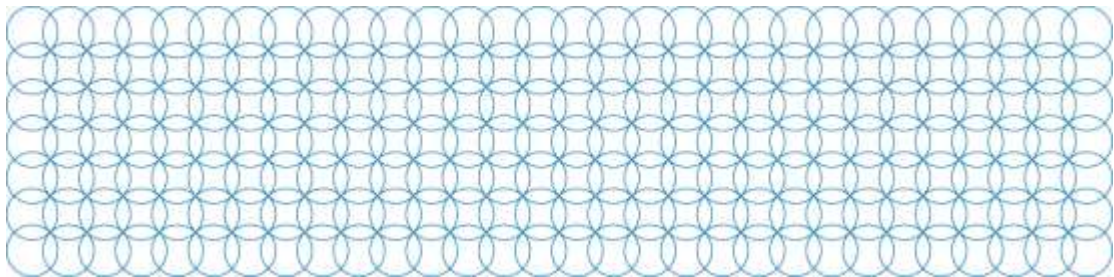




## **Transforming the consultation paper: delivering us another crack at it**

Consultation Paper

This next consultation begins sometime in the Autumn 2013



### Minister's Foreword



A fair and open Ministry of Justice consultation exercise should be the mark of a civilised country.

Unfortunately over the last few years the MoJ's consultation exercises have lost much of what credibility they had, if any, with the public. Taxpayers' money has been used to pay for frivolous consultations, to foot the bills of wealthy private contractors, and to cover consultations which run on and on racking up huge fees for a small number of consultants, far in excess of what senior public servants are paid, except for the ones identified in the FOI request.

Taxpayers' money has been used to pay for these consultation exercises when in reality it would have been better spent ensuring that three defendants in a murder case were brought directly to Winchester Crown Court from the prison 800 yards away rather than going via Portsmouth 35 miles distant thereby delaying proceedings for half a day.

When it came to the interpreters consultation outsourcing debacle no one thought to ask the interpreters in any language what they thought of the proposals.

Under this Government MoJ consultation exercises are spinning out of control daily.

We have one of the most extraordinary MoJs in the world.

There was a consultation exercise in April and now there will be another in the Autumn. All funded by hard-working tax payers.

What if the hokey cokey really is what it's all about?

The public is concerned about alien consultation exercises. I propose that future consultations must have been resident in reality for at least 12 months before being rolled out all over innocent taxpayers.

The principles which underpin these proposals are simple. The public is deeply concerned about consultation papers soaking up huge amounts of public money and giving the impression that the MoJ has no idea what it's doing.

I advocate the withdrawal of public funding altogether for consultations such as PCT which does not stand even a fat cat in hell's chance of success let alone anything approaching borderline.

The hardworking public pay for consultations and we must ensure a system which commands their confidence and spends their money wisely.

It can't be that difficult to run a consultation. You identify a central proposal which is fundamental to the whole concept advanced and you only abandon it when everyone on the planet is implacably opposed to it and you have to explain it before the Justice Select Committee.

For this new consultation Dr Gibby has again volunteered to take our message out to the country via a number of roadshows. We anticipate demand will be high so book early to avoid disappointment. Extra tour dates may be announced later if the new consultation goes well, which we expect it will.

We know that now choice has gone there is very little left on the agenda save for cuts,

prison law, JR, VHCC, the threshold, residence, experts and so much more. At the MoJ we like to consult early and consult often.

So don't miss this opportunity to consult. MoJ consultation exercises are not like buses. We come around more frequently and you can never get off.

We should like to take this opportunity to apologise for question 18 in our last consultation. We now appreciate that this question was completely absurd but the rest of that paper was not save for all the rest of the bits which were.

Anyway that's all water under the consultation now.

Let's all have another go at it and see how we can preserve the rule of law and justice in a free and civilised country.

We promise not to delete any of your emails this time round unless they have letters arranged as follows: MBTQC. We have very advanced spam filters. Sadly they don't filter out our own consultation papers as we have outsourced the software.

I look forward to hearing your views again until I next have to ask for them.

*Chris Grayling*



Our Motto:

*If you get it wrong you get it right next time.*