



To: Chairs of Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs)

cc Chairs of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England  
Chairs of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Wales

25 April 2008

Dear Colleague,

**PROLIFIC AND OTHER PRIORITY OFFENDERS (PPO) PROGRAMME:  
PREMIUM SERVICE DELIVERY THEMATIC INSPECTION**

You will have seen the recent letter dated 17 March (attached) on the continued importance of the PPO programme to the Government's strategy for tackling crime and reducing re-offending. We wanted to write to echo those sentiments, and to set this in the context of the new criminal justice public service agreement (PSA 24).

LCJBs have a critical role in driving delivery of a Premium Service in support of the PPO programme. You will be aware that both the new Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) framework and national indicator set for local authorities feature a measure on the re-offending rates of PPOs. The National Offender Management Service is also embedding information about PPOs in its performance metrics.<sup>1</sup> LCJBs have an important role to play in contributing to success against these measures – particularly where improvement targets have been set through local area agreements – but the effective management of PPOs will also support achievement of the ambitions contained within PSA 24.

PSA 24 seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CJS in bringing offences to justice. You will know that we are working to define the high-level PSA measure of efficiency and effectiveness, but seeking improved performance in bringing serious offences to justice is likely to be a central feature of this. On this basis, LCJBs have been asked through the CJS business planning process to develop

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<sup>1</sup> - PPO OASys completion targets across community and custody  
- The PPO drug testing on licence measure

three-year delivery plans setting out how they will improve performance on bringing more serious violent, sexual and acquisitive offences to justice, and how they will identify and address local community safety priorities. We believe that delivery of an efficient and prioritised service for PPOs will contribute significantly to these aims, and particularly to tackling serious acquisitive offences, and so we expect it to be a key feature of LCJB plans. We will be seeking to identify a suitable measure of performance in relation to PPOs within the diagnostic measures underpinning the PSA 24 indicator of efficiency and effectiveness, and in July will be making available through CJMIS a range of performance data on local delivery of PPO schemes and the Premium Service.

The National CJS Premium Service Specification was endorsed by the National Criminal Justice Board and issued in 2005<sup>2</sup>. It sets out minimum delivery standards across the five main CJS agencies. While overall responsibility for delivering and monitoring the Premium Service rests with LCJBs, it is of course the case that LCJBs and CDRPs/CSPs should work together to ensure a consistent and effective approach to delivery. This will be particularly important where improvement targets on the rate of re-offending by PPOs features in the area's local area agreement.

To ensure the continued delivery of the Premium Service, and to support improvements in performance, we believe that the key priorities for successful delivery include:

- Strong LCJB governance, with LCJBs driving delivery of the premium service across the agencies in their area.**
- Effective joint working between LCJBs and CDRPs to identify priorities and make the best use of resources.**
- Effective tracking of PPOs throughout the criminal justice process (manual flagging and J-track compliance)**
- LCJBs to review PPO performance management data and consider appropriate local performance measures or ambitions**

You will wish to be aware that the criminal justice inspectorates have agreed to conduct a thematic inspection of delivery of the Premium Service (excluding YOTs) during 2008/09 in support of improved delivery. This will be led by HMI Probation, and we expect the main inspection work to be completed within the year. Further details will follow as plans progress.

It is intended that the inspection will provide evidence of how the Premium Service is being locally delivered by LCJBs and all five criminal justice agencies. (A basic summary of agency commitments, excluding YOTs, is set out in the annex to this

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/ppo/ppo\\_premium\\_service.pdf](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/ppo/ppo_premium_service.pdf)

letter.) We hope that the inspection will identify both good practice and barriers to delivery which will inform the continued development of the PPO programme to maximise crime reduction and re-offending outcomes.



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