

TEMPORARY CHANGES FOR THE PROBATION SERVICE

The Probation Service imposes temporary deviations from ordinary procedures. Physical meetings between the Probation Officers and the clients should, to the extent possible, be avoided. This means that other communication means should be used to replace physical meetings at the probation office. The contact frequency will however remain the same as before. The Probation Officers will no longer visit clients at remand prisons, prisons or treatment homes. These precautionary measures have been taken in order to limit the spread of Covid-19. Below is a summary of the instructions given to the Probation Service. Please note that they are constantly updated and that this version was set 2020-03-26.

Treatment Programs

If possible, individual treatment programs should be completed, although the contact will be through Skype or Facetime. The content might have to be revised to fit the new communication means, and innovation and creativity is encouraged to give the clients best possible treatment. If possible to conduct treatment programs on distance through digital meetings, new programs can be initiated. If not possible, they should be postponed until further notice. Ongoing group programs are more difficult to carry on with. If nothing else works, the Program Officer can contact the clients individually for follow ups. Program Officers who also carry out treatment programs in prison settings can continue to do so, as long as it is in line with general recommendations.

Community service

The aim is that the work continues as usual, but that physical meetings with clients are avoided and replaced with Skype, Facetime or phone calls. Ongoing community service continues if the place of work remains open. Controls are done over the phone. If the place of work is closed, alternatives should be explored. Planning for of new community service cases will be ongoing.

EM and Extended Parole

Will continue as usual, physical meetings are replaced by Skype or phone calls. New EM cases will start as long as the client shows no symptoms of Covid-19.

Pre-Sentence Reports Continues as usual but over the phone.

Drug controls

Controls through urine samples should only be done when the safety of the Probation Officers can be guaranteed.