

Invitation to write an Opinion piece

Who are AMIMB?

The Association of Members of Independent Monitoring Boards (AMIMB) aims to educate, inform, advise and support members of Independent Monitoring Boards in the law, the treatment of offenders and all other matters relating to their role.

This should enable them to perform their duties in the most competent and efficient manner. AMIMB also issues publications, arranges training events, promotes conferences and maintains awareness of developments in the law, prison rules and associated subjects.

What are we looking for?

Our members have a wealth of knowledge and expertise, working in diverse custodial environments the length and breadth of the country. They have asked us to be the voice of expertise, and we will respond by inviting experts in criminal justice to provide their opinion on issues that affect our members; namely conditions for prisoners and inspecting arrangements.

We are looking for submissions – one-off or regular – from practitioners, observers, policy makers and those with lived experience of conditions inside English and Welsh prisons.

Why should you take part?

Sharing expertise and experience will improve the skills and knowledge of our members, resulting in improved outcomes for people in prison. It will also help you to raise your own profile, network with peers and promote additional work you undertake.

How should it look?

Length – a minimum of 250 words, up to an ideal maximum of 2,000

Style – Discursive and accessible. Please refrain from using acronyms or sector specific language. Make sure your writing is opinionated, detailing your own experiences as evidence and justification for your position. Finish your article by posing questions that will spark debate.

Topic – as an invited expert in our field, we would like you to share your opinion and expertise on issues relating to prisons, prison inspections, prisoner welfare, Independent Monitoring Boards and any other related topics.

Format – please send your article as an editable file that we can extract and format accordingly – preferably Microsoft Word or in the body of an email.

What must accompany it?

Due to anonymity, we don't insist anything accompanies your submission, but we do provide a list of optional material below.

What else would we like?

We would like as much of the following information as possible to accompany your submission

- Name
- Job title

- Organisation
- IMB (if applicable)
- Headshot of author
- 2- 3 pictures of topic discussed
- LinkedIn profile
- Twitter handle(s)
- Website

Anonymity

Declaring who you are is optional. We appreciate the subject matter may be controversial and/or not an opinion you would want to be associated with professionally. For this reason, we are happy to anonymise your submission.

Scheduling

We will endeavour to post your submission immediately. But sometimes, especially due to capacity or volume of submissions, we may need to schedule submissions for a later date.

Editorial control

Due to the nature of our organisation and its members, there may be rare occasions when we will choose to edit or not publish your submission. You will be notified in either circumstance, and given the opportunity to resubmit accordingly.

Replying and responding

We would appreciate you using the comment facility on our website to respond to comments on your article; notifications can be set up to let you know when somebody has commented, and we'll do our best to notify you personally of any activity.

Additional promotion

We may choose to use your article on other platforms, including, but not restricted to, social media, our printed publications, at events and training, or as part of evidence submissions. We will request your consent in advance of any such uses.