

«Govenor»
«Establishment»
«Add1»
«Add2»
«City»
«Postcode»

Dear «Govenor»

My name is Roger Edgington, Trustee of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous GB (AA) with responsibility for prisons, I am writing to ask you if our Fellowship may be of help to your establishment.

If your establishment currently facilitates AA meetings and sponsorship, may I take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your continued co-operation. If we do not have a presence for whatever reason, could you please revisit any decision against it and perhaps allow us to be of some help.

As I am sure that you are aware, Alcoholics Anonymous has been continuously present in UK prisons for more than 50 years, beginning with Wakefield and Barlinnie and continues in most to this day in one form or another. Our current information is of the 144 prisons in UK we are holding meetings in 103. We have no meetings in 39 and there are 2 we have no information on. Many people, both within the walls and on the outside have found that AA has made a difference to their lives, as well as helping them to deal with their own problem with alcohol. AA has proved to be effective in helping many individuals to stay sober and does not claim to be any sort of 'cure', or to usurp the position of professionals working in the field of recovery.

The purpose of my letter is to ask you directly if and where the Fellowship may be of help to your establishment; to allow us an opportunity to explain what AA is, and what it is not, to answer questions and to examine if we can support your work and help the still-suffering alcoholic within the walls.

The 12 Step Programme is based on principles first proposed by the founders of attraction rather than promotion but we cannot be of help to anybody if they are unaware of our existence or harbour misunderstandings.

To this end the Fellowship would be pleased to arrange a meeting to organise a presentation to you and your staff and discuss whether we can be of help.

Whilst our Fellowship should never be organised, nor have leaders, local and regional groups are available to reach out and give help to those who ask for it, providing literature, formal presentations and personal experience.

Please contact Angela Varley in the first instance by using the enclosed Freepost envelope or by e-mail to: **angelavarley@gsogb.org.uk** , Angela will then forward your comments on to your local AA representative.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

Roger Edgington
Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Board