

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

MoJ ref: SUB17851

9 September 2026

Dear Lord Foster,

EXPANSION OF THE INTENSIVE SUPERVISION COURT PILOT

I am writing to update the committee on the next stage of expansion for the Intensive Supervision Courts (ISCs).

As the committee will be aware from previous correspondence, earlier this year the Ministry of Justice announced plans to expand ISCs to a further seven locations. This expansion will increase access to the model and support the continued diversion of suitable offenders from short custodial sentences by providing enhanced community-based sentences with judicial oversight.

Today, I am laying the necessary secondary legislation to begin the first tranche of this expansion. This legislation will grant additional powers to Leeds Magistrates' Court, Liverpool Magistrates' Court, North Tyneside Magistrates' Court and South Tyneside Magistrates' Court for an 18-month period, from 5 October 2026 up to and including 5 April 2028.

These powers will allow for the launch of new Female Offender ISC sites across Leeds and Wakefield, Merseyside and Northumbria, representing the first phase of delivery under the wider ISC expansion programme. This marks an important milestone in the growth of the model, extending the reach of this problem-solving approach to new areas. Evidence from these courts will be valuable to informing future decisions about the role of ISCs in reducing reoffending and improving outcomes for offenders.

A further four ISC sites are expected to launch in 2027, including a prolific offender ISC in Inner London, a substance misuse ISC in Cambridge, and two further female offender ISCs in London and Wales. I trust that the committee will find this update helpful and welcome the expansion of the ISCs.



Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending