



To: All Stakeholders via email

BeNCH CRC
Changing lives together

2 February 2015

Dear Colleague,

**TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION:
COMMENCEMENT OF THE OFFENDER REHABILITATION ACT 2014**

The Secretary of State for Justice has now signed a commencement order that brought into force the remaining uncommenced provisions of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 (ORA) on 1 February 2015. This marks another significant step in implementing the government's probation reforms.

The most significant change the ORA makes is to extend statutory supervision after release to the 45,000 offenders a year who are released from short prison sentences of less than 12 months. Most of this group currently receive no statutory supervision after they are released.

These offenders have the highest reoffending rates of any group. Almost 60% of adult offenders released from short prison sentences in the year to March 2013 went on to reoffend within the next 12 months: a total of 16,719 re-offenders committing 85,047 further offences. The National Audit Office has estimated that the total cost to the economy of crime committed by recent ex-prisoners was between £9.5bn - £13bn. Of this, the cost of crime committed by offenders released from short prison sentences accounted for around £7bn - £10bn a year.

The changes the ORA makes mean that any service user whose offence was committed on or after 1 February, and who is sentenced to a custodial term of more than 1 day, will in the future receive at least 12 months of supervision after release. As a result, there will be a gradual build up from 1 February of eligible offenders.

The ORA also makes a number of changes to the sentencing and release framework set out in the Criminal Justice Act 2003, including expanded drug testing powers for offenders released from custody and the creation of a new Rehabilitation Activity Requirement that can be imposed on offenders serving sentences in the community.


On 1 February 2015, along with the provisions of the ORA coming in to force, Sodexo Justice Services took ownership of, and began running our CRC.

Also attached to the covering email is our first newsletter for our Stakeholders which we are delighted to share with you and hope you will find it interesting.

I would like to express how much we have appreciated the support and understanding from all of our Stakeholders during the Transforming Rehabilitation

programme. Although the ownership of BeNCH CRC has changed, our commitment to working with a wide range of other organisations and further reduce reoffending continues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Moloney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil Moloney
CEO BeNCH