

**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

21 March 2006

Dear Colleague,

**PROLIFIC AND OTHER PRIORITY OFFENDERS PROGRAMME: TWO YEARS ON**

It is just two years since the Prime Minister launched the Prolific and other Priority Offenders Strategy at a Local Government Association conference at the end of March 2004. Since that announcement, an incredible amount has been achieved by you and all the partnerships agencies. You have delivered a fully operational, national Prolific Offenders programme that is not only making a substantial contribution to crime reduction, but which is also demonstrating how joined-up, multi-agency, offender-focused partnership work can contribute to the Government's vision of safer and stronger communities. None of this would have been possible without the good will, commitment and sheer hard work that is being invested into this programme at partnership, strategic management and practitioner level, and we are very grateful for this.

We wanted to take this opportunity to set out the Government's continuing commitment to this important crime reduction and offender-focused programme. It is a real achievement that we now have Prolific and Other Priority Offender schemes throughout England and Wales, working intensively with almost 11,000 priority offenders while at the same time targeting over 4,000 young offenders most at risk of becoming the next generation of Prolific Offenders. The enhancement of the Prolific and other Priority Offenders scheme by the introduction of the national Premium Service specification is progressing well. Over fifty percent of the schemes indicate a green or amber green rating on implementation of the premium service in their self assessments. Premium Service survey results, due in at the end of April, will be collated and a report produced in the summer.

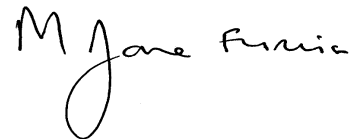
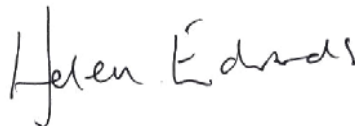
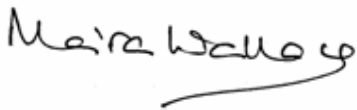
The value of the programme of course lies in the successes that every local scheme has achieved in turning around the lives of some of the most entrenched and chaotic offenders across the country. The initial findings of the programme evaluation showed an encouraging reduction in convictions over a six month period amongst those first targeted by the programme. The full evaluation should be ready for publication this autumn.

## Performance Management Framework

The performance management data supplied, monthly, by every Prolific Offender scheme has helped to deliver the success of the programme. This data has helped with development of the programme, building information exchange across agencies and has assisted - both at scheme level and nationally - in identifying and overcoming barriers to delivery. However, as we have moved on from the implementation phase of the programme, our joint aim must now be to embed the key elements of the Prolific Offender approach into the business planning of all the contributing agencies. This will ensure that we continue to have a focus on an agreed priority group whose behaviour causes most harm to their local communities.

The performance management data that you provide will, of course, continue to play a crucial role in informing the development of the programme. However, we do not think that we need to continue to ask for this information on a monthly basis. This is why the national Prolific Offenders Programme Board has agreed to move to quarterly reporting from April. To ensure that you still have as large an impact as possible on the way the programme develops, we will instead be asking you to complete an occasional series of ad hoc surveys. These will enable us tackle the most important issues in the most effective and practitioner-friendly way.

We hope that you will welcome this decision, which will help to relieve the reporting burden on those front-line practitioners who are delivering the programme.



**MOIRA WALLACE**

**Director General, Home Office  
Crime Reduction and  
Community Safety Group,**

**HELEN EDWARDS**

**Acting Chief Executive of the  
National Offender  
Management Service**

**JANE FURNISS**

**Acting Chief Executive of  
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Reform**

**Copy Recipients:**

Association of Chief Police Officers

Association of Police Authorities

Home Office Regional Directors, Government Offices

National Probation Directorate

NOMS Regional Offender Managers

Prison Service

Prolific and other Priority Offenders Programme Board

The Crown Prosecution Service