



Frances Crook
Howard League for Penal Reform
1 Ardleigh Road
London
N1 4HS

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RESUMPTION OF RELEASE ON TEMPORARY LICENCE (ROTL)

Thank you for your further email of 17 June about release on temporary licence (ROTL). I appreciate the frustration that prisoners and placement providers may be feeling at this uncertain time. HMPPS is working hard with Public Health England to support prisons to re-introduce ROTL as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so.

HMPPS is issuing Exceptional Delivery Models (EDMs) covering aspects of the prison regime as it moves through the stages of recovery detailed in the *Covid-19 National Framework for Prison Regimes and Services*. The EDM is a brief guide to governors on the high-level principles that must be incorporated into local Regime Management Recovery Plans, which must be submitted to their Prison Group Director along with a readiness assessment for approval before re-starting any element of the regime.

The ROTL EDM for external work placements from open prisons was issued to prisons on 7 July and offers advice to governors on how they should prepare, for example:

- Creating local plans for the phased reintroduction of workplace ROTL placements (aligned with the National Framework), including safe systems of work and processes to monitor the health of prisoners going out to work;
- Contacting employers to discuss recommencing ROTL placements, designing local policies/procedures to assess the effectiveness of placements' social distancing and other transmission prevention control measures; and
- Designing processes for ongoing monitoring of infection control measures in place at placements (and processes to cease ROTL if systems are found not to be safe).

We prioritised open prisons as the regime and staffing levels in open prisons are based on prisoners going out to work. Public Health England has provided additional guidance on reverse cohorting in open prisons specifically linked to external work on ROTL. They have advised that prisoners who are leaving an establishment on a daily basis to attend external work placements do not need to be reverse cohorted on return, provided that the establishment has assured itself that placements are operating effective social distancing and Covid-19 controls.

So far, two prisons have been approved to restart ROTL in the workplace and expect to start releases before the end of this month. We anticipate more prisons will follow shortly.

A further EDM covering wider ROTL (including for education) is being developed currently. HMPPS has determined that workplace ROTL in open prisons may resume because of the degree of control over the prisoners' activity and whereabouts that is possible in close co-operation with the provider. This is more

difficult with other forms of ROTL and HMPPS will need to resolve with PHE how to approach those challenges before the EDM can be issued.

I am sure you will appreciate the need for a cautious approach to recovery which must be carefully monitored every step of the way. The safety of prisoners and staff must be the priority, but we have not lost sight of the value of ROTL, and the contribution it can make to resettlement and reducing reoffending.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LUCY FRAZER QC MP