

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY M.R. HIGGINS OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 16th JULY 2019**

Question

Will the Minister explain in detail what measures are taken by forensic psychologists and others at H.M.P. La Moye to treat sex offenders, and what policies underpin that work; and will he further explain what the success rate has been?

Answer

Based on best practice, each individual prisoner is assessed on sentencing. Individual assessments are also conducted to establish motivation and specific criminogenic need. Pre-treatment assessment of sex offenders, uses the Risk Matrix 2000 (Thornton 2007) to determine ‘dose’ of treatment required and The Stable and Acute 2007 (Hanson & Harris 2007) to identify stable dynamic risk factors. These underpin stable dynamic risk factors used to create a formulation to identify criminogenic needs to be addressed in treatment. These vary from individual to individual and one-to-one therapy is ‘customised’ for optimum outcome. Interventions are undertaken working therapeutically on life history, offending history, detailed offence analysis, victim empathy, relapse prevention and coping strategies. This is based on current research and understanding of sex offender treatment. For others, where necessary, material is adapted in line with the prisoner’s learning style, level of intellectual functioning and areas of risk and criminogenic need. Sex offender treatment work is currently undertaken by 1.5 chartered forensic psychologists and one forensic psychologist in training. All sexual offenders are offered the opportunity to address their sexual offending behaviour, provided they have the capacity to engage and are motivated so to do. Those who are ‘not yet ready’ are encouraged to undertake motivational work with a psychologist as a precursor to undertaking sex offender treatment. Measurement of success is done by the psychologist’s assessment of the offender’s interaction during this work. SoJPS interventions are based on accredited programmes from Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in the UK.

The measure of success of interventions for sex offenders could come from an ongoing reconviction study of those sex offenders island-wide who are treated or remain untreated – incarcerated or who serve a non-custodial sentence – and who are not reconvicted, over various time frames. This should form part of a broader assessment of how interventions in both prison and probation deliver reduced reoffending.

Success is also measured by Jersey Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (JMAPPA) and their annual report provides a good summary of successful outcomes. Sex offenders are placed on the sex offenders register and managed by JMAPPA after release from Prison (a multi-agency risk management approach).

To strengthen supervision of all offenders at release a working group has been established to examine how post release supervision can be delivered to suit Jersey’s needs. This will allow all prisoners including sex offenders to be monitored on licence after release for a period of time to further reduce reoffending rates.