

# OFFENDER MANAGEMENT INSPECTION

RISK OF HARM INSPECTION MODULE

## CRITERIA

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## INTRODUCTION

The Risk of Harm Inspection Module Criteria are extracted from the OMI Criteria and cover the aspects of work to be addressed in the inspection (*General Criteria*) and set out the areas of specific evidence that should be provided either in advance or during the course of the fieldwork in the probation area concerned (*Specific Criteria*). References to a required standard relate to the NOMS offender management standards. A Glossary is provided below for all abbreviations used. The italicised term in Section 4 is explained in the “Terminology” at the end of the criterion. The criteria have been divided into three main sections:

**Section 1:           Assessment and Sentence Planning**

**Section 2:           Implementation of Interventions**

**Section 4:           Leadership and Strategic Management**

## GLOSSARY

CDRP	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
MAPP	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
NOMS	National Offender Management Service
OASys/eOASys	Offender Assessment System/electronic OASys (or an accredited successor assessment tool)
OMI	Offender Management Inspection
PPO	Prolific and other Priority Offenders
RoH	Risk of Harm
RoHIM	Risk of Harm Inspection Module
SMB	Strategic Management Board
YOT	Youth Offending Team

# 1. ASSESSMENT AND SENTENCE PLANNING

## 1.2 General Criterion: ASSESSMENT OF RISK OF HARM

*RoH is comprehensively and accurately assessed using OASys in each case and additional specialist assessment tools where relevant.*

### Specific Criteria:

- 1.2.a A timely OASys RoH screening is completed accurately at the start of sentence.
- 1.2.b A timely full OASys RoH analysis is completed to a sufficient standard in appropriate cases. It specifies the nature and level of risk to victims, the public, and staff.
- 1.2.c The OASys RoH classification – and the MAPPA classification if applicable – is clear, accurate and has been communicated to all staff involved in the case.
- 1.2.d All RoH assessments (OASys and specialist tools) draw adequately on MAPPA, other agencies' and previous probation/ prison service/ YOT assessments, and cover victim issues sufficiently wherever applicable.
- 1.2.e In appropriate cases a comprehensive and current risk management plan is completed using the required format. This is done within five working days of the order being made or of the offender being assessed as posing a high/ very high RoH, or prior to release in the case of licences.
- 1.2.f In high and very high RoH cases and in child safeguarding cases, there is evidence of effective higher and middle management involvement in the assessment.
- 1.2.g Arrangements are made for placement of high or very high RoH offenders in approved premises in cases where greater oversight of the offender is required to protect the public.

## 1.5 General Criterion: SENTENCE PLANNING

*The offender manager plans interventions in custody and the community with a view to addressing criminogenic factors and managing any RoH to others. The initial sentence plan or unpaid work assessment is designed to describe a structured and coherent plan of work for each offender.*

### Specific Criteria:

- 1.5.c The roles and liaison responsibilities of all workers – offender managers, offender supervisors, key workers and case administrators – in the community and custodial settings are clearly defined and understood.
- 1.5.d Where relevant, recommendations are made for restrictive licence conditions or community order requirements aimed at minimising RoH to others.

- 1.5.f A timely initial sentence plan draws on OASys, MAPPA, other agencies' and previous prison/ probation service/ YOT assessments. It meets the requirements of national and prison service standards. For cases involving custody, the plan systematically sets out what work will be done in custody and what on release.
- 1.5.g As applicable, interventions are identified to reduce/ contain RoH, address likelihood of reoffending, promote community reintegration and to meet the requirements for punishment included in the sentence.
- 1.5.h Plans are made to sequence interventions according to RoH and offending-related need, taking reasonable account of offender circumstances and abilities and issues relating to victims.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERVENTIONS

### 2.1 General Criterion: DELIVERING THE SENTENCE PLAN

*The offender manager facilitates the structured delivery of all relevant elements of the sentence.*

#### Specific Criteria:

- 2.1.a There is appropriate sequencing of interventions both in custody and the community, according to RoH and likelihood of reoffending. Work in the community builds on activity in prison, especially in relation to education and substance misuse treatment.
- 2.1.e Custody reports are clear and thorough, incorporating accurate RoH assessments, and contribute to decision-making processes within the required timescales.
- 2.1.j Transfers of cases between areas are handled according to national requirements. The movement of prisoners is communicated promptly to offender managers. Wherever possible, the planned movement of prisoners is consistent with the sentence plan and, where unplanned moves occur for operational or security reasons, these are communicated promptly to the offender manager.

### 2.2 General Criterion: PROTECTING THE PUBLIC BY MINIMISING RISK OF HARM

*All reasonable actions have been taken to protect the public by keeping to a minimum the offender's RoH to others.*

#### Specific Criteria:

- 2.2.a RoH to others is managed throughout as a high priority. It is thoroughly reviewed within the required timescales (at least every four months) and always following a significant change that might give rise to concern. There is ongoing planning to address RoH to children, the public, known adults, staff and prisoners. For custody cases, the offender manager and offender supervisor provide evidence of engagement with internal risk management processes.
- 2.2.b MAPPA are utilised effectively for appropriate cases, i.e. those where RoH warrants multi-agency involvement, including at key points in a custodial term.
- 2.2.c Offender managers and all other relevant staff contribute effectively to MAPPA processes including: by following through actions from MAPPA meetings and contribute to other multi-agency meetings as appropriate.
- 2.2.d Recall is used effectively and appropriately when an offender's RoH to others increases. MAPPA are involved as appropriate.

- 2.2.f Changes in RoH/ acute factors are anticipated wherever feasible, identified swiftly and acted upon appropriately to protect the public.
- 2.2.g A purposeful home visit will be carried out on a high/ very high RoH case within ten working days of sentence/ release and repeated as necessary to keep the offender's RoH to a minimum. Home visits are employed effectively to monitor children's safeguarding outcomes.

### 2.3 **General Criterion: VICTIMS**

*Consistent attention is given to issues concerning victims.*

#### **Specific Criteria:**

- 2.3.a **Victim safety:** High priority is given by the offender manager to issues of victim safety, where there is a direct/ potential victim, restrictive/ prohibitive conditions on an order/ licence concerning a victim, or concerns about children's safeguarding outcomes. Particular regard is paid to victims/ potential victims who could be deemed particularly vulnerable. In certain cases offender supervisors will have a role in promoting victim safety from a custodial setting by monitoring calls and working to prevent harassment from prison.

### 2.4 **General Criterion: ENSURING CONTAINMENT & PROMOTING COMPLIANCE (Punish)**

*Contact with the offender and enforcement of the sentence is planned and implemented to meet the required standards and to encourage engagement with the sentence process.*

#### **Specific Criteria:**

- 2.4.d The frequency of appointments or work sessions arranged conforms, at a minimum, to standards set down and to the requirements of the sentence. It is sufficient to meet any RoH considerations and also supports the achievement of sentence plan objectives.

### 2.6 **General Criterion: RESTRICTIVE INTERVENTIONS (Control)**

*Interventions are delivered to identified ends and to meet the requirements of the sentence: control.*

- 2.6.a All restrictive interventions are monitored fully and every reasonable action is taken to minimise RoH.
- 2.6.b Approved premises are effectively used for offenders who represent a risk of serious harm to the public and for whom the enhanced supervision of an approved premises pathway is indicated. If the area does not have its own approved premises, alternative suitable arrangements are made for offenders who pose a high/ very high RoH.
- 2.6.c Licence requirements are comprehensive and necessary. They are proportionate to the RoH, likelihood of reoffending and the protection of victims.

## 4. LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

### 4.1 General Criterion: LEADERSHIP AND PLANNING

*There is active leadership in the implementation of national policies via local policies and procedures which are regularly monitored and reviewed, through proactive planning with other key agencies, and by promoting the diversity agenda.*

#### Specific Criteria:

- 4.1.a The area's annual plan builds on national and regional plans, gives priority to Government objectives, is implemented consistently and regularly reviewed.
- 4.1.b Proactive planning develops policies and procedures supportive of agreed national and local objectives. These are communicated to staff at all levels of the organisation and regularly reviewed.
- 4.1.f *An appropriate strategic contribution is made to public protection.*
- 4.1.g Diversity issues are an integral part of the strategic planning and implementation process and are regularly monitored against agreed criteria.
- 4.1.i Action by NOMS supports and holds the area to account for its leadership and planning processes.
- 4.1.j Managers demonstrate professional management approaches and model positive leadership behaviour.

#### TERMINOLOGY

- ▶ *appropriate strategic contribution is made to public protection: e.g. via MAPPA SMB; CDRP; multi-agency arrangements for PPOs; Children's Safeguarding Boards.*