.Pasties, a start-up which works to 'bring out the good inside' by employing ex-offenders to make and sell pasties.

Getting prisoners into work is a tried-and-tested way of cutting re-offending – with those who get a job after prison being up to nine percentage points less likely to reoffend.

The Government's Prisons White Paper sets out a strategy to reduce reoffending and keep the public safe, with a laser-focus on helping prisoners develop the skills they need to find work on release and turn their backs on crime.

The government is investing to reduce reoffending, which includes helping prisoners develop the skills they need to find work on release and turn their backs on crime.

The Prison Service's (HMPPS) [New Futures Network](#) has been set up to connect businesses with prisons so employers can find and train a pipeline of skilled, motivated workers to fulfil their recruitment needs within a variety of key industries.

Earlier this year, the government [changed the law](#) so prisoners in open prisons can apply for apprenticeships in vital industries – and in October 2022 the [first prisoners started their apprenticeships](#) at big-name employers including Timpson and Greene King.

Notes to editors

About Entrepreneurs Unlocked

Entrepreneurs Unlocked helps individuals develop skills to become their boss and lead crime-free lives. For many people whose career prospects may be limited due to their criminal record, entrepreneurship and self-employment could be the best pathways to a better life.

The charity provides its services to 5 prisons; HMP Liverpool, Thorn Cross, Risley, Hindley, and Buckley Hall.

The course run by Entrepreneurs Unlocked gives prisoners the chance to prove that they are committed to staying on the straight and narrow once released. Once prisoners have completed the programme and have the basic tools they need to grow and develop, they are also given access to additional coaching

to further their learning. Upon release they can also continue to access support from Entrepreneurs Unlocked and its community partners, meaning there is guidance at every step of their journey to maximise the potential of success.

About Global Entrepreneurship Week

Global Entrepreneurship Week is run by Global Entrepreneurship Network and happens in the second week of November every year. It is a global campaign in which 200 nations come together to encourage citizens to consider the path of entrepreneurship.

New concrete batcher at Sellafield brings sustainability into the mix

We need vast amounts of concrete to build the facilities which will enable us to safely treat and store the waste removed from our ponds and silos on the Sellafield site in West Cumbria.

The new on-site concrete batcher means we no longer need to buy in concrete from multiple suppliers.

This gives us greater certainty on price and supply and means we can buy and produce concrete on a greater scale.

New laboratories within the batcher plant will help us make the most sustainable concrete we can – and there will be added environmental benefits as concrete supplies will now only travel short distances around Sellafield itself, helping to reduce traffic on local roads and leading to a reduction in carbon emissions.

The batcher plant also uses both rainwater and site-generated greywater sources so they can be used and recycled in the concrete production process, minimising the use of freshwater.

The facility is operated by Tarmac, the largest construction materials company in the UK, and was delivered by the Programme and Projects Partners at Sellafield.

Head of the Programme and Project Partners at Sellafield, Duncan Elliott said:

This is the first major project to be completed by our partnership and will bring significant benefits to support major infrastructure delivery and hazard reduction at Sellafield.

There's been a fantastic team effort from everyone involved. The plant has been 4 years in the making and Sellafield now has a brand-new world-class facility.

Thank you to everyone involved in achieving this huge success, a great effort, well done!

The concrete batching plant sits within the partners long-term pipeline of major infrastructure projects and is the first to be delivered by the partnership.

Each project being delivered by the partners plays a vital role in ensuring Sellafield can safely empty ponds and silos, manage the waste and store it safely and therefore helping Sellafield achieve its purpose to create a clean and safe environment for future generations.

Multiple organisations worked together with Sellafield Ltd and the partners to build the plant and bring it to operation.

Organisations included: OneAim, Tarmac, Total Batching Solutions, and teams working in the partnership, supporting the site's construction, commissioning, and transition to the new concrete provider.

[FCDO Minister statement on the security situation in eastern DRC](#)

Press release

FCDO Minister for State (Development and Africa), Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, commented following a conversation with Rwanda Foreign Minister, Dr Vincent Biruta.



Statement by Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, Minister of State (Development and Africa):

This morning I spoke to Foreign Minister of Rwanda, Dr Vincent Biruta. We had a constructive conversation about the deteriorating security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) given the advances of M23, and the steps needed to end the conflict. I expressed my concerns about the worrying humanitarian situation and the impact on civilians is unacceptable.

The UK calls on all countries in the region to do all they can, including through the African-led peace processes, to stop the fighting and bring all parties back to the negotiating table.

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Published 17 November 2022

[Convicted killer who committed assault while serving time will spend longer inside after referral to the Court of Appeal](#)

News story

The offender will now serve his sentence concurrently



A man serving time for murder has had his term increased for assaulting two prison officers while serving in a young offender institution.

Kyle Buckley, 18, serving a life sentence for a murder he committed at age 16, was involved in a fight with a self-made weapon (a screw attached to a fabric handle) in the visiting area of Wetherby Young Offender Institution on

22 July 2021.

The next month, on 30 August 2021, Buckley threw a kettle filled with boiled water over a prison officer, causing burns to his back. Buckley was restrained and spat in the eye of another prison officer when being escorted away.

On 12 September 2022 at Leeds Crown Court, Buckley was sentenced to 18 months' detention in a young offender institution, concurrent to the sentence being served for murder.

Following the sentencing, it was referred to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme for being too low.

On 17 November 2022, the Court quashed the sentence handed down on 12 September. Buckley was instead ordered to serve the 18 months' sentence consecutively to his current sentence for murder.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General Michael Tomlinson MP said:

Increasing Buckley's sentence both better reflects the crimes committed and sends a clear message that offences committed by serving prisoners will not be tolerated and will be met with punishment.

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[Lancaster skip hire company has waste permit withdrawn](#)

Press release

A1 Supa Skips Ltd required to clear the site of all waste



The Environment Agency has withdrawn the waste permit for A1 Supa Skips Ltd at their site at Unit 37, Lune industrial Estate, Lancaster LA1 5QP, to protect the environment from harm.

Waste operators are required to operate in line with a set of rules that protect the environment and human health. Where the Environment Agency has concerns that these rules are not complied with, it can use enforcement powers to seek to withdraw a site's permit.

The withdrawal of the site permit means that A1 Supa Skips Ltd are no longer able to conduct any form of waste operations, including accepting or processing waste. Any form of further waste deposit or processing on the site is a criminal offence. As part of the withdrawal of the licence the operator is also required to clear the site of all waste.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said:

We take our responsibility to protect the environment and legitimate businesses very seriously and will take tough action where operators fail to meet our high standards. Members of the public and businesses in the area need to be aware that it is now a criminal offence to use A1 Supa Skip Ltd to remove and dispose of waste.

Anyone who has a skip from the company on their premises or on the roadside should contact the company in the first instance to see if alternative removal arrangements can be made.

Effective regulation is vital to protect our air, land, and water from harm and to provide the level playing field legitimate businesses need to prevent being undercut by irresponsible or illegal operators. In return, we expect businesses to take responsibility for their operations and protect the environment.

Anyone who spots waste crime in their area should report it anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or call our incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

There is currently a criminal investigation being conducted by the Environment Agency on this site and therefore we are limited to what

information we can share at this time.

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