



Her Majesty's
Inspectorate of
Probation

Response to the consultation on
HM Inspectorate of Probation's inspection
framework and programmes for 2020-2022

October 2020

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Under the *Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006*, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation is required to consult named key stakeholders – other inspectorates and ministers – each year on its inspection framework and programmes of inspection. It is our practice to consult more widely, with those we inspect and associated bodies who can provide valuable insight and information as we develop our framework and programmes. This year we also extended our consultation to cover not just 2020-2021 but also 2021-2022.
- 1.2. The 2020-2022 consultation letter was issued on 23 March 2020, setting a deadline for responses of 29 May 2020. The consultation letter was published online and is available at: <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/about-hmi-probation/consultations/>
- 1.3. The consultation set out the following two requests:

Consultation questions – thematic inspections

1. We welcome views on our potential topics for thematic inspections for 2021 and beyond.

Consultation questions – research

2. We welcome views on our proposed research projects for 2020 and beyond.

This document summarises the responses received to the consultation requests and sets out the decisions made by the Inspectorate in response.

- 1.4 In addition, we conducted a separate consultation exercise on our future inspection approach to the new unified probation service which ran shortly after this statutory consultation. The findings of that consultation are detailed in a separate document but any relevant feedback from this statutory consultation exercise was provided to the Programme Team for their consideration.

2. Summary of HM Inspectorate of Probation priorities for 2020-2022

	Question	Post-consultation decision
1	<p>Thematic inspections</p> <p>We welcome views on our proposed topics for thematic inspections for 2021 and beyond.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>There was support from respondents to our proposals for thematics in 2020-2021. While COVID-19 has impacted on the timing, number and nature of our core inspections, we have made good progress in re-allocating our resources to conduct more thematic reviews – we think these will add more value in the circumstances – and have re-scheduled activity that was already planned.</p> <p>The thematic and joint working programme for 2020-2021 now includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thematic reviews of the exceptional delivery models as delivered during the lockdown for adult probation and youth offending services • national inspections on adult probation recovery from the exceptional delivery models and the probation services’ strategic preparedness for transition to service unification • thematic reviews of service delivery for black, Asian and minority ethnic service users and staff in adult probation and youth offending services • joint thematic review of substance misuse services with Care Quality Commission • thematic review of transition arrangements from youth to adult services • scoping for joint thematic on mental health with the other criminal justice inspectorates and Care Quality Commission • contribution to Ofsted-led safeguarding visits. <p>We are also considering how we produce shorter, more focused thematic products, that are potentially repeated every couple of years to map change over time.</p> <p>2021-2022</p> <p>We have already committed to the following joint thematics in 2021-2022 that are either a continuation of activity started in 2020-2021 or activity that had to be postponed due to COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mental health • Offender Management in Custody (OMiC) • Serious Youth Violence

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes for girls sentenced to custody. <p>In addition, we have identified a long list of thematics for 2021-22 that we will consider as part of our business planning.</p> <p>Adult</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management supervision • electronic monitoring, including GPS tagging • women • domestic abuse • MAPPA • TACT. <p>The last two topics would need to be conducted jointly and so will require agreement by the joint Criminal Justice Chief Inspectors' Group.</p> <p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management supervision • Education, Training and Employment • county lines • remands • cases caretaken between YOTs • youth courts • Looked After Children & YOT link to social services. <p>Again, the last project would need to be conducted jointly and so would rely on the agreement of the relevant partner inspectorate.</p> <p>Our thematic choices will be particularly driven by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the systemic issues we have identified in our core inspections • issues that are flagged in the wider context that have a bearing on probation and youth justice • ministerial interests.
<p>2</p>	<p>Research</p> <p>We welcome views on our proposed research projects.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>We are undertaking secondary analysis of existing inspection data to develop the evidence base underpinning our inspection standards, at both the organisational level and individual case level. Key topics are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of pre-sentence information and advice provided to courts • probation delivery: links between inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes

- tailoring delivery to children's needs and strengths (youth)
- arrangements with statutory partners, providers and other agencies (youth)
- delivery of out of court disposals (youth).

We will compare findings for different sub-groups (for example by age, gender, ethnicity) where possible.

We are undertaking new primary research in the following areas:

- the research and evaluation activities of probation providers
- caseloads and workloads in probation services
- knife crime and young people – exploring promising strategy, interventions and casework
- staff experiences of supervising service users at risk of self-harm and/or suicide
- working with trauma: An exploration of current probation service approaches.

2021-2022

Topics for consideration for 2021-2022 and beyond:

Adults

- knife crime
- enabling environments
- domestic abuse & electronic monitoring/ GPS
- potential to focus on young adults as a subset
- alcohol testing
- sentencer confidence.

We would want to see the conclusions of any ongoing intervention or research activity conducted by the department on the last two topics before we consider pursuing ourselves.

Youth

- youth delivery: links between inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes
- county lines
- YOTs and use of technology
- youth courts
- YOT models
- trauma-informed approaches.

We will continue to use the risk/impact matrix to prioritise our research activity.

3. Summary of responses

3.1 We received 15 responses from the following respondents:

- Prisons Minister
- Youth Justice Board (YJB)
- Ofsted
- Estyn
- Magistrates Association
- individual NPS employee
- Sodexo CRC
- National Audit Office (NAO)
- Peer Power
- Transition to Adulthood Alliance (T2A)
- National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN)
- Lancashire YOT
- HM Inspectorate of Probation Diversity and Inclusion Group
- HM Inspectors
- Farmer Review.

Consultation questions – thematic inspections

1. We welcome views on our proposed topics for thematic inspections for 2021 and beyond.

The long list of thematic topics proposed by respondents, beyond those we have planned for 2020-2021, are detailed below.

Proposed topics for probation inspections	Our response
Women MAPPA Electronic monitoring Domestic abuse Management oversight/supervision	On our long list for 2021-2022
18-24 year olds	We will revise our inspection guidance so that we are pulling out the issues for 18-24 year olds, specifically maturity assessments as part of pre-sentence reports
Staff training	For future consideration when practice is embedded
Learning disabilities Adults with social care needs Services for those who do not have English as their first language Accredited programmes and link to court orders	For future consideration
Development of accredited programmes for neurodivergent service users	Requires HMPPS expertise
Enabling environments Knife crime	Could be considered for a research project

Proposed topics for youth inspections	Our response
Girls ETE YOS interface with social care	Planned or on long list for 2021-2022
ROTL Child-first approach ISS provision Sexually harmful behaviour Young people as victims and perpetrators Domestic abuse Appropriate adults Participation	For future consideration
County lines	Could be considered for a research project
Resettlement - the role of all partners	The joint resettlement thematic for boys completed in 2019 provided an indication of where partner services could improve

Consultation questions – research projects

2. We welcome views on our proposed research projects.

There was support for the research topics proposed for 2020-2021, especially suicide and self-harm, and trauma-informed practice for adults, though there was a request for us to look specifically at how the co-existence of trauma and brain injury and learning disabilities is managed among those aged 18-24 years.

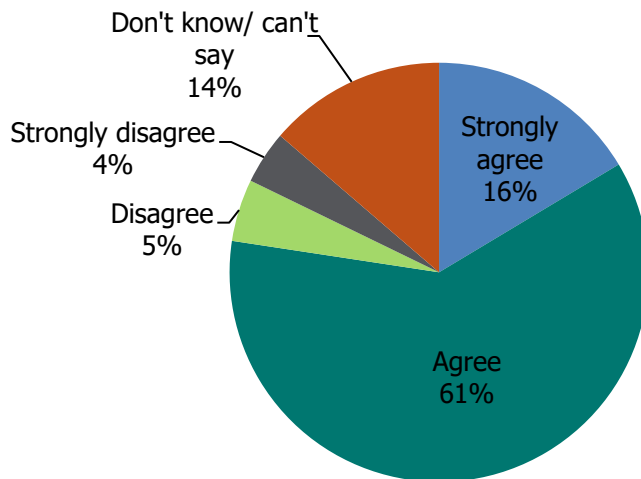
3.2 A wide range of potential research projects were suggested in addition, as outlined below.

Proposed topics for research projects	Our response
<p>Effectiveness of community orders</p> <p>Interventions most effective at reducing offending</p> <p>Effectiveness of audit frameworks</p>	These best fit within the MoJ/ HMPPS research programme
Maturity	Focus for an Academic Insights paper
<p>Participation</p> <p>Quality of pre-sentence reports in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mental health and vulnerabilities • maturity • trauma • caring responsibilities. 	We published a Research and Analysis Bulletin in 2019 on participation and another in 2020 on the quality of pre-sentence reports
Inter-relationship between inspection approach and child-first	This is being investigated as part of the review of our youth standards framework
Recalls	Recall thematic completed 2020
<p>Sentencer confidence</p> <p>Measuring probation-specific input to outcomes</p> <p>Effectiveness of models of administration support to frontline delivery</p> <p>PSRs and trauma-responsive services specifically for youth</p> <p>Types of intervention that develop 'soft skills' such as confidence, resilience, self-esteem etc</p>	For future consideration

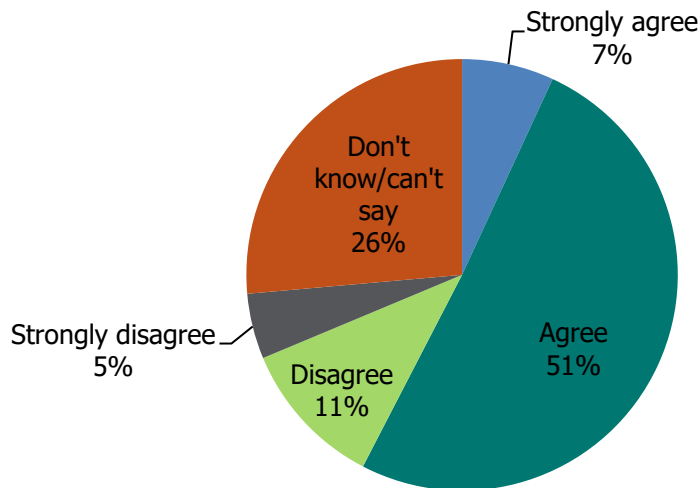
4. Stakeholder feedback

- 4.1 To complement the statutory consultation, we gathered feedback from stakeholders over the summer of 2020 on their perception of the Inspectorate on five key aspects of our operation.
- 4.2 The following figures are based on the responses of 146 stakeholders, 81 per cent of whom were from YOTs (51 per cent), National Probation Service (21 per cent) or Community Rehabilitation Companies (9 per cent).

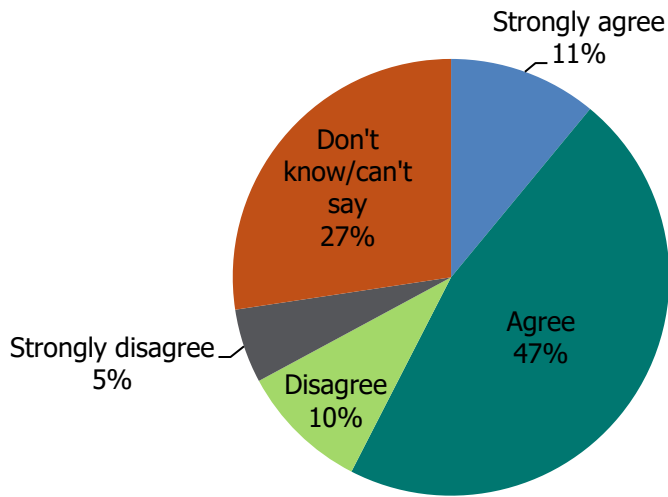
HM Inspectorate of Probation is independent and speaks independently



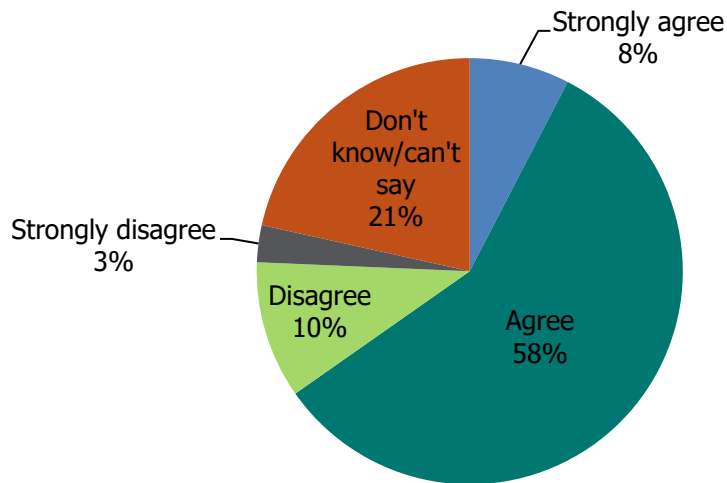
HM Inspectorate of Probation reports lead to improvements in probation practice



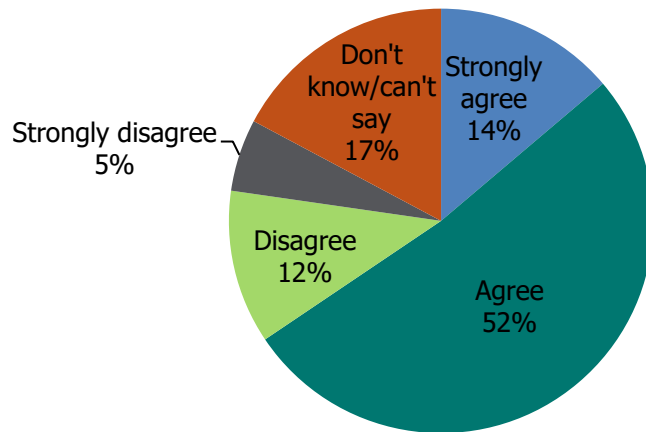
HM Inspectorate of Probation reports lead to improvements in youth offending practice



HM Inspectorate of Probation impacts on policy development



HM Inspectorate of Probation adds to the evidence base



- 4.3 While we appear to demonstrate our independence sufficiently, we have taken particular note of the feedback on the impact on our reports. In an effort to improve this, we have committed to an analysis of our 'audiences' in 2020 with a view to reviewing the content, structure and marketing of all Inspectorate products. The recommendations from this analysis will be applied to our updated inspection approaches in 2021.