

**VISITOR CENTRE INFORMATION**

**HMYOI LANCASTER FARMS**

HMYOI Lancaster Farms opened in March 1993 as a Remand Centre/Young Offender Institution. HMYOI Lancaster Farms is a dedicated closed YOI establishment with four main residential units housing young adults. There is a small population of IPP prisoners. The establishment’s capacity was increased when a new residential unit was opened in June 1996. The establishment was re-roled during 2008/09 and is now the sole dedicated Young Offender Institution for the North West.

POPS strive to provide advice and support for all visitors on a range of issues. We also offer one to one support at times to suit families, please ask for more information**.**

**Booking Line:** 01524 563 636 (Open Monday to Friday: 09:00 – 12:00)

**Visitor Centre:** 01524 563450 (Ask to be put through to the visitor centre)

**Prison Switchboard:** 01524 563450

**Visiting Times:**

**Wednesday (Session 1)** 14.00 – 15.00

**Wednesday (Session 2)** 15.30 – 16.30

**Saturday (Session 1)** 14.00 – 15.00

**Saturday (Session 2)** 15.30 – 16.30

**Sunday pm (Session 1)** 14.00 – 15.00

**Sunday (Session 2)** 15.30 – 16.30

**Booking Procedure:**

All visitors seeing convicted prisoners require a visiting order. Visiting orders are sent out every 2 weeks (privilege visiting orders are also issued for consistent good behaviour). **All visits** must be booked via the visits booking line on 01524 563 636, which is open 09:00 – 12:00 Monday to Friday. All prisoners are allowed at least 2 visits per month. If wheelchair access is required please indicate this when booking your visit. Visits can also be booked by email lancasterfarmsdomesticvisitsbooking@hmps.gsi.gov.uk.

**Arriving at the prison:**

Visitors should arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to the visit. Car parking is available directly opposite the Visitor Centre including two disabled spaces (please be aware it is approximately one hundred yards from the visitor centre to the prison entrance). Visitors should then book in at the visitor centre. Wheelchairs are allowed into the visit hall (but are subject to searching). Visitors should mention that they use a wheelchair when booking the visit as some of the doors at the prison are not very wide.

**Visitor Centre:**

The visitor centre opens at 11:45am on visiting days should you wish to discuss, in private, any concerns or problems you may be experiencing.

**Entering the Prison:**

All visitors will receive a pat-down search prior to entering the establishment; failure to consent will result in non-admittance**.**You will then be shown to a side waiting room until the visit commences.

**Children:**

No prams or pushchairs can be taken into the prison. A feeding bottle and spare nappies can be taken on visits. Visitors can access baby changing facilities in both the visitors’ centre and not in the visits hall.

**Visitors ID:**

Along with the visiting order (unless on a compassionate visit) adult visitors will need to bring**the following identification documents:**

1.      Passport or
2.      Photo I.D. (including proof of address)

If the above documents are not available please bring a utility bill, mobile phone bill or any other proof of address. Child visitors will need to bring a birth certificate or medical card.

Once booked in for your visit all personal property must be left in the lockers provided. A £1 coin is required and is refundable on your return to the locker. **Please note** the only items you are allowed to take on your visit, other than babies nappies and a feeding bottle, are your **locker key** and a maximum of £10**in coins**, per person, for the prison tea bar.

Other facilities available in the visitor centre include a tea bar, disabled toilet, baby changing facilities and a small play area for children (children must be supervised at all times whilst on prison property). Prams and pushchairs can be left in the Visitor Centre.

**In the Visits Hall:**

 A tea bar is available in the visits hall where you can purchase hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, snacks and sweets. Toilets available as enter the prison. There is a small unsupervised play area for children who must be accompanied by an adult.

**PLEASE NOTE: On certain weekends we run Family Days. You and the person you are visiting may join in. We inform prisoners of all upcoming events**.

**Money and Property**:

Money can only be sent in via a postal order, made payable to HM Prison Service. You should write the prisoner’s name and number on the back of the postal order. No property can be handed in on a visit. Prisoners can purchase certain items of clothing and other items via the prison shop or catalogue.

**How to get there:**

**RAIL:**The nearest train station is Lancaster Castle Station, which is roughly 2 miles from the prison. Taxis are usually available outside the exit of the northbound platform 3. Approximately £10 – £12 return fare (at 18/09/2012.)
**BUS:**It is approximately an 8 minute walk to the bus stop from the station and is a fairly level route with just one slight uphill section. Walk up from the station and turn left onto Meeting House Lane. When reaching the traffic light controlled junction turn right onto King Street and continue on. When you reach the pelican crossing, cross the road and this leads you straight onto Common Garden Street. This is where the stop for Lancaster Farms is located. The route number is **18**. Please check the return times of the service and fares by telephoning: Battersby’s Silver Grey on (01524) 380000. Please note there is no Sunday bus service.
**CAR:**  From the South, travelling north on the M6 exit at junction 33 taking the A6 exit to Lancaster (South). At the roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Preston Lancaster Road/A6. Follow the A6, then take a slight right onto Barton Road. At the roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Coulston Road. Keep left and continue onto Wyresdale Road. Turn right onto Quernmore Road and go through one roundabout. Turn left onto Stone Row Head. Continue onto Far Moor Lane. The prison will be on your right.
From the North, travelling south on the M6 exit at junction 34 taking the A683 exit to Lancaster/Morecambe. Turn left onto the A683. Take a slight left onto Bulk Road. Turn left onto Ridge Lane. Continue onto Keswick Round going through one roundabout. Turn right onto Derwent Road. Turn left onto Quernmore Road and go through one roundabout. Turn left onto Stone Row Head. Continue onto Far Moor Lane, the prison will be on your right.
**Local taxis:** 01524 32090, 01524 848848

**Prison Address:**

HMYOI Lancaster Farms, Stone Row Head, Quernmore Road, Lancaster, LA1 3QZ

**Financial Assistance with Visiting:**

If you qualify to receive help with your finances such as benefits, you may be able to recoup all or part of the cost of your travel expenses through the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme. For more information ask a member of the POPS team. As part of your application you will need to get a secondary form stamped by prison staff in order to prove your visit took place. You can request a copy of this form at the visitor centre. If you have any problems with accessing this service, the visitor centre staff will be happy to assist you.

**Email a prisoner:**

If you have access to email, it is possible to use [www.emailaprisoner.com](http://www.emailaprisoner.com/) to keep in contact with the person you are visiting. Each email costs 30p so this can be cheaper than sending letters through post. Visit [www.emailaprisoner.com](http://www.emailaprisoner.com/) and click ‘signup’.