

MJW January Newsletter



2013 has certainly kicked off with a flurry of frenetic activity. The Transforming Rehabilitation consultation has now started and there are many issues around payment by results which remain unanswered and continue to be of serious concern.

The role of probation in this new landscape, particularly around public protection and risk, raises considerable questions about how the public, private and voluntary sectors are going to be able to work collaboratively and harmoniously for the benefit of the public, victims and offenders.

Whatever is being said to persuade us otherwise, there is a real sense that probation and the work already successfully achieved in partnership with those sectors without PbR is being vandalised - not a good start to creating a brave new world of partnerships, shared rewards and innovation.

The Transforming Rehabilitation Consultation

The full consultation document can be accessed on the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

Thank you to all those who have already been in contact to make us aware of their concerns – if there are any issues you would like MJW to include in its response then please do get in contact.

Our report published last year - [Just Results](#) - revealed a number of serious concerns about the use of PbR in community sentences and the haste with which the government is moving. The use of PbR in this area is as yet

Media

[Birmingham Mail](#) – 28/1/13 – Freed West Midlands Prisoners Commit 33,000 Crimes in Two Years

[The Observer](#) – 27/1/13 Women's Centres Give Vital to Ex-Convicts. So Why Cut Them?

[The Observer](#) – 27/1/13 Hundreds of Women Still Wrongly Imprisoned

[The Telegraph](#) – 27/1/13 Use of Police Cautions Has 'Got Out of Hand', Magistrates

MJW Videos Perspectives - Prison and short term sentences

The first short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series. This film talks to previous offenders about their experience of prison and short term sentences.



unproven and failure to get it right would be a serious setback leading to more people in prison, higher levels of reoffending, more victims and considerably more expense.

The consultation closes on 22nd February 2013 so it is vital as many people respond as possible to ensure Ministers are fully aware of the impact of these proposals.

Women Offenders Inquiry

The House of Commons Justice Select Committee continues to undertake its inquiry into women offenders and MPs have already heard some excellent evidence from a variety of different witnesses. MJW submitted written evidence to the inquiry which can be [read here](#)

The Crime and Courts Bill

The Bill has now entered the House of Commons and MJW have sent a briefing to MPs setting out our key concerns. As part of the proposals all community sentences will have to introduce a mandatory punitive element – apart from exceptional circumstances – and there is a risk of substituting rehabilitative elements which reduce levels of reoffending for punitive ones. MJW's briefing to MPs can be [read here](#).

Prison Closure - MJW Media Coverage

Earlier this month it was announced that seven prisons are to close and two more will be partially shut in England. A new 'super prison' will be built in their place.

MJW welcome the closure of these older prisons but are concerned about the 'super prison'. Money should not be spent on a super prison and should be re-invested into effective alternatives to custody.

MJW featured on -

BBC Radio 4 – World at One (no longer available on line)

Perspectives - Alternatives; effective sanctions delivered in the community

The second short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series. This film talks to previous offenders about their rehabilitation and the effectiveness of peer mentoring schemes.



Future - Making the right change

The third and final short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series. This film talks to previous offenders about their future plans and how a community sentence helped to turn their lives around.



[BBC News](#) – Seven Prison Closures in England Announced
[BBC News](#) – The Challenges of a Super Prison
[Channel 4](#) – Prison Closures – The Key Questions
[The Guardian](#) – Chris Grayling Takes One Step Forward on Probation, then One Giant Step Back on Jails

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