



Ministry
of Justice

Chris Philp MP
Parliamentary Under-
Secretary of State

Juliet Lyon CBE

Chair of the Independent Advisory Panel
on Deaths in Custody

John Bache JP

National Chair of the Magistrates Association
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10A Flagstaff House
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London
SW8 2LE

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29 October 2020

Dear Juliet and John,

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SENTENCE TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS

Many thanks for your letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, which has been passed on to me as the Minister with responsibility for sentencing.

Your support for Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTRs) is very welcome and is something this Government shares, as outlined in our recent Sentencing White Paper, 'A Smarter Approach to Sentencing'. You rightly identify that the number of treatment requirements remains low, especially numbers of Mental Health Treatment Requirements (MHTRs). Your point about Magistrates finding that suitable sentences may not be possible if the right treatment services aren't available is something we are working hard to resolve, alongside efforts to improve communication and partnership between health and justice professionals.

Through the Community Sentence Treatment Requirement (CSTR) Programme, great effort is underway between the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I), Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and Public Health England (PHE) to ensure that greater use is made of mental health, alcohol and drug treatment requirements as part of community sentences, when an identified health need means this is appropriate. The Programme is currently operating in courts across fourteen areas in England, with further rollout planned with the money already committed by NHSE/I for MHTRs in their 2019 Long Term Plan. This means we will achieve 50% coverage of mental health provision by 2023/24, but we need to go further with drug and alcohol treatment and are in conversation with DHSC and PHE colleagues about the potential for further substance misuse treatment places.

In addition to the significant funding already committed by NHSE/I in their 2019 Long Term Plan, MoJ intends to commit new justice funding to the CSTR Programme for 2020/21, for example for increased programme support. Funding routes beyond this, such as via Spending Review which you highlight in your letter, are being considered in light of the recent announcement that this year's Spending Review will last one year. The date for the Review has now been confirmed as Wednesday 25th November.

I would like to thank you for your continued support for CSTRs and welcome your involvement in ensuring ongoing roll-out is as effective as possible.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Philp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHRIS PHILP MP