Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:
Priorities for probation, rehabilitation and preparation for prisoner release in England and Wales
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 12th January 2027
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER LEGAL POLICY FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Key developments in release policy, rehabilitation and resettlement - implications for prisons, probation and the wider community**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor

9.25 **Prison conditions, safety and rehabilitation - inspection findings and priorities for improvement**
Senior representative, inspection
Questions and comments from the floor

9.50 **Leadership and operational delivery - managing regimes, sentence progression and readiness for release**
Senior representative, prison governors

10.00 **Preparing for release from custody - rehabilitation, resettlement and transition into the community**
changing release arrangements and implications for prison capacity, population management and sentence progression | prison conditions affecting preparation for release | violence, illicit drugs and drug-recovery provision | staffing and safety regimes | access to education, work, treatment and purposeful activity | resettlement planning as release dates change | assessment of need and preparation for accommodation, health, employment and family support | information handover to probation and partner services | preparing people with complex needs, women and those released following recall or remand | implications of the Independent Review of the Prison System for leadership, the estate, workforce and rehabilitation
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, rehabilitation
Senior representative, community
Senior commentator

10.20 Questions and comments from the floor

10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.45 Break

10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.00 **Public protection and professional practice - inspection findings on supervision and quality**
Martin Jones, HM Chief Inspector of Probation, HM Inspectorate of Probation
Questions and comments from the floor

11.25 **Workforce priorities - safety, professional confidence and the working environment**
Ian Lawrence, General Secretary, NAPO

11.35 **Probation delivery and reintegration after release - capacity, supervision and continuity of support**
capability and infrastructure for increased community supervision | caseloads, recruitment, retention and professional practice | risk assessment, public protection, victim notification and licence arrangements | court confidence in community sentences and supervision | information-sharing and multi-agency working across probation, health, housing, employment and voluntary services | accommodation, health and substance abuse support on release | education, skills and pathways into employment | continuity of support and implications for licence compliance and recall | professional standards, regulation and digital tools | tailored support for women, people with complex needs and those returning after recall
Jodie Beck, Head, Influencing, Switchback
Dr Caroline Watson, Deputy Medical Director, Specialist and Secured Services, Northamptonshire NHS Foundation Trust
Alex Clarke, Policy Officer, Working Chance
Senior representative, judiciary
Senior representative, local government

12.00 Questions and comments from the floor

12.20 **Next steps for prisons and probation services**
Kim Thornden-Edwards, Chief Probation Officer, England and Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Senior representative, prison system
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Legal Policy Forum