

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(Postcode) \_\_\_\_\_

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

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Rt. Hon. \_\_\_\_\_  
Member of Parliament  
c/o House of Commons  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Rt. Hon. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROBATION: “KEEP PROBATION PUBLIC – KEEP PROBATION LOCAL”**

As a member of your constituency, I am writing to express my fears over the Government’s plans for the future of the Probation Service, as set out in its strategy paper ‘Transforming Rehabilitation’.

The Government wants to split the Probation Service into a small national probation agency and 21 government-owned companies; sell off the companies to the private sector; pay for the contracts via an untried payment by results model; abolish the existing 35 local Probation Trusts and prevent the Trusts from competing with the private sector to run the services they have run for the last 105 years.

Probation is a local service and gains its strength from its links with local authorities, police forces and the community and voluntary sector. The Government wants to break apart these successful local partnerships and replace them with a top-down bureaucratic national commissioning model. The Justice Secretary also plans to prohibit Probation Trusts from bidding to run the very work that my colleagues and I currently provide!

I am pleased that the Government’s Offender Rehabilitation Bill was amended in the House of Lords to require the Justice Secretary to bring his plans for Probation before both Houses of Parliament for ratification. I hope that you will support this amendment when the Bill comes to the Commons in the Autumn. The Government is ignoring all the warning signs and recommendations, and continue to bulldoze an untested path of privatisation for the service, at taxpayers’ expense both in terms of money and safety. Incorrect management of offenders could potentially put the public in danger.

I understand both NAPO and UNISON members in Probation have no confidence in the Government’s approach, and are campaigning to oppose the Government’s plans and to promote an alternative reform agenda for Probation, based on funding local authorities and/or police and crime commissioners to commission local solutions to offending and rehabilitation. You can read more about UNISON’s campaign at: <http://www.unison.org.uk/at-work/police-and-justice-staff/key-issues/probation-keep-it-public-and-local/home> .

I would be grateful if you could sign '**EDM 129 Reorganisation or Privatisation of Probation Service**' to show your support for the Probation Service and, if you share my worries, put my concerns to the Secretary of State for Justice. I hope that I can rely on your support for proper Parliamentary scrutiny of the Government's plans for Probation, when the Offender Management Bill comes to the Commons for vote later this year.

Privatising Probation – *what comes first: our safety or private companies' profits?* With the Serious Fraud Office having been called in to investigate G4S and Serco after it was revealed that they had both overcharged by up to £70 million on their contracts to monitor electronic tags in England and Wales; not to mention the G4S Olympics security fiasco, please do not put your constituents at risk or in danger. **Support the EDM 129, and also EDM 2012-13 No. 1084.**

I urge you to do all that you can to oppose the Government's plans and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)