

Rehabilitation activity requirements were introduced in 2015 to help reduce the prospect of reoffending. They are now a common feature of community sentence orders.

"These orders can aid speedy justice and have great potential. But unless probation services delivery improves materially, the government's policy aims will not be met."

Dame Glenys Stacey  
HM Chief Inspector of Probation  
February 2017

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## The Implementation and Delivery of Rehabilitation Activity Requirements

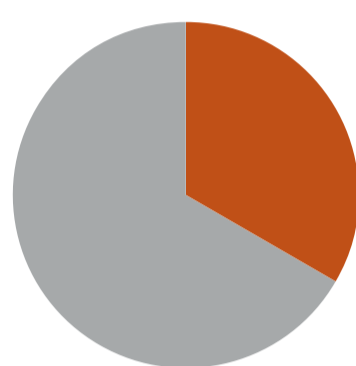
### Rehabilitation activity requirements in context



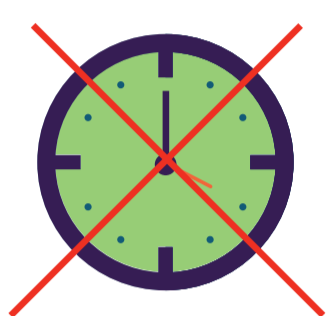
Introduced in February 2015

**72k** Number of rehabilitation requirements issued July 2015 - June 2016

Court sets the maximum number of activity days to be done in the order. There is no limit to this number.



**Around a third** of community or suspended sentence orders now contain a rehabilitation activity requirement



**NOT 24hr**



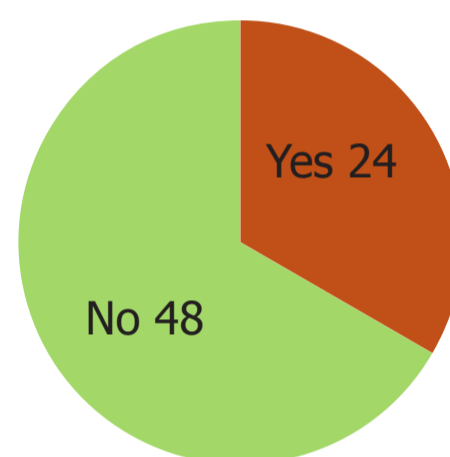
**1hr is one option**

An activity day is not 24 hours but the length of time taken for each session

### Rehabilitation activity requirements in our inspection

**28**

Average number of activity days ordered as part of a rehabilitation activity requirement



Cases with enough progress in delivering activities after 9 months



**6** Average number of activity days completed after 9 months

Activity Days

Proportion of individuals that had complied with their orders after 9 months

**60%**

Probation IT systems misrecorded the number of days in many cases

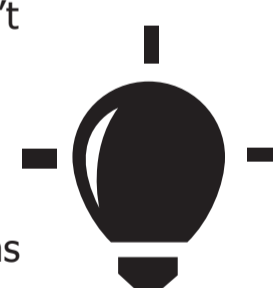
**83% were wrong**



Courts unclear about what activities are available and what will actually be delivered

Some offenders didn't get the right activity

Limited range of activities and no signs of innovation



## Recommendations

The Ministry of Justice should:

- consider the management information it should collect to review whether rehabilitation activity requirements are working as intended

The National Offender Management Service should:

- provide National Probation Service court liaison staff with clear guidance on the factors to consider when proposing the maximum number of activity days for a rehabilitation activity requirement
- issue specific guidance on the types of contact that can be counted towards the different elements of a rehabilitation activity requirement
- make sure case management systems give an accurate record of rehabilitation activity requirement activity days and appointments

The National Probation Service should:

- make sure that rehabilitation activity requirements are only proposed in preference to other requirements where they will allow the most effective rehabilitation of the offender
- produce all copies of oral pre-sentence reports as a typed document

The Community Rehabilitation Companies and the National Probation Service should:

- make sure that National Probation Service court liaison staff have sufficient information about the activities available to make informed proposals for rehabilitation activity requirements
- make sure rehabilitation activity requirements are started promptly, and their progress is kept under regular review
- provide practitioners with a readily accessible library of modular materials for use individually and in groups, to deliver effective structured work addressing a variety of offending-related factors
- make sure all offender absences, whatever their cause, are responded to appropriately, and orders are enforced when required