

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Make Justice Work

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8.4% Decrease In Use Of Community Sentences From 2010 to 2011

Commenting on figures released today by the Ministry of Justice – Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to December 2011 – **Roma Hooper**, Director of Make Justice Work said, “The latest figures show that from 2010 to 2011 there has been a decrease in the use of community sentences of 8.4%, with only 173,400 handed down in 2011. We know that community sentences are more effective in helping people to rehabilitate, with better figures for re-offending compared to custodial sentences. For lower level offences we need to see a shift away from sending people into prison and promote the use of robust and demanding community sentences as a more effective and less expensive alternative to custody.”

“One of the keys to making this change is the approach of Magistrates, with today’s figures showing that 62.3% of offenders sentenced by Magistrates were given a non-custodial sentence, a decrease of some 5.7% since 2010. It is important for Magistrates to be made fully aware as to the range of community sentences available, to ensure that offenders for lower types of crime are not sent to prison unnecessarily. The Government’s proposals to reform community sentences are an opportunity for Ministers to take a lead on this issue and ensure they are used more widely and effectively for lower level offences.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Source: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/statistics/criminal-justice-stats/criminal-justice-stats-dec-2011.pdf>

About Make Justice Work - Make Justice Work (MJW) is a campaign to boost public support for a change in how Britain deals with minor offenders – a switch from expensive and futile short prison terms to intensive and effective sanctions. The organisation was launched in 2009 by the Director and Founder of MJW - Roma



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Hooper - as a campaign to highlight the cost of short-term prison sentences and to improve public confidence in community sentences. For more information visit:

<http://www.makejusticework.org.uk/>

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View our MJW YouTube channel here:

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