



Rt Hon the Lord Foster of Bath
Chair of the Home Affairs and Justice Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

11 June 2026

Dear Don,

EXPANSION OF THE INTENSIVE SUPERVISION COURTS

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

Since my last correspondence, early operational 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. Across all cohorts, a significant proportion of participants are persistent offenders, and early indications suggest that the ISC model has the potential to play an important role in addressing the complex and entrenched drivers of repeat offending.

This is particularly relevant in the context of policing and community safety. Prolific offenders are often responsible for a disproportionate volume of crime, generating significant and repeated demand on police resources and impacting heavily on local communities. This Government, therefore, accepted the recommendation of the Independent Sentencing Review to expand the availability of ISCs to address prolific offending.

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:

- 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 has enabled local areas to bring forward proposals reflecting their specific crime profiles and operational pressures, including which cohort they wished to prioritise. While prolific offending is

a common feature across all sites, this locally driven approach ensures the model is targeted where it can have the greatest impact on reducing crime in their respective areas.

The Inner London Crown Court will, for the first time, pilot an ISC model explicitly focused on prolific offenders as a distinct cohort. This is a significant development, and we are particularly interested in how this approach performs in reducing repeat offending and supporting desistance, which in turn could ease demand on policing.

This next phase of expansion is intended to test the model at greater scale while continuing to build the evidence base across different cohorts and geographies. We will continue to monitor delivery closely, including its impact on reoffending, to inform future decisions about the longer-term role of problem-solving courts within the justice and wider community safety landscape.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James". The script is cursive and fluid, with the 'J' and 'M' being particularly prominent.

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending