

Court – Circular 14/1998

Extended Sentence

Social Work Staff at

Court

5.1.1 The importance of arrangements for the post-sentence interview of offenders by social work staff at courts, is recognised in both the existing Throughcare National Standards (paragraphs 29-30) and in more detail in the draft National Standards for Social Enquiry Reports (July 1998) (paragraphs 8.5-8.6 & 8.11). Offenders sentenced to a period of Extended Sentence should be afforded priority for this service. This will be particularly valuable in cases where the court has imposed a relatively short period of custody, together with a lengthy period on extended supervision which the offender may not have anticipated.

5.1.2 The purpose of this interview is to:

- < clarify the decision of the court and in particular the nature of the Extended Sentence
- < establish whether there are any immediate problems to be dealt with
- < inform the offender of the availability of social work services in prison and what contact to expect.

5.2 Clerk of the Court

5.2.1 It is the responsibility of the Clerk of the Court to forward to the Governor of the receiving prison a copy of:

- < the indictment;
- < the previous convictions libelled in court;
- < the social enquiry report and other reports such as medical reports
- < notification of the imposition of an Extended Sentence. Note that the offender may also be a Schedule 1 offender - if so, this fact should also be communicated to the Governor of the receiving prison.

5.2.2 As soon as the Judge's or Sheriffs report becomes available it should be sent by the Clerk of the Court to The Scottish Office Home Department, Parole and Miscarriages Review Division, Y1 Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD. PMRD will ensure that the Governor of the receiving prison also receives a copy of the report.

5.2.3 All of the above information is needed to enable the prison to comply with its duties in relation to the parole review; to provide the prison and the Supervising Officer with the information they need for sentence planning and treatment

programmes; and to ensure that the suitability of this group of higher risk offenders for home leave etc can be properly assessed in the light of all the relevant information