



Probation quarterly ratings

Quarter 4, 2008/09

Introduction

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for agreeing and publishing performance ratings of probation areas/trusts as part of the regulatory framework for NOMS Agency. NOMS Agency produces quarterly data driven performance assessments for each probation area. The assurance and publication of probation area performance by the department is designed to ensure independence and transparency of the final performance assessments from NOMS Agency.

Understanding the ratings

NOMS Agency produces data driven assessments of performance for probation areas using an assessment framework that has been agreed with the department - the Integrated Probation Performance Framework (IPPF). This assesses the 42 probation areas in England & Wales by looking at performance in about 40 indicators. Performance is shown in the four domains that best describe the work of probation: public protection; offender management; interventions; and organisational capability, resource use and strategy. By comparing the performance in each metric against target and, where appropriate, against the national average, performance is graded into one of four bands. These bands are exceptional performance, good performance, requiring development, and serious concerns.

There is then opportunity for the ratings to be considered for moderation. A moderation proposal is submitted by NOMS Agency and is a request to adjust the data driven performance rating on the basis of additional non data driven evidence submitted by the Agency. Probation areas for which a moderation proposal was considered are marked with an asterisk.

Quarterly ratings

Key: Rating 4 = Exceptional performance Rating 3 = Good performance
Rating 2 = Requiring development Rating 1 = Serious concerns

Probation Area	Rating	Performance against last quarter
Avon & Somerset	4	No change
Bedfordshire	4	Improvement
Cambridgeshire	3	Improvement
Cheshire	4	Improvement
County Durham	4	No change
Cumbria	4	No change
Derbyshire	4	No change
Devon & Cornwall	3	Improvement

Probation Area	Rating	Performance against last quarter
Dorset	2	No change
Dyfed Powys	4	Improvement
Essex	4	No change
Gloucestershire	4	No change
Greater Manchester	4	Improvement
Gwent*	2	No change
Hampshire	4	Improvement
Hertfordshire	4	Improvement
Humberside	4	No change
Kent	3	No change
Lancashire	4	No change
Leicestershire	4	No change
Lincolnshire	4	No change
London	1	No change
Merseyside	3	No change
Norfolk	4	Improvement
North Wales	3	Improvement
North Yorkshire	4	Improvement
Northamptonshire	4	No change
Northumbria	4	Improvement
Nottinghamshire	4	No change
South Wales	3	Improvement
South Yorkshire*	3	No change
Staffordshire	2	No change
Suffolk	4	Improvement
Surrey	4	No change
Sussex	4	Improvement
Teesside	4	No change
Thames Valley	3	Improvement
Warwickshire	3	No change
West Mercia	2	Drop in performance
West Midlands	3	No change
West Yorkshire	4	Improvement
Wiltshire	4	No change

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