

A decorative graphic in the top left corner consisting of several overlapping arrows in shades of green, blue, and red, pointing towards the center of the page.

Mr Phil Douglas
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12th September 2019

Dear Phil

I am writing in my capacity as the chair of the Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Advisory Group (RR3). I would firstly like to thank you for your time in attending the meeting of the RR3 on Thursday 5th September 2019 and providing an update on the Ministry of Justice's rapid internal review into sentencing.

I am writing to inform you that following further discussion at this meeting, the RR3 declined an invitation to participate in an interview to inform this review into sentencing. The group made this decision on account that the framing of the review assumes a presumption of longer sentences and that we felt the questions being posed do not adequately reflect the severity or complexity of the issues under review. The group is also concerned that the outcomes of this review could have a disproportionate impact on already disadvantaged groups and may be in conflict with the implementation of the Lammy Review recommendations and the Female Offender Strategy.

The RR3 advises the government on how best to reduce reoffending, and we do so by both using the latest robust evidence, and reflecting on our collective experience in running services that support people to desist from crime. We are not aware of any evidence that suggests longer prison sentences reduces reoffending, but we do know of a wealth of robust evidence showing early intervention, diversion and effective community sentences work. This is borne out from our direct experience of providing essential services in prisons and the community over very many years to some of society's most vulnerable people.

We would welcome the opportunity to consult on this issue more fully under the appropriate conditions, which would include a public terms of reference and a sufficient time frame that allows for a full and considered response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Fox'.

Anne Fox
Chief Executive Officer, Clinks