

Merry Christmas from Make Justice Work



As the year comes to a close, this is a good moment to reflect on some of the extraordinary events which are influencing the delivery of fair and effective justice within the UK.

The launch of the Green Paper and the subsequent White Paper has given those of us campaigning for reform of the criminal justice system some hope. However, not surprisingly, this is coupled with some scepticism about the government's ability to deliver the necessary changes. We have seen what can upset progress such as the focus on Ken Clarke's comments and then the riots. As we all know, the government are rolling out their Payment by Results pilots with great determination, but the principles on which these are based are viewed with optimism and pessimism, in almost equal measure.

So how has Make Justice Work been responding to all these challenges and opportunities?

National Commission of Enquiry

[The Final Report](#) was launched in September and has proved to be an excellent resource, not just for us, but we hope also for others. It has opened doors within government – where we have reason to believe it has already proved influential - and within the media. We will continue to lobby vigorously in favour of its recommendations in the year to come. We remain deeply grateful to all the Panel members on whose expert advice and help the Report relied so heavily: Lord Blair, Javed Khan, Paul McDowell, Dame Anne Owers, John Thornhill and our chair, Peter Osborne.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

We are supporting three specific amendments to this Bill – one of our own, one with the Prison Reform Trust, and the other with the Magistrates Association and Probation Chiefs Association.

Tom Brake MP generously tabled the amendment on behalf of MJW, the purpose of which was to introduce a presumption against imposing sentences of six months or less. The Bill is now moving to the House of Lords where Baroness Linklater has kindly offered to table our amendment.

This year our eminent group of ambassadors has continued to grow and we are carrying on building relationships with key politicians, officials, opinion-formers and many other stake-holders.

2012

The core messages from the campaign remain exactly as they have always been:

Latest News

14.12.11 | The Guardian

Call to cut overcrowding burden on prisons

[Read more here>>](#)

13.12.11 | The Mirror

Tory Ken admits crime rate could rise in 'prolonged recession'

[Read more here>>](#)

06.12.11 | The Telegraph

Archbishop of Canterbury: Britain faces waves of anarchy unless hopeless are rescued.

[Read more here>>](#)

05.12.11 | The Guardian

Archbishop of Canterbury says riots will return unless we reach out to the young

[Read more here>>](#)

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Make Justice Work 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, delivered in the community.

It aims to raise public awareness of the pointlessness and expense of locking up low-level offenders, only for them to offend again and again. Crucially, the campaign identifies the community alternatives to custody that are most effective both at reducing reoffending and cutting costs.

In 2012 we aim to develop our collaborations with Victim Support and the Magistrates Association, whilst at the same time undertaking a unique event designed to explore how Payment by Results might actually work in practice. I hope to be able to say more early in the New Year. *So watch this space!*

The Media

Below are some examples of the excellent media coverage we received after the release of the Final Report.

[How best do we deliver justice](#) - by Javed Khan, Left Foot Forward.

[Make Justice Work](#) - by Roma Hooper, Progress Online.

[Man burgling hours after prison release](#) - Blackpool Gazette

[Prison Overcrowding](#) - by Roma Hooper, The Independent.

[Lib Dem MPs rebel against proposals to cut legal aid funding](#) - The Guardian.

To see the rest of the news coverage please visit our [website](#)

Social Media

We have a [Make Justice Work YouTube Channel](#). Visit the page to see what we have been watching and to have a look at our videos.

Do remember to follow me on twitter if you are up for it [@MJWRoma](#)

And don't forget we have a [guest blog section](#) - and thank you very much to those who have already contributed - hugely appreciated.

Champollion Digital

Our communications team, Champollion, have just launched their new Digital business. Do check it out and pass on: champolliondigital.co.uk

FINALLY...May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and thank you all so much for continuing to support the work of Make Justice Work. We are particularly grateful to our funders for their ongoing support, financially and practically. We have had a very productive year and we are looking forward to achieving even more in 2012.

Best wishes,

Roma

Director, Make Justice Work

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