



Her Majesty's  
Inspectorate of  
Probation

Response to the consultation on  
HM Inspectorate of Probation's inspection  
framework and programmes for 2022-2023

HM Inspectorate of Probation, June 2022

# 1. Introduction

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- 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 consultation covered our proposed plans for the period 2022-2023 and included some additional proposals for 2023-2024.
- 1.2. The 2022-2023 consultation letter was issued on the 18 March 2022, setting a deadline for responses of 26 April 2022. The [consultation letter](#) was also published on our website.
- 1.3. The consultation set out the following consultation questions:

## *Consultation question – future inspection proposals*

1. Do you agree that we should develop a programme of routine inspection for Approved Premises? If so, what would it be important to focus on?
2. Are there any other areas of probation delivery that are not currently covered by our inspection programme that you believe we should add (should resources be available)?

## *Consultation question – thematic inspections*

3. Do you have any alternative proposals for thematic projects for 2022–2023 and/or 2023-2024?

## *Consultation question – research projects*

4. Do you have any alternative proposals for research projects for 2022–2023 and/or 2023-2024?

- 1.4. For 2022-2023 thematic inspections and research projects, we provided the following guidance to respondents:

*The projects described are those we intend to conduct unless an exceptional case is made by respondents. Where alternative suggestions are proposed, please outline the following in support of your proposals:*

- what is the compelling evidence to suggest your proposal needs to be covered by HM Inspectorate of Probation, as a thematic or research project, in this next financial year?
- if you offer more than one proposal what priority order do your suggestions take and why?
- which project(s) would you replace with your proposal(s) and why?

- 1.5 For 2023-2024 thematic inspection proposals we provided the following guidance to respondents:

*We welcome your comments on the relative prioritisation of the topics described above as well as further proposals for thematic topics for 2023/2024. Please outline the following in support of your proposals:*

- what is the compelling evidence to suggest your proposal needs to be covered by HM Inspectorate of Probation, as a thematic, in 2023-2024?
  - if you offer more than one proposal what priority order do your suggestions take and why?
- 1.6 This document summarises the responses received to the consultation request and sets out the decisions made by HM Inspectorate of Probation in response.

## 2. Future inspection proposals

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Question	Post-consultation decision
Do you agree that we should develop a programme of routine inspection for Approved Premises? If so, what would it be important to focus on?	Six respondents warmly welcomed the proposal and provided helpful advice on what to include in the programme from referral through to resettlement. Work has commenced on our proposed approach.
Are there any other areas of probation delivery that are not currently covered by our inspection programme that you believe we should add (should resources be available)	One respondent proposed that youth remand should also be subject to routine inspection. We will include this topic for thematic review in 2023-2024.

### 3. Summary of HM Inspectorate of Probation priorities for 2022-2023

	Question	Post-consultation decision
1	<p><b>Thematic inspections</b></p> <p>Do you have any alternative proposals for thematic topics for 2022-2023?</p>	<p>There was overwhelming support from respondents to our proposals for thematic inspections in 2022-2023.</p> <p>The thematic programme for 2022-2023 now includes:</p> <p><b>Probation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Offender Management in Custody (OMiC)</b></p> <p>A joint thematic with HM Inspectorate of Prisons looking at how the new OMiC model is embedding in practice.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Meeting the needs of victims in the CJS</b></p> <p>This joint inspection will focus on the quality of communication and support for victims at each stage of the criminal justice system. HMICFRS will lead with HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Crown Prosecution Inspectorate (HMCPISI) as partners.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Extremism</b></p> <p>This joint inspection will build on recent reviews and include a focus on the implementation of the new probation national security directorate and case management arrangements for this cohort of people on sentences supervised by probation. HM Inspectorate of Probation will lead with HMI Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and HMI Prisons as partners.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Racial disproportionality within the CJS</b></p> <p>This review will include all justice inspectorates and will draw on recent separate inspectorate work by HMICFRS, HM Inspectorate of Probation and HMI Prisons. It will draw together findings and recommendations from these reports and look at disproportionality data from across the CJS. The work will be led by HMICFRS and will be a desktop exercise with no new HM Inspectorate of Probation fieldwork.</p> <p>The four projects described above are included as commitments in the <a href="https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/criminal-justice-joint-inspection-business-plan-2021-23/">Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Business Plan 2021/23 (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)</a>.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Domestic abuse</b></p> <p>We published a critical thematic review of Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) work on domestic abuse in 2018 but we continue to find issues around domestic abuse checks and the quality of supervision. This follow-up thematic will allow us to take a closer look at the data sharing/checking arrangements between probation</p> </li> </ul>

	<p>and police as well as the delivery and effectiveness of the Building Better Relationships programme and other interventions with this cohort. We will consider the potential for joint inspection through the joint inspectorate group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Race equality in probation</b> In March 2021 we published our thematic review of <a href="https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/race-equality-in-probation-the-experiences-of-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-probation-service-users-and-staff/">Race equality in probation: the experiences of black, Asian and minority ethnic probation service users and staff (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)</a>. Our concerns were such that we committed to revisit this thematic topic within two years of publication. We will be looking for evidence of significant progress in addressing our original thematic recommendations. This piece of work will take place towards the end of 2022-2023.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 Research</b> Do you have any alternative proposals for research projects in 2022-2023</p>	<p>Respondents welcomed our proposals: We will prioritise the following primary research projects:</p> <p>To continue into 2022/2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the implementation and delivery of community resolutions: the role of youth offending services</li> <li>• exploring the use of Contextual Safeguarding approaches by youth offending services.</li> </ul> <p>To begin in 2022/2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Probation interventions – the current landscape</b> As recognised in our inspection standards, the timely provision of a good range of high-quality services and interventions is at the heart of successful probation delivery, alongside strong local strategic partnerships and the critical relationships between individual practitioners and people on probation. There needs to be a strong mix of internal and external services, and of universal, targeted and specialist services, providing the necessary range and depth of intervention.</li> <li>• <b>Care-experienced children and/or young adults</b> In the <a href="#">Academic Insights paper 2021/11</a>, Dr Anne-Marie Day sets out a range of barriers and enablers to supporting children in care, impacting upon their positive development and life chances. While some potential solutions and recommendations are set out, it is clear that the evidence base needs strengthening in terms of promising strategy, approaches, interventions and casework.</li> </ul> <p>We will consider the value of any further research projects/activities that could assist with our planned</p>

thematic inspections or our potential future inspections of Approved Premises.

We will also continue to deliver our other research activities as set out on our [website](#), including secondary analysis of our inspection data – this includes analysis of matched inspection and reoffending data.

We will continue to commission leading academics to contribute to our Academic Insights series. These publications will present key insights on selected topics, assisting with informed debate and aiding understanding of what helps and what hinders probation and youth justice service delivery. The topics already commissioned include:

- trauma informed practice and desistance (youth justice)
- a framework for relational working in youth justice
- child to parent violence
- professional curiosity
- justice capital
- women
- attachment theory
- growth model
- resettlement
- professionalism and probation
- older people on probation.

## 4. Summary of HM Inspectorate of Probation thematic priorities for 2023-2024

### Post-consultation decision

#### Question

#### Thematic inspections

Do you have any alternative proposals for thematic topics for 2022-2023?

We consulted on the following long list of topics:

#### Probation

- Women
- PQUIP, recruitment, retention and training of probation practitioners
- Probation middle managers
- Probation interventions
- Safeguarding children
- Pre-sentence reports

#### Youth

- Children's services and their links to youth offending teams
- Youth remands
- Out-of-court disposals
- Release Under Investigation, youth justice delays and waiting times

There was general support for our proposed topics and a small number of further suggestions.

Our thematic choices are based on the following criteria:

1. Has this been identified as an ongoing area of weakness/concern in our core inspections?
2. Is this a ministerial priority?
3. Are there major change programmes or major national changes being applied to the operating model that require external oversight and assurance?

Based on these criteria and our competing resource demands, we will include the below inspections in our 2023-2024 thematic programme:

#### Probation

- Women known to probation services
- Quality of Leadership and Management Oversight/supervision
- Young adults on probation and YOT to probation transition

#### Youth

- YOTs and children's social care
- Youth remands (MoJ commission)



## 5. Summary of responses

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5.1 We received 18 responses from the following respondents:

- Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Probation
- MoJ Youth Justice Policy Unit
- Youth Justice Board (YJB)
- Youth Justice Alliance
- Estyn
- Care Inspectorate Wales
- Ofsted
- Probation Institute
- Jake Phillips
- Prison Reform Trust
- Association of Directors of Children’s Services
- Brighton and Hove YOS
- North Yorkshire YOS
- Sunderland YOS
- Somerset YOS
- Sefton YOS
- North Lincolnshire YOS
- Centre for Justice Innovation

5.2 In addition to the confirmed thematic topics outlined earlier in this document, the following additional topics were offered in response to the below question:

### Consultation question – thematic inspections

Do you have any alternative proposals for thematic projects for 2022–2023 and/or 2023-2024?

#### Probation inspection

A joint inspection with HMICFRS on data sharing between the Probation Service and policing  
We will include this as part of our domestic abuse thematic inspection.

Unpaid work and how the reforms, recovery and additional funding are taking hold  
The quality of unpaid work delivery will be captured and reported on in every region within our proposed regional inspection standards from 2023-24

IOM for 2024-2025

We will consider alongside other priorities for 2024-2025

Contribution of probation services to multiagency work

This is reviewed and reported upon as part of our local Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) inspections

Practitioner and person on probation working relationship

Engagement with people on probation is reviewed and reported upon as part of our PDU inspections. (The organisation User Voice have been commissioned by HM Inspectorate of Probation to interview people on probation as part of each local PDU inspection over the next three years).

Support given to people serving indeterminate sentences on release from custody, and in particular people serving IPP sentences

We will note the Justice Select Committee IPP Review findings and consider alongside other priorities for 2024-2025

## **Youth inspection**

Restorative justice

We will consider alongside other priorities for 2024-2025

Serious youth violence

This has already been subject to an HMICFRS led joint inspection during 2021-2022 and will report in summer 2022

Child Exploitation

The above serious youth violence inspection considered aspects of this topic

Contextual Safeguarding

Will await the outcome of our current research project

YOTs contribution to literacy, numeracy and wider skills

We have recently published our joint inspection with Ofsted and Estyn of youth education, training and employment

- 5.3 In addition to the confirmed research projects outlined earlier in this document, the following additional topics were offered in response to the below question:

### **Consultation question – research projects**

Do you have any alternative proposals for research projects for 2022–2023 and/or 2023-2024?

#### **Research**

Probation caseloads

Will consider for 2023-2024 when we have collated further inspection data.

Participation – how service users see the link between inspection and the service that they receive

We will continue to support ESRC Collaborative PhD Studentship with the University of Nottingham on 'co-production and inspection'

The contribution of YOTs to prevention of offending

We will analyse matched inspection and proven reoffending data