



GMB/NAPO/UNISON

By e-mail

MoJ ref: ADR 78871

11 June 2020

Dear all,

CHANGES TO PROBATION SERVICES

I am writing because today, the Lord Chancellor has announced how we have adapted our plans to reform the Probation service in light of Covid-19. I would be grateful if you would share this letter with your members.

In the current context it is essential that we prioritise measures that will deliver a robust probation service that is best placed to respond to its ongoing impact. For those reasons we have decided to integrate Unpaid Work, Accredited Programmes and other structured interventions into the National Probation Service (NPS) from June 2021. We will not proceed with the Probation Delivery Partner competition.

This will bring all of the core probation service into a single national organisation that can command the confidence of the courts. We intend there to be a continued role for the Dynamic Framework to provide probation practitioners with access to organisations able to provide specialist support to their work with offenders. We will today launch the competition for that Framework, in order to have services in place from June 2021.

I recognise that staff across the probation service have experienced significant changes over recent years. The extraordinary response to Covid-19 within both the NPS and CRCs is testament to the professionalism, commitment and expertise of our staff group. I am determined that we will prioritise the interests of staff over the next year in the way that we manage the transition to new structures.

We will do that in part by continuing to work closely with you as our recognised Trade Unions. I am grateful for the collaborative and open way in which you have engaged with HMPPS throughout this period of acute change. I know my officials are working hard with you with the aim of reaching agreement on terms and protections that will apply for staff transferring from the CRCs. I look forward to those conversations progressing towards a conclusion as soon as possible.

My ambition is that through this process, the NPS will create the conditions that will allow our staff to thrive, to make the greatest possible contribution to protecting the public by turning around the lives of service users, and to be recognised more widely for the critical service they provide in protecting the public and supporting victims of crime.

Today's announcement sets a clear direction of travel for the future of the probation service. I am confident that we can build on existing relationships to together deliver these necessary reforms to what is a critical public service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LUCY FRAZER QC MP