

**Napo** and **UNISON**, representing Probation Service workers in Wales, write to draw your attention to the Justice Unions in Wales' previous joint statement on the devolution of Justice to Wales, with specific reference to Youth Justice and the Probation Service.

We note the recent announcement of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Welsh Governments for the Probation Service in Wales -commonly referred to as the "*Manchester Model*." While this represents a welcome and necessary first step, it is not in itself sufficient to achieve the decentralised, locally accountable Probation Service that Wales urgently needs.

We continue to advocate for a fully devolved and **stand-alone Probation Service**, aligned with devolved social policy and separated structurally from the Prison Service, so that practice in Wales can better reflect Welsh priorities, needs, and communities. We welcome the current Welsh Government's commitment to exploring future models and its engagement with Justice trade unions and frontline staff.

However, this work is undermined by the unresolved crisis in Probation pay, and the resulting recruitment and retention challenges across Wales. The frontline workforce remains under-resourced and undervalued. Investment in staff pay and conditions must be prioritised if any reform is to succeed.

We therefore ask your party to commit to:

- **The devolution of Youth Justice and Probation to Wales**
- Working with the UK Government to ensure the MOU facilitates, rather than restricts, further devolution
- Pressing the UK Government to progress the promised review of Probation in England and Wales
- Ensuring full and meaningful engagement with recognised trade unions in planning the future of Probation in Wales
- Prioritising improved pay and conditions for Probation staff as part of securing a sustainable workforce

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further and invite your response ahead of your manifesto being finalised.

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