

By email

13 December 2016

Dear Justice Committee Member

Justice Committee

I am writing to you in your capacity as a member of the Justice Select Committee to introduce myself as Napo's National Official for Press, Parliament and Campaigning.

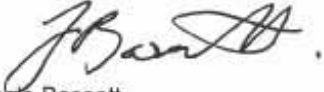
Napo has been pleased to present information and briefings to the Justice Committee on many occasions in the past; both when the Committee has been gathering evidence on subjects relating to our areas of the justice system and our members and, as with the case of the recent implementation of the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda in the Probation Service, when we have issues of concern that we feel it important to bring to parliament's attention. Committee members have, we hope and believe, found this useful.

I will be writing a detailed briefing to the committee regarding the current situation in the delivery of probation services. However, the HMIP are due to publish an inspection report into London probation on 15th December 2016. We have it on good authority that this report is likely to be very critical of probation services, particularly those being delivered by the private sector MTC Novo. Key findings include failure to supervise clients, little or no rehabilitation intervention work with clients, chronic staff shortages and increasing workloads as a result and poor management at all levels. Napo is now deeply concerned about this situation which is mirrored across England and Wales. We are also concerned about the speed and lack of transparency with which the MOJ and the Minister are addressing these issues. We are calling for a comprehensive review of probation services. We want to see the contracts and the service delivery publicly scrutinised to ensure effective services are being delivered that are cost effective to the tax payer. We are not convinced that this is currently happening and would urge the committee to look at these issues in more detail.

In the meantime, I wanted to make this initial contact. I would also be very happy to meet with you at some time if you have half an hour to spare, so I can explain how Napo members see the current situation facing the Probation service since the TR split and the sale of the Community Rehabilitation Companies to private

service providers. I am in Westminster fairly often; so just let me know if you are available at any point in the near future.

Best wishes

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

Tamia Bassett

National Official Press, Parliament and Campaigns