

Some Parliamentary Questions Answered

Napo placed a number of PQs through Liz Saville Roberts MP and the Justice Unions Parliamentary Group and obtained written answers this week:

UPW and contract implications

We asked “whether community rehabilitation companies will be financially penalised for not delivering (a) unpaid work and (b) group programmes during the covid-19 outbreak” and were told that no decision has been made yet on the contract implications of suspending UPW and programmes

Napo is deeply concerned that HMPPS have not yet made a decision on whether or not there will be contract implications for suspending interventions. We want to work with CRC's to push for the contracts to be amended to reflect the national crisis we find ourselves. No provider should be penalised for protecting their staff and the public.

Hygiene and hand sanitizers in probation offices

We asked “how many and what proportion of probation offices have hand sanitisers available for probation staff during the covid-19 outbreak” and were told that orders have been placed but there is a long wait for deliveries. Cleaning regimes have been increased to reflect the public health concerns.

Napo has repeatedly raised our concerns that front line staff are not being provided with basics such as hand sanitizer. The government and CRC's has been aware of this pending crisis and should in our view, have submitted orders for soap and sanitizer months ago to avoid this situation. Napo is compiling a list of particularly dirty offices in the NPS but we also need to know what CRC offices are like so that we can challenge all employers on hygiene standards. The Minister has also said that cleaning regimes have been increased to reflect concerns but Napo wants to know what it's like in reality. Please send in your information to info@napo.org.uk

VLOs and Home Visits

We asked “whether Victim Liaison Officers in the National Probation Service are expected to carry out home visits during the covid-19 outbreak” and were told in all but exceptional circumstances all home visits by VLOs are suspended. Alternatives such as phone calls and skype should be used.

Napo welcomes this move and assurance by the Minister. Napo had been made aware of VLOs still being instructed to carry out home visits. If you are aware or are being instructed to do this still, then please let us know on info@napo.org.uk so that we can challenge the Divisional Director for not adhering to central directives.

- <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32266/>
- <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32267/>
- <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32268/>