

keep it public – **keep it local**

PROB/07/2014

**WANT TO STOP THE SELL-OFF?**

4 July 2014

## **SIGN THE E-PETITION!**

UNISON is campaigning hard to stop the sell-off of the Community Rehabilitation Companies to the private sector later this year. Bids to run the CRCs had to be submitted by 30 June and we anticipate some news shortly about which bidders are left in the race.

The sell-off of the CRCs is not a foregone conclusion. The contracts will not be signed until much later in the autumn and there is plenty of time and opportunity to try to ensure that the CRCs stay in public ownership.

You have an opportunity to add your name to a petition opposing the sell-off which has been registered on the government e-petition web-site. The petition reads as follows:

### Stop Probation Sell Off

#### **Responsible department: Ministry of Justice**

‘On 1st June 2014 the Ministry of Justice closed down the Probation Service and split up its work between a new National Probation Service and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC's) for England and Wales. These reforms are costly, bureaucratic and unsafe. They are already causing chaos and are a threat to public safety. In October 2014, the Government wants to privatise the 21 CRC's. The private firms bidding to buy them have no track record in running probation. The MOJ has a terrible reputation for managing private sector contracts. This is a recipe for disaster, particularly for local communities which rely on probation to supervise dangerous offenders, help turn their lives around and keep victims safe. We call on the Government to halt the competition to sell the CRC's until after the general election, allow a democratic debate on this risky and unnecessary privatisation and for a pilot to be conducted to ensure that the proposals will reduce re-offending and are safe.’

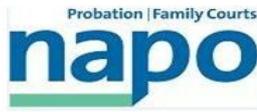
## **TAKE ACTION**

- Forward this link to the petition to your home e-mail address:  
<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/66795>
- Sign the petition
- Encourage 10 friends and family to also sign in support of you and your colleagues
- Ask friends and family to forward on the petition link to another 10 people to sign
- Spread the word using the social media links on the e-petition page

**If the petition gets 100,000 signatures, the Government is obliged to call a Parliamentary debate on it.**



# WANT TO STOP THE SELL OFF? COMPLETE THE UNION SURVEY



Please take the time to complete a short joint UNISON/Napo survey into the impact of Transforming Rehabilitation on your working life. Your views really are important and can make a huge difference.

The companies bidding for the CRC contracts will be acutely aware of the chaos that has surrounded the split of Probation Trust staff into the NPS and CRCs. The more that they learn about this shambles, the better; and you are best placed to tell them.

Please forward this link to the survey to your home e-mail address and complete the survey away from work. It will only take a few minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ProbationStaffSurvey>

**Don't Hold Back – Speak Out Now!**

## ESSENTIAL COVER FOR PROBATION STAFF

**Worried about your job under the government's probation reforms? Want to protect your pay and conditions? If you work in probation, and are not in a trade union, now is the time to join UNISON. We have many years experience of defending members in complex staff transfers and privatised workplaces.**

From  
**£1.30**  
a month

Every member, wherever they work, receives our full range of member benefits which includes:

- ◆ advice, support and help when you need it at work
- ◆ a helpline that is open until midnight
- ◆ \*legal help for you at work and your family at home
- ◆ financial assistance and debt advice in times of need
- ◆ compensation for accidents and injuries at work.

And we offer a range of exclusive member discounts that can save you and your family money when you are shopping, buying insurance or looking for a holiday.

And you get all this from as little as £1.30 a month – depending on how much you earn.



**UNISON – essential cover for you**

\*See [unison.org/tbr-members/legal-services/tbr-eligibility](http://unison.org/tbr-members/legal-services/tbr-eligibility)