

18 April 2006

Letter from Andrew Bridges, Chief Inspector of Probation, to the Daily Mail:
serious further offences committed under Probation supervision

Sir,

Your front page article and leader on 17 April puts an incorrect interpretation on my comments about the 100 serious crimes per year committed by people on Probation supervision. Far from saying anything about being "proud" of this figure, I made the point myself that every one of these crimes is a major personal tragedy for those affected. My point in quoting what a "tiny percentage" they were of the 200k people under Probation supervision at any one time was to emphasise what a difficult problem this is to tackle. And my aim is precisely to drive up the quality of this work.

Far from being complacent on this matter, the Probation Inspectorate has striven in the last two years to redress the balance by ensuring that proper priority attention is given to the Probation Service's public protection responsibilities. On behalf of the taxpaying public we will continue to work hard to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. M. Bridges'.

Andrew Bridges
HM Chief Inspector of Probation