

In Malta, the Probation Services has introduced temporary changes in the way of working.

The Probation Services has introduced temporary telework to all staff. Some Probation Officers are working 4 days from home and 1 day from office on a roster basis. However, a number of staff have been granted full telework that is working 5 days from home, either because they are parents to young children or else because they reside with elderly parents who are over 65 years of age.

As for monitoring of offenders who have been given a community based sanction, these can only be reached by phone or email. There is no physical contact. On the other hand contact with inmates is carried out through Skype or phone depending on the situation. On the same lines, contact with other stakeholders and professionals is carried out through Skype, phone or email.

Probation Officers have a Whatsapp group chat whereby they can communicate on a daily basis. Phone and email are also used. Through these means of communication we assure that everybody is being reached.

For the time being Probation Officers are not carrying out any home or field visits. All community work has come to a halt and will resume at a later stage. As for court proceedings, since the courts are operating only in very urgent situations, Probation Officers are expected to go to court if summoned.