

Andy Slaughter MP,
Chair, Justice Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: 123413

25 April 2025

Dear Andy,

**NATIONAL ROLL OUT OF 'IMPACT' - A NEW APPROACH TO WORKING WITH THOSE AT
LOWER RISK OF REOFFENDING**

I am writing to you to inform you of changes to how the Probation Service is going to be working with offenders who are assessed as a lower risk of reoffending. As the Lord Chancellor highlighted in her speech on 12 February 2025, the Probation Service has been operating over capacity for an extended period.

In this speech, the Lord Chancellor articulated her vision for the Probation Service, emphasising the necessity to move away from a “one size fits all” approach and to allocate probation resources more effectively.

‘Impact’ is one of several strategic measures designed to alleviate current criminal justice capacity issues and to help us refocus resources to manage offenders more efficiently, while continuing to engage with individuals based on evidence and identified needs.

What is happening:

The Probation Service will implement ‘Impact’ as a new approach to working with offenders assessed as having a lower risk of serious reoffending and lower risk of harm. Contact with this cohort will concentrate on early engagement, to assess and support offenders to access the services within the community that address their needs.

Rehabilitation Activity Requirement (RAR) appointments and licence contacts delivered directly by Probation Practitioners will cease at 16-weeks. This mirrors Probation Reset, although the suspension point is earlier. As with Reset, cases remain open to the Probation Practitioner, and we will continue to deliver all other requirements and licence conditions until completion.

Who is eligible:

Eligibility for this cohort will be determined using the actuarial assessment tools Risk of Serious Recidivism (RSR) and Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS), which evaluate the risk of serious offending and general re-offending. Impact draws on Risk Needs Responsivity and desistance research which indicates interventions should be proportionate to the assessed levels of risk and need. We will be providing this cohort with a short, focused intervention and referrals to ongoing supportive services.

Who is excluded:

Individuals assessed as having a higher risk of harm and/or reoffending will automatically be excluded as well as cases that meet one or more of the following criteria: -

- MAPPA eligible
- National Security Division
- Intensive Court Pilot
- Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR), Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) and Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR)).
- Active child protection
- Domestic abuse including cases with historic domestic abuse
- Sexual conviction/ motivation

Probation Practitioners can consider exclusion from Impact for the following eight risk identifiers: child exploitation, Integrated Offender Management, serious organised crime, street gangs, county lines, hate crime, modern-day slavery, and licences with a treatment requirement.

Impact will start on the 28th of April 2025 and apply to all Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders and licence releases that meet the eligibility criteria from that date.

I would value an opportunity to talk to you further about these changes and other changes to probation supervision. If you think this would be helpful, then please get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James', written in a cursive style.

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending