



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

11 June 2026

Dear Andy,

EXPANSION OF THE INTENSIVE SUPERVISION COURTS

I am writing to update you on the next phase of Intensive Supervision Court (ISC) delivery.

Since my last correspondence, early evidence from existing ISC sites has remained encouraging. We continue to see strong levels of compliance among participants, alongside self-reported reductions in substance misuse and desires to stop offending. Early indications suggest that the ISC model can play an important role in addressing the root causes of offending behaviour. While full evaluation is ongoing, with impact and economic evaluations due in 2028, these early indicators suggest the model has the potential to reduce reoffending when implemented effectively.

This Government accepted the recommendation of the Independent Sentencing Review to expand the availability of ISCs, particularly as a means of tackling prolific offending. In line with this, we have sought to scale the model in a way that both broadens access and continues to test its effectiveness with different cohorts.

On Thursday, we will announce a further expansion of the ISC programme to six additional courts. This expansion, alongside the Women's ISC in Liverpool which is due to become operational this Autumn, will bring the total number of ISC sites to eleven. The new sites are as follows:

- Inner London Crown Court (Prolific Offenders ISC)
- Cambridge Crown Court (Substance Misuse ISC)
- Leeds Magistrates' Court (Women's ISC)
- Newcastle Magistrates' Court (Women's ISC)
- Thames Magistrates' Court (Women's ISC)
- Swansea Magistrates' Court (Women's ISC)

The ISCs already operate across two cohorts, women with multiple complex needs, and those with substance misuse issues. The additional sites will build on this, including further expansion of gender-specific provision.

All new sites have been selected through an open Expression of Interest process. This allowed local areas to come forward with proposals reflecting their specific needs and priorities, including

which cohort they wished to focus on. As persistent and prolific offending is a common feature within our existing site cohorts, this locally driven approach ensures the model is applied where it can have the greatest impact.

The Inner London Crown Court will, for the first time, pilot an ISC model explicitly focused on prolific offenders as a distinct cohort. This represents an important development in the pilot, and we are particularly interested in how this approach performs in addressing high-frequency offending behaviour specifically.

This next phase of expansion is intended to test the model at greater scale across different cohorts and geographies. We will continue to monitor delivery closely to ensure that learning is captured and used to inform future decisions on the longer-term role of problem-solving courts within the context of the Criminal Justice System across England and Wales.

I will continue to keep the Committee informed as this work progresses.

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