

Submission  
No 414

**INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND  
PRISON-RELATED SERVICES**

**Organisation:**

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I wish to register my objection to the privatisation of the state's prisons.

If the state has deemed that someone has committed a crime, then the state should take the most direct and complete responsibility possible for overseeing the punishment and/or rehabilitation of the offender. It should not be carried out at arm's length to avoid public scrutiny, which is potentially more feasible under privatisation (on grounds of commercial confidence). On the contrary, greater transparency is needed than that existing at present.

Furthermore, this is not an activity from which profit should be made. Philosophically, a parallel with mercenaries fighting wars on the state's behalf could be drawn and rejected for similar reasons.

In seeking to make a profit, there is the ever-present temptation to cut corners on factors affecting the safety of both staff and inmates. The sell-off should also be rejected on these grounds.