

## **Judicial Review**

On Wednesday 29th October 2014 Napo, the Trade Union and Professional Association for probation and family court workers, issued instructions to our lawyers Slater and Gordon to move to an application for a Judicial Review of the Secretary of State's plans to sell off 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) formed under the governments Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

The application for a Judicial Review has two strands: a public law angle, which calls upon the Secretary of State to publish the results of his testing processes so that he can evidence it is safe to proceed to a share sale of the CRCs, which he has thus far refused to do; and a private law angle, which relates to a lack of duty of care by the employer to ensure the safety of staff, service users and the public.

Ian Lawrence General Secretary said: "Napo has been clear from the outset that splitting the probation service into a National Probation Service and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies has put staff, service users and the public at risk of harm. Contrary to the lies propagated by government ministers there has been no piloting of the new model prior to national roll out. There are significant IT failures and lack of infrastructure has undermined the supervision of offenders, placed staff at direct risk of harm and has significantly increased the risk to communities and the public at large. The MoJ's refusal to listen or act on our concerns has left us with no other option but to take legal action against the Secretary of State in order to prevent an irreversible disaster."

Ends