



NEWSLETTER TO SUPPORTERS: JANUARY 2013

Pilot schemes

Supporters may recall that, six months ago, Prisoners' Penfriends was running training programmes for volunteers wishing to take part in our pilot schemes writing to sex offenders.

Up until now, the Prison Service has prevented us from writing to those who have been convicted of sex offences. But now we have been allowed to run pilots, corresponding with sex offenders at HMP Whatton and HMP Usk.

Eleven prisoners at Whatton and five at Usk (a much smaller prison) have been matched with volunteers and a total of 95 letters has been exchanged.

All the letters (both to and from prisoners) are checked by us before they are forwarded. It is noticeable how the prisoners, who are often cut off from friends and family, are extremely grateful to have correspondents who do not judge them and who are prepared to exchange news and views in a friendly way.

Gift aid

HMRC has asked us to remind all those who are kind enough to donate money to us that they must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year that will be reclaimed, that tax year, by all the charities (or community amateur sports clubs) to which they donate. (Other taxes such as VAT and council tax do not qualify.)

Patrons: Sir Nicholas Hytner, Sir Peter Lloyd, Fay Weldon, Lord Ramsbotham.
Trustees: Jennifer Gadsby-Peet, Malcolm Duxbury, Stephen Pollard (chair).
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