

PRESS STATEMENT

EMBARGOED: 00:01AM Wednesday 27th July 2011



Commenting on the Justice Select Committee's report, David Barrie CBE, Chair of Make Justice Work, said:

"The Justice Committee is absolutely right to demand leadership from the government in building public confidence in community sentences. Ministers know full well that short spells in prison don't work for low-level offenders. Robust and effective community sentences must be much more widely used, if our broken criminal justice system is to be put right."

Notes to editors:

For further information or interviews with Make Justice Work spokespeople, please call:

Sho Konno
020 7550 5626 / 07906 153 469

Amongst the conclusions of the House of Commons Justice Select Committee is the recommendation:

"The Government needs to clarify what it means by more robust community sentences, and the outcomes they are designed to achieve. Setting out clearly what community sentences are attempting to achieve, demonstrating that they are implemented effectively, and challenging a naïve confidence in the effectiveness of short custodial sentences will help gain public confidence, but calls for leadership and courage from politicians and sentencers. There is a risk that the recent public debate on sentencing policies with regard to short custodial sentences could undermine the Government's proposed reforms."

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/justice-committee/news/publication-of-rps-report/>

Make Justice Work is currently undertaking a **National Commission of Enquiry** to investigate the efficacy and cost of robust community alternatives to short term prison sentences for low level offenders.

The Enquiry is chaired by **Peter Osborne**, political commentator, author and broadcaster.

The panel includes:

- **Lord Blair**, former Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police
- **Dame Anne Owers**, former Chief Inspector of Prisons
- **Roma Hooper**, Founder and Director of Make Justice Work
- **Paul McDowell**, Chief Executive of Nacro
- **Javed Khan**, Chief Executive of Victim Support
- **John Thornhill**, Chair of the Magistrates' Association

About Make Justice Work:

Make Justice Work campaigns to raise awareness of the costliness and ineffectiveness of locking up low-level offenders. It aims to raise awareness of more cost-effective alternatives to short-term custodial sentences.

www.makejusticework.org.uk