

# Autumn 2017 Directive

## Part 1: One-day Diary: organising and experiencing time

*We have made requests for one-day diaries at intervals across the Mass Observation Project, most recently Boxing Day. These contributions have been extremely valuable to our Archive users. One-day diaries have also been popular with you, so we are repeating it!*

This Directive theme is how people think about, organise, and experience time in daily life.

Please start each part of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number, sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember *not to identify yourself or other people* inadvertently within your reply. It is best to use initials instead of real names.

### Choosing which day to write about

**For people currently in employment:** Please write about a *workday*. Choose a day in the next few months when you are at work. If you have a partner in employment, please tell us whether your diary day was also a workday for them.

**For people not in employment:** If you have a partner in employment, please choose a day to write about in the next few months when *they* are at work.

If no-one in your household is in employment, choose *any day* in the next few months to write about.

### Your diary

Please indicate the **DAY** and **DATE** of your one-day diary

#### Activities and people in your day

We would like you to write about your day, from when you get up to when you go to bed. Please record **what** you did and at what **time**, **where** you were and, **who** you were with.

We are particularly interested in **food and eating** across this day and **activities** undertaken, for example duties or tasks in your workplace, home or community.

In writing up your diary, elaborate as best as you can by asking yourself the **why** question: e.g. **Why** did you carry out that activity...at that time, and not earlier/later? ...alone rather than with someone else? ...in this particular way? (e.g. take the car rather than the bus, or buy lunch rather than make it).

#### Organising your day

How did the **schedules of other people** (e.g. household members, colleagues, friends, non-resident family, or 'crowds') influence when or the way you did things in your day?

How much **flexibility** do you have over the timings of your activities? At what points in your day was **punctuality** important?

Did anything in your day require **planning in advance**?

Did any parts of your day *not* go as you had intended? How and why?

Write in as much detail as you can and include your **thoughts and feelings** as well as events.

## Photographs or sketches on your diary day

If you have access to a camera, we would like you to take **photographs** throughout your diary day. These photos will be helpful to you as an aide-memoire, to jog your memory about what was going on and how you felt at particular moments across this day.

These photos will also be of great interest to us, should you be able to include a selection in your response. Please be aware not to include photos of anyone's face. For each photo enclosed, please write a **short caption** giving the time, place, and brief description for the photo.

Please note: If you do not have access to a camera or camera phone and would like to participate in this visual task, perhaps you could include a **sketch**. However, if you do not wish to take part in this aspect of the task, your written diary alone is still an extremely valuable contribution.

## Reflections on time-pressure

Very few people feel rushed and pressed for time all day, every day. Often times of hurriedness and time-pressure are interspersed by periods of repose.

We would like you to look back over your one-day diary and to tell us more detail about the moment in your day when you felt...

- **most pressed for time** and,
- **least under pressure**.

What were you doing? Was anything else going on at the same time? Was there anyone else involved? What elements were under your control/out of your control? Was this moment anticipated or unexpected? Was the (lack of) time pressure enjoyable?

Have either of these moments been captured by the **photographs or sketches** included with your diary?

## Part 2: Prison

### A task to get you started

What are the words that come to mind when you think of the word 'prison'? Why do you think of those words?

### Your experiences

Have you ever experienced being in prison, faced the possibility of a prison sentence, or had any connection with the prison service? What about your friends, family, or acquaintances? What were the circumstances?

### The Prison Service

As we write this Directive there are a number of news reports focusing on the Prison Service in the UK. They have focused on a number of topics within the Prison Service such as chronic shortages of basic items like toiletries and bedding for prisoners, funding cuts, a shortage of prison staff and prison riots. We would like your thoughts on these.

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What are your thoughts about the following areas in relation to the Prison Service/Prison life: education, prison libraries, facilities (such as the gym), television and games consoles, skills and training, health care and prison staff?

### **Everyday Life**

If you have ever experienced being in prison, what is everyday life like? If not, what do you think everyday life is like? Where have these ideas come from? How do you think being in prison does/would affect your family, family life or relationships?

### **Going to Prison**

Do you think there are any other contributing factors that lead to someone going to prison, for example, mental health, institutional biases or social background? Tell us about these factors and provide examples, if you can.

What do you think are the benefits of prison sentences? Are there alternatives to sentences?

### **Probation/Rehabilitation**

- Established in 2014 the National Probation Service states '*Our priority is to protect the public by the effective rehabilitation of high risk offenders, by tackling the causes of offending and enabling offenders to turn their lives around.*'
- Beyond Boxes, a two-year archive access and engagement project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and organised within MO, have commissioned this directive. Part of the project is to organise writing workshops within a prison. It has been commented that this type of work may assist in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

What are your thoughts about the above? Can the work of projects, such as Beyond Boxes, help rehabilitate prisoners? Do you have any views about the Probation Service and their support for a prisoner before or after they have been released from prison?

### **Observation Task**

Please record any mention of prison that you hear about, either in the news (local or national), on the radio, in conversation with others or on a television programme. Please give details about these instances and your reactions to them. We would be interested to know whether these instances have affected your views, thoughts and feelings about prison or the prison system.

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Please post your response to: Freepost: RTGU-AYJE-YSSC, The Mass Observation Archive, The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton, BN1 9BP or by email to: [moa@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:moa@sussex.ac.uk)  
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