



Magistrates Association

13 April 2023

Susan Hall AM
Chair, Police and Crime Committee
London Assembly

Dear Susan,

We were pleased to read the recent report of the committee, "*Probation Services in London*". It is a timely and impactful report, and we were grateful to have been invited to contribute our members' experiences and expertise to the report.

I write specifically regarding Recommendation 3, which asks criminal justice partners and the MA to work together to monitor the use and effectiveness of pre-sentence reports (PSRs). We welcome and support the aims of the recommendation - continuous monitoring and evaluation of PSRs in London can only serve to enhance their effectiveness.

However, we wish to point out that the MA does not itself have access to the high-level data needed to monitor the use of PSRs, and that this data is held by others.

We think that local leaders from HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) would be better suited to provide a data-led comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of PSRs and to lead on this recommendation. As a membership organisation, we do not have access to, or collect, any data on PSRs, and we are generally not involved with operational discussions within HMCTS.

We are always happy to continue to offer the insights and perspectives of magistrates, based on their experiences in court; with over 12,000 magistrate members, we are well-placed to do so.

Thank you again for inviting us to contribute to this important report. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate on future investigations that are relevant to our areas of expertise. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can be of further help.

With all best wishes,

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