



To: All MPs in England and Wales

**MoJ Ref:** ADR 086278

17 March 2021

Dear Colleague,

## **THE COMPULSORY ELECTRONIC MONITORING LICENCE CONDITION ORDER 2021**

This Government is committed to a smarter approach to sentencing. In the Sentencing White Paper published last year, we set out our plans to improve public protection and public confidence in the justice system and we are currently taking these plans through Parliament in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. This sits alongside our vital reforms and investment in strengthening the probation service.

However, we can begin to achieve these goals sooner through making better use of technology. I am pleased to be laying secondary legislation today which will allow us, for the first time, to target our GPS electronic monitoring capability at offenders who have committed acquisitive crimes when they are released from prison.

Starting in six police force areas, burglars, thieves and robbers serving a standard determinate sentence of 12 months or more will have their movements tracked for up to a year following their release from prison, using satellite-enabled location monitoring (GPS) tags. For some that will be their entire period on licence in the community. Through this we aim to deter further offending, better equip the police to investigate and apprehend or rule out suspects, and to support prosecutions.

This legislative power means that electronic monitoring will be compulsory for these offenders on licence, other than exceptional circumstances where an offender's health or personal situation make the use of a tag inappropriate. Using this power for the first time demonstrates our determination to make the best use of this valuable technology, to reduce crime and protect the public by bearing down on repeat criminals who are blighting our neighbourhoods: 51% of those convicted of theft (including burglary) and 29% of those convicted of robbery go on to reoffend within a year of release.

This joint endeavour between the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office and policing will see probation and police services working together to manage these offenders through the Integrated Offender Management scheme. The refreshed Integrated Offender Management strategy published last year, focuses on making communities safer by reducing neighbourhood crime through enhanced supervision of certain individuals responsible for a disproportionate number of crimes. Integrated Offender Management will be central to expanding the use of electronic monitoring for those who have committed acquisitive crimes.

After launching in the six initial areas, we intend to roll out to further Police Forces and corresponding Probation Delivery Units in England and Wales later in 2021, and will lay further legislation to do so. Taking this phased approach will enable areas out of scope of the project to form a control group so that the effect of this new measure can be robustly evaluated to assess the impacts on reoffending and its cost effectiveness.

By laying this Order we will be taking an important step in tackling acquisitive crime, something of grave concern to communities across the country.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kit Malthouse', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**KIT MALTHOUSE MP**