



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Our ideas for making probation work better



**Probation is about working with people who commit a
crime to help make sure they don't do crime again**

Easy read



Who we are

We are the Government.

What this document is about



This document is about our ideas for making **probation** work better.



Probation is about working with people who

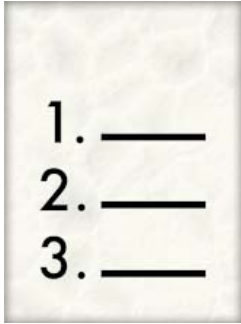
- commit a crime that is not bad enough for them to go to prison
- have been to prison already for a crime.



Probation is about working with them to help make sure they don't do crime again.



A court decides someone has to go on probation.



People on probation have to follow some rules.

If they break the rules, they may have to go back to court or to prison.



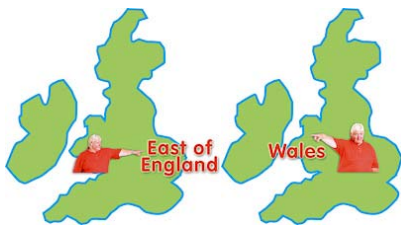
They may have to go to lots of meetings with someone called an **offender manager**.

The offender manager is there to make sure the person does what the court says.

They may help the person

- get help with problems
- learn new skills
- change their life so they don't do crime again.





This document talks about the changes we want to make to probation in England and Wales.



Probation can work very well.



But it needs to get better to stop more people doing crime again.



We want to know what you think of the changes.

You can find out how to tell us on page 10.

Different groups in local areas working with people on probation



When people go on probation we want it to work.



We want them to stop doing crime.



At the moment, too many people on probation do crime again.



We want there to be new and better ways of doing things.



We want different groups in local areas to work with people on probation.



These groups often have good ideas and new ways of doing things.

This could be groups like

- charities
- businesses
- other local groups.



Lots of groups like this could work with people on probation.



They could work with people on things like

- drink or drugs problems
- learning new skills
- doing work for free in the local area.



There are some people in charge of probation in local areas.



We think they should choose the best groups to work with people on probation.



We want groups to be paid more if they are doing a good job but paid less if they are doing badly.



We think all this will

- make probation work better
- save money
- help more people change and stop doing crime.

But we still want the people in charge of probation in local areas to



- look after people who do more serious crimes
- look at each person on probation first to see what needs to happen to them



- give the court advice about what should happen to someone on probation



- make other important decisions.



This is to make sure everything is safe and done in the right way.

Deciding what is best for local people on probation



We think the government should still be in charge of some things to do with probation.



But people in local areas should decide most things.

We want people in charge of probation in local areas to decide



- what local people on probation need
- what groups should work with people on probation.



They should work with other groups like the NHS, the Police and councils to decide this.



How to tell us what you think



Please tell us what you think of our ideas by
22 June 2012.

By post to



Effective Probation Services
Ministry of Justice
Post Point 8.20
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ



By email to

effectiveprobationservices@justice.gsi.gov.uk



You can tell us what you think in the box on the next page if you want to.



You can tell us what you think of our ideas here if you want to