

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO ALTERNATIVES TO CUSTODY

Terms of Reference

Our terms of reference are as follows:

“The Inquiry will examine, against the background of continuing increases in the prison population in the U.K, the adequacy and limitations of the current provision of alternatives to prison for adults and children convicted of crimes in the U.K., and the administration and levels of effectiveness of such alternatives, and make recommendations.

The Inquiry will examine in particular: -

- the specific provision of alternative sentencing options available to the courts;
- the factors which influence the use of alternatives in particular situations;
- the success of alternatives in protecting the public, reducing offending and punishing offenders;
- the current responsibilities for making alternative provisions available;
- the adequacy of the resourcing of alternative provisions;
- public confidence in alternatives;
- the adequacy of current data on alternatives and their outcome; and
- any other matters the Inquiry may think fit.”