



Gweinyddiaeth
Cyfiawnder

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

Ministry
of Justice

Ruth Jones
Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 June 2026

Dear Ruth,

EXPANSION OF INTENSIVE SUPERVISION COURTS

I am writing to update you on the Intensive Supervision Court (ISC) programme and to set out the next phase of its development.

Launched in June 2023, the ISCs offer a robust, community-based alternative to offenders who would otherwise face short custodial sentences of up to two years. The courts test a problem-solving approach, and in doing so aim to address the root-cause of offending behaviour through robust supervision and interventions delivered by a multi-agency team and overseen by a single judge who regularly reviews each participant's progress.

Early results have been encouraging. We've seen high levels of compliance and positive outcomes reported by participants, including improved family relationships and reduced substance use. While formal evaluation is ongoing, with economic and impact evaluations due in 2028, initial feedback suggests this approach is making a meaningful difference. Our overall priority is to reduce reoffending and if the ISCs help us do that, they will be an invaluable tool.

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.

Today, we will announce a further expansion of the ISC programme to six additional courts. This expansion, alongside the Women's ISC in Liverpool announced last year, will bring the total number of ISC sites to eleven. The new sites are as follows:

- Swansea Magistrates' Court (Women's ISC)
- 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)

The inclusion of Swansea Magistrates' Court marks an important milestone, as it will be the first ISC site operating in Wales. This will allow us to assess how the model operates within the Welsh justice landscape, including how it can best align with devolved services such as health, substance misuse treatment, and wider support 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.

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 that reads "James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending