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|  | **Our Reference:** FOI 94074 |  | Nov. 14 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

You made the following requests to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

1. A summary of the material delivered as part of the new suite of SOTP’s (this includes the new SOTP devised by NOMS).
2. Details of the pilot for the new suite of SOTP’s including the sites at which the pilot is taking place, the number of places available on the programmes, and the number of programmes being delivered at those sites.

3. The timeframe for the piloting of those programmes.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In responding to this request, we have taken this to mean the mainstream programme under development for people convicted of a sexual offence or one with a sexual element that is being developed for delivery in custody and community settings.

With regard to your first question requesting a summary of the content of the new programmes

I can confirm that the new sex offender treatment programme consisted of a Hi and Low Intensity Programme that has been developed by a panel of experts and experienced practitioners from prisons and probation across the country. The Low Intensity Programme will not be pursued in its current format given NOMS decision to not routinely provide accredited sexual offending treatment programmes to low risk sex offenders. However, elements of the Low Intensity Programme could be used in the final version of the programme.

The High Intensity Programme aims to help people develop ways of thinking, as well as skills and behaviour, that reduce sexual reoffending and lead to more fulfilling, offence-free lives. The programme provides treatment in a safe, supportive and respectful environment, and encourages individuals to understand their offending, to recognise and build on their own strengths, and to involve support networks and other services to help build better, offence-free, lives.

The programme is intended to facilitate individualised treatment and be very flexible and the content is still under development following the outcome of the pilots, but will likely be tailored to the particular crime-related needs of the individual. It will likely include work on the following areas, depending on need:

1. Cognitive, or thinking skills such as problem solving, decision making, impulsivity and emotional management
2. Socio affective functioning, addressing some of the more complex psychological characteristics associated with sexual offending, such as aggrieved and hostile thinking and relationship dysfunction
3. Work on sexual interests, enabling people to meet their sexual needs through legitimate and non-abusive actions.
4. Work on helping people move forward in their lives in a positive way, promoting desistance from crime

With regard to your second question about the pilots of the new programmes, the pilots took place at a community site in the Midlands, and at HMP Bure prison. A small number of places were available on the pilots, and they have now ended or are in the process of being run down. This is because the objectives of the pilot have been met, and the programmes are being redeveloped in line with the findings. The community pilots were run at two locations and 20 people were placed on the programme in the community pilot. The programme run at HMP Bure prison, dealt with 29 people

Finally you asked about the timescales to which the pilots were run. I can confirm that the pilots started in 2013 and the community pilots ended earlier this year. The pilot at HMP Bure prison is in the process of closing soon for the reasons given above. Work is now taking place on the further development and refinement of the programmes. It is currently planned that the body that accredits such programmes, the Correctional Services Accreditation and Advisory Panel (CSAAP), will meet in February 2015 to consider the revisions.

You can also find more information by reading the full text of the Act (available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>).