SUBMISSION 2 FROM COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY CONVENERS GROUP

I participated in the Public Audit Committee on 23 November 2011 along with Baillie Helen Wright, Community Justice Authority Convenors Group and Jim Hunter from North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority.

We have read The Official Report of the Public Meeting and would wish to offer the following comments/requests for amendment.

1  Column 269, Paragraphs 3 and 5
I stated in paragraph 3 that “over the past two years each CJA was given an additional £200,000 to invest specifically in women offenders”. Then, in paragraph 5, I also stated that “the £200,000 was a one-off sum this year and in 2010-2011.” In actual fact, each CJA was given £100,000 in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, not £200,000 each year. Can you please amend.

2  Column 269, Paragraph 6
I stated that the population of women offenders was about 200 and a target was set for reducing that to 100 by [the year] 2000. As Members know, we now have a record number of women offenders – more than 500. This reference to women offenders relates solely to women prisoners, there are many more women offenders than prisoners. I would request the reference to offenders be amended to prisoners.

3  Column 270, Paragraph 7
Jim Hunter states that “Women Offenders re-offending rate has always been higher”. This is incorrect. Re-offending rates for males is higher than that of females. Members of the Public Audit Committee may wish to refer to The Scottish Government Statistical Bulletin, Crime and Justice Services Report, Reconviction Rates in Scotland: 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Offender Cohorts that was published on 30 August 2011. In that Report Tables 3 and 4, respectively, provide details of the one year reconviction frequency and reconviction rates for males and females by age. There is further detail on reconviction rates of males and females in Tables 11 and 12 too. Any further detail on male/female breakdowns may be available from the Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services.

Anne Pinkman
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