

NEWS FROM LABOUR: Cameron putting companies with little or no track record in criminal justice in charge of dangerous and violent offenders - Sadiq Khan

Sadiq Khan MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Secretary, commenting on the publication of the preferred bidders for the 21 probation privatisation contracts, said:

"David Cameron's Government is putting companies with little or no track record in criminal justice in charge of dangerous and violent offenders.

"There's been no testing or piloting to see if this will work and won't put the public's safety at risk, and all of the concerns of Labour, experts and probation staff have been swatted away. It's also unacceptable that Ministers are going out of their way to tie the hands of future governments to multi-billion pound contracts for ten years.

"This Government's reckless and half-baked privatisation has resulted in a meltdown in probation. Dedicated and experienced staff are demoralised or are leaving the profession, offenders are going unsupervised and this chaos is putting the safety of communities up and down the country at risk."

Ends

Notes to Editors:

1. The Ministry of Justice have announced today the preferred bidders for the Transforming Rehabilitation Programme. The Written Ministerial Statement is here <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/2014-October/29%20October/3-JUSTICE-Ministry-of-Justice-Update.pdf>
2. Five bidders are preferred bidders in 18 out of 21 of the Community Rehabilitation Companies.
3. Purple Futures – led by global construction firm Interserve – are preferred bidder for 5 out of 21 contracts (Humberside, Lincolnshire & North Yorkshire; West Yorkshire, Cheshire and Greater Manchester; Merseyside; and Hampshire & Isle of Wight).
4. Sodexo are preferred bidder for 6 contracts (Northumbria; Cumbria and Lancashire; South Yorkshire; Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire; Norfolk and Suffolk; and Essex).

5. Working Links – welfare to work organisation – are preferred bidders in three areas (Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset & Wiltshire; Dorset, Devon & Cornwall; and Wales).
6. Reducing Reoffending Partnership – led by welfare to work multinational Ingeus – are preferred bidder for two contracts – Staffordshire & West Midlands; and Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland.
7. MTCNovo – led by US corporation MTC – are preferred bidder in 2 areas (Thames Valley and London).
8. Sodexo have won the contract for Northumbria, where they also run the major prison, which has been plagued by difficulties since they took it over <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-26795465>