PROTOCOL WITH HER MAJESTY’S CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PROBATION

Thank you for your letter of 7 February, providing Justice Committee comments for the consultation on the draft protocol between the Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP).

With regard to private and third sector bodies, I can confirm that HMIP provide copies of their reports to all National Probation Service (NPS) divisions or Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) they inspect, and publish all routine inspections on their website. HMIP consults annually on its inspection plans, as required by statute. Although the list of stakeholders to be consulted and set out in statute is limited, HMIP routinely consult a wider range of stakeholders including all the entities they inspect. We will clarify this in the final Protocol.

In relation to the corporate and business plan, HMIP will either produce an annual business plan or else an annual updated three-year corporate plan embracing plans for the year ahead. We will make this clearer in the final Protocol.

You also raise the inspectorate’s annual report. The Chief Inspector will generally publish an annual report each year, although there may be exceptional reasons (for example a substantial change to inspections or a change of Chief Inspector) that justify a longer elapsed time between reports. An annual report will usually cover an overview of the NPS and CRCs, alongside subheadings on reducing reoffending, public protection and sentence enforcement and recall, with detailed sections on probation and youth offending services. These sections will explore in depth how services are configured, how performance is measured and the quality of the services themselves.

May I thank you again for your contribution to the consultation, and I hope this clarifies the points you have raised.

Yours ever,

RT HON DAVID GAUKE MP