

Prisons 2020

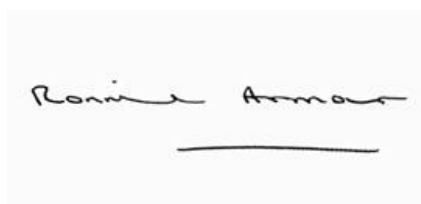
Over the past few months the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) has been reflecting on how we can best contribute to the delivery of the Executive's draft Programme for Government in the context of seeking to reduce reoffending. Outcome 7, Indicator 39 specifically focuses on reducing reoffending.

We believe that NIPS is in a unique position to contribute to the delivery of this indicator and I am writing seeking your views on how we should do so. Later this year we want to launch what we are calling Prisons 2020, a programme aimed at driving continuous improvement in NIPS that is focused on supporting individuals placed in our care by the Courts to change.

We believe that the work of NIPS should be focused on reducing reoffending by supporting people to change through rehabilitation, resettlement and reintegration into society. However, before formulating a programme of work for consideration by a future Justice Minister and Justice Committee, we want to have a discussion with our staff, partners and stakeholders about how we should shape that programme and what should be included in it.

The attached discussion paper summarises how we believe we should seek to reduce reoffending and I am inviting you to consider carefully the issues and questions we are raising. We would very much welcome your views on how NIPS should contribute to reducing offending as together we seek to make our community safe and a place where we respect the law and each other.

Thank you for your help.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Ronnie Armour" and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Ronnie Armour

**Director of Reducing Offending and
Head of the Northern Ireland Prison Service**