



Ministry  
of Justice

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To Local Authority Chief Executive Officers

18<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **MOJ TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION – ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTRACT SIGNATURE**

The Secretary of State for Justice has today confirmed that contracts have been signed with the new owners for the 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs). This announcement marks another significant step towards completing the government's probation reforms.

The complete list of new owners across England and Wales is attached to this letter for your information.

The transfer of ownership of all the CRCs will take place on 1 February 2015, along with the transition to the new service arrangements. We also plan for the provisions of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 to be commenced on this date.

Despite almost £3billion a year investment in prisons and just under £1billion in delivering sentences in the community, overall reoffending rates have barely changed over the last decade. The case for a new approach is clear.

The very highest reoffending rates are among prisoners sentenced to custodial sentences of under 12 months. A staggering **57.6%** of those released in the year to December 2012 went on to reoffend within 12 months. The current system is simply not addressing this problem – many of these prolific offenders, with a host of complex problems, are released on to the streets with £46 in their pockets and little else.

Once the ORA has been enacted, for the first time in recent history, virtually every offender released from custody will receive statutory supervision and rehabilitation in the community. This legislation will extend this statutory supervision and rehabilitation to all 45,000 of the most prolific group of offenders sentenced to less than 12 months in custody.

We are also putting in place an unprecedented nationwide 'through the prison gate' resettlement service. Through The Gate services will commence no later than May 2015 and, once implemented, will mean that most offenders will be given continuous support by one provider from custody into the community.

Our Transforming Rehabilitation reforms are part of a programme across the whole justice system, making it ready to meet the challenges of the future. We are creating a justice system that produces more effective and more efficient services for all – reforming offenders, delivering value for the taxpayer and protecting victims and communities.

Now that contracts have been signed, we will now start facilitating direct engagement between our new owner and key local stakeholders to enable them to set out their vision and plans for introducing new and innovative solutions for rehabilitating offenders.

I am grateful for your continued engagement, and we look forward to working with you over the coming months as the reforms are implemented.

*Yours faithfully,*  
*Andrew Selous*

**ANDREW SELOUS**