

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

Dear Mr Slaughter,

Re: Rehabilitation and Resettlement Inquiry – Further Information from LandWorks

While I appreciate that the inquiry is at a very advanced stage, I am writing on behalf of LandWorks to provide a brief update to [our submission](#) to the Committee's *Rehabilitation and Resettlement: Ending the Cycle of Reoffending* inquiry, submitted in January 2025.

Since that submission, the Ministry of Justice's [Justice Data Lab \(JDL\) has published an independent analysis of LandWorks' impact on reoffending](#). We believe the findings reinforce one of the central messages of our original evidence: that effective rehabilitation depends on sustained, holistic support delivered through trusted human relationships and in a way that people can genuinely engage with.

The JDL report analysed 90 men who participated in LandWorks between 2013 and 2023 and compared their outcomes with a large matched comparison group. Its headline conclusion was that participants were significantly less likely to commit a proven reoffence within one year than comparable individuals who had not received support. The one-year reoffending rate for LandWorks participants was 13%, compared with 21% for the comparison group, with the report concluding that support from LandWorks decreases the number of proven reoffenders during a one-year period. We understand that this is a particularly notable result by JDL standards.

While the reoffending reduction is important in itself, we would urge the Committee to focus on *why* programmes such as LandWorks appear to achieve positive outcomes. Our experience over more than a decade is that rehabilitation is rarely the result of a single intervention. Rather, it is the product of sustained relational work that helps people stabilise their lives, build trust, develop hope, and create a new non-criminal identity. The people we work with commonly face multiple and interconnected challenges, including poor mental health, trauma, unstable housing, substance misuse, social exclusion and lack of employment opportunities. Addressing these issues in isolation is rarely effective.

A key feature of the LandWorks model is therefore the combination of practical activity, personal development and resettlement support within a single supportive community. Participants engage in purposeful work while also receiving counselling, assistance with housing and finances, support

into employment, and help to access wider services. Crucially, these interventions are delivered through consistent relationships and in an environment that is safe, non-judgemental and built on trust. Our evidence has consistently shown that many people who have experienced repeated failure within public systems engage successfully when support is organised around relationships rather than transactions.

The Committee will be aware that much of the criminal justice system continues to operate under significant pressure. Our experience is that people frequently encounter fragmented services, changes in supervision, and support that is difficult to access or sustain. Even where good services exist, individuals often struggle to engage because the way support is delivered does not match the realities of their lives. By contrast, bringing support together, reducing barriers to engagement and maintaining continuity over time creates the conditions in which genuine rehabilitation can occur.

We would particularly emphasise the importance of support that extends beyond the end of a formal programme or sentence. Desistance from offending is rarely a linear process. Progress can be uneven, setbacks can occur, and periods of crisis may arise years after an individual first starts to turn their life around. Effective rehabilitation therefore requires systems that prioritise long-term relationships, ongoing encouragement and the ability to respond flexibly when support is needed. At LandWorks, continuing support after placements end is a core part of the model and one that we believe is critical to achieving lasting change.

The significance of the Justice Data Lab findings is that they provide independent evidence that an approach built around purposeful activity, trusted relationships, holistic support and long-term engagement can contribute to lower levels of reoffending. At a time when policymakers are considering the future of rehabilitation, community sentences and resettlement services, we believe there is a strong case for greater investment in models that embody these principles.

We continue to believe there is substantial potential to learn from successful voluntary sector programmes when designing future rehabilitation services. Whether in custody, in the community, or through-the-gate, the central lesson remains the same: people are most likely to change when they experience consistent relationships, practical support, genuine opportunities and hope for the future.

We would be very pleased to provide any further information that may assist the Committee's work and we would also be delighted to welcome members of the Committee to visit LandWorks in Devon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Parsons', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Parsons, Project Director, LandWorks

Charity Number: 1166057