

Press Statement

20 June 2014 – Embargo Immediate

Shadow Lord Chancellor visits Napo Cymru

On 20th June the Shadow Lord Chancellor paid a visit to Napo Cymru Branch to get a better understanding of how Grayling's madcap reforms of the Probation Service are impacting on frontline staff and service delivery. Napo members welcomed the opportunity to tell Sadiq Khan just how bad things are following the dissolution of the Wales Probation Trust and the implementation of the new National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company. Napo has been campaigning fiercely to highlight that these reforms will undermine risk management and put the public at risk; and these concerns are now becoming a reality. Staff in Wales are struggling with inadequate IT systems, restricted access to offenders records and significantly increased workloads since 1 June.

Tania Bassett, Napo National Official said: "we are really pleased that Sadiq is taking a direct interest in this issue. The Probation Service has been in chaos since 1 June and our members are really concerned that this is having a direct impact on service delivery and public safety. If staff cannot access offenders' records due to poor IT systems, they have no way of knowing what someone's risk triggers are or how to manage them safely in the community. The changes have already seen a drop in the production of pre-sentence reports by a third, which is then delaying sentencing and clogging up the Courts. Grayling's plans are an untried and untested social experiment that will lead to increased reoffending and an increase in victims, all at a huge cost to the tax payer. We welcome Labour's support for our campaign and call on the government to halt these plans before something goes seriously wrong".

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