



Jacqui Belfield-Smith  
Association of Youth Offending Team Managers  
Anthony Collins Solicitors  
134 Edmund Street  
Birmingham  
B3 2ES

8 August 2023

Dear Jacqui,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers to inform you about changes to high-end youth community sentences.

Several commitments to youth sentencing were made in the Sentencing White Paper; A Smarter Approach to Sentencing, published in September 2020. This included changes to the Youth Rehabilitation Order with Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (YRO ISS). The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022 enabled the piloting of these changes.

The pilot was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023. The aim of piloting these changes is to give both courts and the public confidence in the ability of these orders to act as a robust sentencing option, and to encourage their use as an alternative to custody. We believe that wherever possible children should be diverted from custody as evidence shows that, in general, community sentences are more effective at reducing reoffending and lead to improved welfare outcomes.

The changes to YRO ISS being piloted are:

1. the option to increase the maximum length of the extended activity requirement from six months up to 12 months; and
2. the mandatory use of the Electronic Whereabout Monitoring Requirement, often referred to as trail monitoring. Trail monitoring will enable Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) to request retrospectively information from the Electronic Monitoring Service (EMS) about the location of the child.

The new powers are available to sentencers for the duration of the pilot (18 months) and have been made available to all Courts. Children managed by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in the following 3 pilot English regions and Wales may be sentenced under the new powers.

- London
- West Midlands
- North-East
- Wales

We would like you to make members in your organisation aware of these new powers and when it is appropriate for them to pursue this option.

An evaluation of the new powers for YRO ISS sentences will take place to determine whether the new powers offer a viable alternative to custodial sentences and whether they should be rolled out nationally. We will be publishing the findings of the evaluation following conclusion of the pilot.

If you or your members have any queries about the pilot, you can contact the team at their email address [YROISSPilot@Justice.gov.uk](mailto:YROISSPilot@Justice.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Webster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a period.

Alan Webster  
Deputy Director  
Youth Justice Policy  
**Ministry of Justice**