

News Release

For Immediate Release

Wednesday 8th May 2013

Response From Make Justice Work - Queen's Speech – Offender Rehabilitation Bill.

Commenting in response to the announcement in the Queen's Speech that the Government will be introducing an Offender Rehabilitation Bill, **Roma Hooper**, Director and Founder of Make Justice Work said:

“Proposals to ensure offenders serving less than 12 months have access to ‘probation’ services when they leave prison are to be welcomed. Evidence shows that the majority of these offenders have mental health issues or drug and alcohol abuse problems. Clearly they are more likely to reduce their offending if they have help and support beyond the prison gates.

“However, at the same time as extending the provision of these new services, the Government intends to dismantle the existing structure of Probation Services. The abolition of existing Probation Trusts and the introduction of a new system of Payment by Results by April 2015, with a heavy reliance on the private sector, is a risky overhaul of the current system.

“By rushing through with these changes, the Government's good intentions to help rehabilitate offenders serving under 12 months could be jeopardised by the pace and scale of change.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

To speak to Roma Hooper call: 07831 402790.