We have analysed the Management of Offenders Bill and are in agreement with the majority of the proposals. With the continuous improvement of technology, the use of TAGs for monitoring offenders who are subject to Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPOs), Community Protection Orders (CPOs) and potentially drug and alcohol related orders, can only be a seen as a positive step in terms of improving the existing legislation. Our main concern regarding this bill however, is that the use of TAGs (although useful) should not be a replacement for a custodial sentence; TAGs should only be used in appropriate cases where a custodial sentence would be deemed disproportionate.

From a police perspective, prison visits are one of the best ways of encouraging a multi-agency approach and this has proved to be invaluable when dealing with certain individuals. One concern would be that, by allowing these individuals to be tagged and therefore remain in similar circumstances which may have brought their behaviours to the attention of the police in the first instance, this may prove to be more harmful in the long run (i.e. could increase re-offending). Overall however, we have no major concerns with this approach as an alternative, provided that due consideration is had before releasing prolific or serious offenders.

We are in agreement with the amendment of the disclosure period. This is a major cause of re-offending, as existing disclosure provisions significantly restrict an offender’s ability to gain employment and reintegrate as part of the community.

Kate Langley
Legal Researcher, Justice Solutions
Justice Department
British Transport Police
20 April 2018