

MJW October Newsletter



Dear #[Person/FirstName]#,

September was a very busy month with the launch of our Final Report and the subsequent media interest it generated.

National Commission of Enquiry

[The Final Report](#) was launched on 12th September at a roundtable seminar at Portcullis House. We had a very good turnout, including some of our panel members. David Barrie and I then handed in the Report to Downing Street and I went on to do an interview for the [BBC six o'clock news](#), with the support of Mark Easton who did a fantastic piece focusing on one of the community sentences we visited in Leicester.

Very importantly the report has given MJW a strong and credible platform to talk to ministers and the media about the genuine value of community sentences such as the ones we visited during the course of the year. We are hugely grateful to all our panel members and our chair, Peter Osborne, for joining us on this journey.

The Party Conferences

MJW hosted three private roundtable seminars at each of the party conferences to disseminate our National Enquiry final report. Lord McNally, Helen Goodman and Nick Herbert introduced their party's seminar and we had a very lively and engaging debate around the findings and recommendations within our Report. There was a high degree of consensus which is always encouraging.

Matrix Research

To support MJW's campaign message, we must always look to underpin our activities with the economic argument to support this. Matrix are currently doing an economic analysis of the programmes we visited and, where possible, looking at their re-offending rates too.

The research will be completed shortly and we will be launching the findings in late autumn.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

We are supporting two specific amendments to this Bill – one with the Prison Reform Trust and the other with the Magistrates Association.

At the same time, Tom Brake MP has agreed to table an amendment on behalf

Latest News

27.10.11 | The Telegraph

Two strikes and it's a life sentence for dangerous criminals, says Ken Clarke

[Read more here>>](#)

27.10.11 | The Guardian

Convicted offenders committed 51,000 crimes within a year

[Read more here>>](#)

26.10.11 | The Scotsman

There is an alternative to prison, it's cheaper and it works

[Read more here>>](#)

25.10.11 | The Telegraph

What's wrong with today's youth? Nothing a mentor can't fix

[Read more here>>](#)

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of MJW which is a presumption against the use of short term prison sentences:

"(3a)The court has a duty when passing a sentence of imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months to only pass said sentence where the court considers that no other method of dealing with the person is appropriate and must—

(a) state its reasons for the opinion that no other method of dealing with the person is appropriate, and

(b) have those reasons entered in the record of the proceedings."

We are very much hoping that this will encourage a debate within the media and government and enable us to promote our campaign message.

The Media

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

[A real opportunity to Make Justice Work](#) - by Linda Jack, Lib Dem Voice.

[Community or Custody? A tough question](#) - by Mark Easton, BBC News.

[Community Service 'more effective'](#) - The Mirror.

[Roma Hooper: Answering the Question of Community or Custody](#) - Huffington Post.

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

Social Media

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.

Best wishes,

Roma

Director, Make Justice Work

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