

**To: Chairs of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in England
Chairs of Community Safety Partnerships in Wales
Chairs of Local Criminal Justice Boards**

cc Please see attached list

20 February 2007

Dear Colleague,

PROLIFIC AND OTHER PRIORITY OFFENDER PROGRAMME: EVALUATION OF IMPACT

We are writing to inform you of the publication today of the Home Office evaluation of the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme. A copy of the full evaluation report is available on-line on both the Home Office (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/onlinepubs1.html>) and crime reduction (<http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/ppo/ppominisite01.htm>).

The findings of the evaluation are very impressive. In terms of impact on crime and offending, the evaluation tracked offenders who were taken on to the programme in September and October 2004 and found, in summary:

- comparing the 17-months before and following entry on to the programme, there was a 43% reduction in offending amongst the offenders;
- there was a sharp reduction in offending following entry onto the programme. In the first 17 months of the scheme, the offenders had a reduction of 62% in the overall level of convictions compared to the beginning of the scheme;
- there was also a marked decrease in the number of days between committing an offence and being sentenced in court following entry on to the programme, which can be associated with the introduction of the Prolific Offender Criminal Justice System Premium Service.

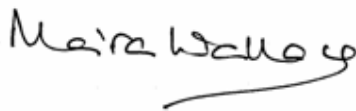
We do of course recognise that the achievements of the programme are directly attributable to your commitment and that of all the agencies represented on your partnerships and criminal justice boards, as well as to the hard work of the frontline operational staff who, over the past 2 years or so, have turned the idea of the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme into a reality on the ground. We thank you for that.

Clearly, the challenges ahead for all of us are not only to sustain the impressive activity reported on in the evaluation report, but also to build on them. We do hope that the report will provide you with much of the evidence you will need to continue to prioritise this important crime reduction and reducing re-offending programme.

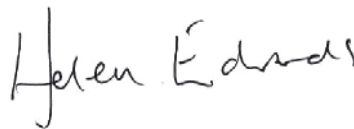
Aligning with the Drug Interventions Programme

The Home Office paper “Rebalancing the Criminal Justice System in favour of the law-abiding majority”, published in July last year, committed us to bringing the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme closer together with the successful Drug Interventions Programme, in particular to ensure that these two programmes together target and tackle the highest harm causing drug misusers. Again, we are very grateful for the positive response that you have shown to this commitment. Closer alignment of the two programmes is now a reality in many areas, with others well on the way. Bringing the two programmes closer together provides a real opportunity to ensure that the prolific drug misusing offenders are effectively targeted to reduce both their drug misuse and related offending. Within the next few weeks we shall provide new guidance for partnerships to help this process further.

Thank you, again, for your continued support, for both the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme and the Drug Interventions Programme, and for the work you are doing to bring these two programmes closer together on the ground. Evidence such as that published in the evaluation report shows how successful your efforts are proving to be.



MOIRA WALLACE
Director General, Home Office
Crime Reduction and Community
Safety Group



HELEN EDWARDS
Chief Executive
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Chief Executive
Office for Criminal
Justice Reform

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Association of Chief Police Officers

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The Crown Prosecution Service