

EXTRACT FROM MANUAL ON SECURITY

37 ESCAPE RISK CLASSIFICATION

- 37.1. Every category A prisoner, whether on remand, committed for trial, or convicted, will be assessed by Headquarters to determine the risk of their escape. There are three classifications of escape risk, standard, high and exceptional. The classification applied to each prisoner will be based on an assessment of the prisoner's escape potential and the security measures needed to make escape impossible.
- 37.2 The definitions of the classifications below are intended only to be broadly descriptive. Although any case may appear to conform broadly with one of the three definitions, there may be features in that case which justify the prisoner being classified higher or lower.

Standard Escape Risk

- 37.3 Most Category A prisoners are classified as having a standard escape risk. That is, while they would pose a very serious threat to the public if unlawfully at large, a standard range of enhanced security measures will be sufficient to prevent their escape. The following will usually apply:

- their history and background do not suggest that they have the personal resourcefulness to overcome these measures;
- there is no current information to suggest they have external resources or assistance with which they could overcome these measures;
- they have no history of escape or determined escape planning.

High Escape Risk

- 37.4 A prisoner will normally be classified as having a high escape risk if any of the following apply:

- their history and background suggest that they have the personal resourcefulness to overcome, with or without external assistance, the range of security measures which apply to standard risk category A prisoners;
- there is current information that they have associates or resources which could be used to plan and carry out an assisted escape attempt, particularly if there is information that the prisoner or associates have access to firearms or explosives and have been willing to use them in

committing crime or avoiding capture. An escape attempt of this kind would be likely to overcome the range of security measures which apply to standard risk category A prisoners.

Exceptional Escape Risk

37.5 A small number of Category A prisoners are classified as exceptional escape risk. Their cases usually have the same features which normally lead to a high escape risk. But in addition, one or both of the following will usually apply:

- the prisoner's history and background suggest that they have the personal resourcefulness to overcome, with or without external assistance, all but the highest conditions of security; or
- the prisoner could call upon external resources of such a nature and extent that they could overcome all but the highest conditions of security.

The threat posed by such a prisoner is such that, in order to make escape impossible, the prisoner must be held in the most secure accommodation and conditions available to the Prison Service.