

Dear

We would like to invite you to be a founder member of our newly formed Campaign – “**CROPS**” -

**The Campaign for the Reinvigoration of the Probation Service,  
And for the increased use of Community penalties,  
And for the abolition of the “National Offender Management Service** [“NOMS”].And for an end to building new prisons esp “Titan” or “Mini-Titan prisons.”

**CROPS**’ has been started by us three ex-Probation Officers.

We refuse to submit to the terrible distortion, and virtual destruction, of the Probation Service which has taken place over the last 17 years.

The Probation service used to work with offenders on probation in the community, and by helping them with their problems very effectively were able to keep them from imprisonment.

We also worked with offenders during and after their prison sentences.

An effective probation order should cost about £3,000 per person per year: a prisoner costs between £30,000 and £52,000 per year.

Community Penalties do exist, but cannot be effective when they are run, as at present, by the prison-oriented “NOMS”.

“The National Offender Management Service” [NOMS] tries to put the prisons and probation departments under one roof : this is unworkable and vastly expensive [over £1 billion !].

The separate Prison and Probation Departments worked well at a fraction of this cost.

With NOMS out of the way, and with a return to the Traditional Probation ethos, Community Penalties could be effective again : voluntary Through and After Care under the same ethos way would help the prisons to work effectively.

Prisons are presently severely overcrowded, but were our suggestions carried out, about 25,000 of the 83,000 prisoners currently incarcerated could be treated in the community instead : the prisons would be freed to work properly with the remainder.

We are presently trying to raise the money to set up a website, and ask for a contribution of whatever you can afford: £10 is the norm, but if unwaged, or under supervision of the “NOMS” in any way , membership is free.

Will Watson, Martin Page, Chris Hignett. May 2009