

Licence Recalls – Probation Chiefs Association Comment 30 October 2009

**BBC Radio 5 Live Drive programme summary of news interview with:
Peter Allen, Co-Presenter
Steve Collett, Vice-Chair, Probation Chiefs Association**

Licence recall information was released this week and Steve made the following positive points:

The latest information demonstrated the effective job that the Probation Service has been doing in enforcing post-release licence conditions. In 2008/09, out of nearly 13,500 recalls, there were only 178 individuals who had not been returned to custody.

While the performance of the Probation Service in initiating breach and licence recall is excellent problems are most likely to arise when the Police, upon receipt of a warrant, have difficulty in tracking down individuals in the community.

The overwhelming majority of offenders sent to prison will be released at some point on licence and those who are considered dangerous at the time of sentence will be released only after the Parole Board has considered that their risk can be managed.

The Service will always put the protection of the public first but risk can never be eliminated.

All agencies take licence recall seriously and local criminal justice boards monitor the overall performance of Police and Probation, sometimes down to individual cases.