

Policy name: Progression Panels for Indeterminate Sentences Policy Framework

Issue Date: 17 July 2025

Implementation Date: 17 July 2025

Replaces the following documents (e.g. PSIs, PSOs, Custodial Service Specs) which are hereby cancelled: N/A

Introduces amendments to the following documents: N/A

Action required by:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HMPPS HQ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Sector Prisons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heads of Group
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contracted Prisons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Probation Service
<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 18 Young Offender Institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other providers of Probation and Community Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	HMPPS Rehabilitation Contract Services Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	HMPPS-run Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs)

Mandatory Actions: All groups cited above must comply with the Requirements Section of this Policy Framework, which contains all mandatory actions.

For Information:

Governors must ensure that any new local policies that they develop because of this Policy Framework are compliant with relevant legislation, including the Public-Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act, 2010).

All references to 'Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP)' within this framework also refers to Detention for Public Protection (DPP). People in the community on probation or people in prisons are referred to throughout this framework as offenders. Any forum delivering the required business of a Progression Panel is referred to as a Progression Panel throughout this framework.

In this document the term Governor also applies to Directors of Contracted Prisons.

How will this Policy Framework be audited or monitored: His Majesty's Prison and Probation service (HMPPS) Prison Group Directors, the Director of the Probation Service and Director of HMPPS in Wales will monitor compliance with the mandatory requirements set out in this framework. HMPPS contract management will hold providers to account for the delivery of mandated requirements as required in the contract.

Resource Impact: Probation Service IPP progression panels are already in place largely within the community, and within prisons in smaller numbers, and so will be in a position to comply with this framework. The requirements laid out in this policy framework will revise and build on current processes and practices.

Compared to current guidance which informs practice, which is un-resourced, the resource impact of implementing this policy framework will result in additional pressures on offender managers, although this is relatively small. There is additional burden on SPOs and Psychologists, and reduced burden on Admin and on senior staff.

The Custodial impact will be concentrated in those prisons who hold IPP offenders. The impact will vary in accordance with this cohort.

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Approved by OPS for publication: Helen Judge, Chair, Operational Policy Sub-board, July 2025

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 Progression panels are multi-disciplinary meetings which ensure that those serving indeterminate sentences (life and Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP)) are on the appropriate progression pathway with access to appropriate interventions. Panels will ensure that any emerging or current issues are identified, managed and, where possible, overcome appropriately.
- 1.2 Progression panels will take place in custody only for IPP offenders. Many in the IPP cohort possess complex needs, are considerably over-tariff and are disengaged with their sentence plans. Progression panels are key to ensuring that IPP offenders have and maintain a clear and appropriate pathway for their progression towards a prospective safe release.
- 1.3 Progression panels will also take place in the community for all indeterminate sentenced offenders (life and IPP sentences). Community panels will focus on supporting safe reintegration into the community and reducing the likelihood of recall, whilst enabling progression towards suspension of supervision at the earliest opportunity and, for IPP offenders, also termination of licence.

2. Evidence

- 2.1 An internal review completed in February 2023 indicated that more could be done to clarify the expectations for when IPP and Lifer progression panels take place, as they are not always taking place when they should. When they are held, there is often insufficient preparation and a lack of consistency around their organisation, attendance and recording. Subsequent to the report, the data on panel completions indicates those inconsistencies remain. As of 26 October 2024, just 452 of nearly 2,700 IPP prisoners, and 1,300 of just under 3,000 IPP offenders on licence have had a Progression panel within the last 12 months. This calls for a new overarching Policy Framework for both IPP and Lifer panels, serving to clarify when panels should be undertaken and their purpose at different points in an offender's sentence.
- 2.2 On 14 December 2023, HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) published its thematic review of IPP recall. Whilst the inspectorate found that HMPPS were taking proportionate and necessary decisions to recall IPP offenders for public protection, it also found evidence in some cases of insufficient support provided to the offender in the lead up to the recall decision which, if addressed, might have led to a different outcome. The inspectorate published several recommendations including one on improving the use of progression panels: -
 - *“ensure that those serving IPP sentences are actively managed through multi-agency forums, either by refreshing the approach to IPP progression panels, or by using MAPPA level 2 or 3 to manage more of those on licence.”*
- 2.3 As part of the Government's response to the Justice Select Committee's report into the IPP sentence, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation to review the IPP Action Plan, the outcome of which was shared with the Committee on 26 April 2023. The Letter to the Committee from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice on the Imprisonment for Public Protection Action Plan is accessible here ([parliament.uk](https://www.parliament.uk)). The refreshed action plan was published in the 2023/2024 Annual Report¹ on the IPP Sentence

¹ HMPPS Annual Report on the IPP Sentence 2023 to 24: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmpps-annual-report-on-the-ipp-sentence-2023-to-24>

in November 2024. This Policy Framework contributes to the 'Progression through the HMPPS system' workstream within the Action Plan.

3. Outcomes

- 3.1 HMPPS staff understand the purpose of progression panels and when one is required.
- 3.2 Progression panels are held at the required points in an indeterminate sentenced offender's sentence.
- 3.3 Progression panels are held at the right time to consider milestone events, for example, sufficiently ahead of the earliest point that suspension of supervision or termination of an IPP licence may be considered.
- 3.4 HMPPS staff prepare fully for progression panels to support meaningful discussions and effective decision making. Progression panels are administered correctly, supported with a clear agenda produced.
- 3.5 Enabling offenders to have a voice in their progression, by providing an opportunity to engage and contribute to the panels.
- 3.6 Appropriate HMPPS staff and wider partner agencies attend Progression Panels, and the panels are supported by quality reports and evidence.
- 3.7 The reasons for, and outcomes of, Progression Panels are correctly recorded, and actions carried out.

4. Equalities Considerations

- 4.1 The Equality Act 2010 provides protection from unlawful discrimination in relation to the following characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity (which includes breastfeeding), race, religion or belief, sex, marriage and civil partnership, and sexual orientation.
- 4.2 HMPPS is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination, to promoting equality and diversity, and to ensuring equal access to services. No child or group of children should be disadvantaged in being able to access services which meet their needs. HMPPS recognises that all children have a right to equal protection from harm and abuse. This includes protecting children irrespective of cultural sensitivities: different practices or beliefs are no excuse for child abuse and neglect.
- 4.3 There is a potential for unconscious bias in decision making, therefore it is recommended that HMPPS staff who are involved with working with offenders undertake Diversity and Inclusion Training. This training can be found on the Diversity and Inclusion learning and development hub².
- 4.4 For IPP women, staff should consider consultation with the Women's Estate Psychology Services (WEPS) as part of the IPP Community Pathway to support any decision-making process (with regards to suspension, reduction of frequency and termination). Where there is active consultation with WEPS under the IPP Community Pathway, the consultation

² Link: Diversity and inclusion learning and development hub

process can be utilised for support during the decision-making process (with regards to suspension, reduction of frequency and termination).

- 4.5 Guidance on the Language Services available to the Probation Service is available on Equip. This includes translation, transcription, braille services and interpreting services (including British Sign Language).

5. Progression Panels Overview

- 5.1 A progression panel is a multi-disciplinary meeting delivered to support and manage the progression of those serving indeterminate sentences, which must consider the following:
- Is there an appropriate progression pathway identified?
 - Is the offender able to access the required interventions or services?
 - Are all reasonable steps to mitigate any barriers to progression being pursued?
 - Are they suitable, where eligible, for Parole Board consideration for suspension of supervision, or licence termination (in IPP cases only)?
 - Does the offender have any protective factors in the community and what are they (accommodation, family, job, etc)?

6. Frequency of Progression Panels

What staff must do

- 6.1 Staff must be flexible when scheduling panels to ensure they take place around the needs of the offender, both their assessed needs and their presenting needs. To ensure the best use of resources, where other key meetings are taking place, such as sentence planning meetings, these can be combined to also cover the purpose of a Progression Panel, where deemed appropriate. Likewise, where the minimum frequency and circumstances align (see below) these can be combined into a single panel to ensure the best use of resources.

Frequency of IPP Panels

Prison IPP Panels

- 6.2 To focus attention and resources on the most complex and challenging IPP and DPP cases, prisons must use an offender's RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating to convene panels as follows:
- Red – an annual panel.
 - Amber – a panel every 18 months.
 - Green – a panel only following a negative parole outcome (i.e. no release). In these cases, their progression can be managed via sentence planning meetings unless Prison or Probation feel that a panel is necessary.
- 6.3 In addition to the requirements at 6.2, progression panels in prisons must also be convened for all IPP offenders in the following circumstances:
- Within six weeks of a negative Parole outcome (i.e. no release).
 - Within 28 days of returning to custody, following recall.
 - Where an offender has adverse development in open or has been recategorized to a higher security category.
 - When an offender is remitted back from secure hospital to prison.

- 6.4 A panel for the purposes outlined at 6.3 should only be held where deemed necessary and when another recent or approaching panel cannot fulfil this purpose. An offender's RAG rating is reviewed regularly (see 6.13) and can change based on any new circumstances, information or incidents, which will affect the required frequency for panels as outlined at 6.2.

Community IPP Panels

- 6.5 The first Progression panel must be convened within three months of release for all IPP offenders. This panel must include consideration of required move-on accommodation from Approved Premises where relevant.
- 6.6 Thereafter, progression panel frequency will depend on the offender's RAG rating as follows:
- Amber – an annual panel or at the key stages outlined below.
 - Green – a panel at the key stages outlined at 6.7 below.
- 6.7 In addition to the standard required frequency, staff must also convene a panel where there is a significant event or change in behaviour, as follows:
- A deterioration of behaviour/compliance or an escalation of risk which does not meet the threshold for recall (i.e. moves from Green to Amber RAG rating),
 - Where appropriate, when recall is being considered,
 - Ahead of reduction of frequency of supervision, consideration for suspension of supervision, reimposition of supervision and referral for IPP licence termination.

Frequency of Lifer Panels

- 6.8 Life sentenced offenders are not RAG rated and so the frequency of panels is not driven by this in the same way that it is for IPP panels outlined above. Lifer progression panels, are only required for offenders on licence in the community at the following stages:
- a. Initial panel review within three months of release into the community. This must include consideration of required move-on accommodation from Approved Premises, where relevant.
 - b. Annual reviews for all cases from the date of the initial post-release panel.
 - c. Where there has been a significant change in circumstances as described at 6.9 below.
- 6.9 The significant events or changes in behaviour which would trigger a further panel are as follows:
- A deterioration of behaviour/compliance or an escalation of risk which does not meet the threshold for recall.
 - Where appropriate, when recall is being considered.
 - Ahead of reduction of frequency of supervision, consideration for suspension of supervision or reimposition of supervision.
- 6.10 Where a Life sentence offender is not under active supervision, no panels are required unless supervision is reinstated.

What staff should know

- 6.11 Where the progression panel is convened for any reasons outside of the standard required frequency, the next scheduled panel date can be changed to fall back in line with the standard required frequency
- 6.12 Annex A outlines the key considerations and timings for IPP and lifer progression panels.
- 6.13 As part of the IPP Delivery Plans, all Area Executive Directors and Executive Directors of the Long-Term High Security Estate, the Women's Estate and Contracted Prisons have implemented a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating system, which produces a RAG rating for each IPP in custody and the community. Each rating is reviewed every six months. The RAG rating identifies the level of progress a case is making. Further information on RAG ratings can be found in the accompanying progression panel guidance document.

7. Organising a Panel

What staff must do

- 7.1 All progression panels must be organised in line with the requirements set out at 6.1 - 6.10. See Annex A for further details on the objectives for different panel purposes.
- 7.2 When convening progression panels, staff should consider any adjustments required under the Equality Act 2010 and, where appropriate, make reasonable adjustments to ensure the meeting is accessible to all attendees. A request for any required adjustments should form part of the progression panel invite. Staff must consider any issues such as where English is not the primary language, or where learning disabilities or neurodiversity may prevent the attendees from understanding what is required of them.
- 7.3 Considerations must be given to the requirements of cases where greater oversight may be required. This may be due to increased risk, for example where there are safety concerns that the prisoner is a risk to themselves or others. Vulnerabilities may be heightened in cases, for example, surrounding transitions from open to closed, or following recall. For those in the community, greater oversight may be required when panels discuss the possibility of, or alternatives to, recall.
- 7.4 Prisons must organise panels for custodial cases, liaising with the Probation Practitioner as necessary. They must consider a suitable location for the key attendees, whether that be in person, virtual, or using a blended approach.
- 7.5 In the community, Probation Delivery Units (PDUs) will arrange progression panels for community cases and must consider a suitable location for the key attendees, whether that be in person, virtual, or using a blended approach.
- 7.6 The Senior Probation Officer (SPO) or Head of Offender Management Delivery (HOMD), in discussion with the responsible practitioner³, must also consider whether there are any cases that they feel should be reviewed more often than the standard required frequency. When considering this, SPOs and HOMDs must take account of the number of indeterminate sentenced cases under each practitioners responsibility.

What staff should know

³ The responsible practitioner is the person who leads on the case, in line with the OMic Model. This will either be the POM or the COM.

- 7.7 This framework does not require panels to be held as isolated, individual events. There is flexibility for progression panels to be grouped to consider multiple individuals in one meeting. This may include multiple IPP cases in one prison, or multiple IPP or lifer cases in the community within the same PDU. The right members of staff will need to be in attendance for each of the cases considered. However, grouping progression panels should only be considered where it will not cause delays for the panel to be held, and therefore not delay the offender from accessing interventions or taking any necessary next steps following panel consideration.
- 7.8 A custody progression panel for an IPP prisoner (for both never released and recalled cases) could, in some circumstances, be absorbed into other formal meeting structures such as sentence planning meetings, or other suitable forums for which outcomes must be recorded. Where a panel is combined, staff must ensure that the right members of staff and partner agencies are in attendance, the correct reports and evidence are prepared for the meeting, the required business for the progression panel will be discussed, and there is a record of the meeting made on relevant system (please see 10.7-10.9). A standalone progression panel in custody is only required when no other official forum can satisfactorily meet the minimum expectations (see 5.1), and attendance list for (see 8.4), of a panel. Where meetings are combined, the offender should be notified.

8. Panel Membership

What staff must do

- 8.1 All mandatory attendees must take part in progression panels. Additionally, there may be some other stakeholders who might usefully be invited in specific cases (Annex B provides a non-exhaustive list of potential stakeholders). To provide the best opportunity to achieve full attendance, panels should be scheduled appropriately in advance with recognition of attendees' availability to ensure panels are not delayed.
- 8.2 The offender must be involved in all progression panels. Best practice would be for them to attend the panel, where possible, unless there are safety or disruption concerns. However, where that is not possible, the offender must be able to both input views into the panel (see 9.4) and receive a debrief of the Panel outcomes afterwards (see 10.5 and 10.6). Reasonable adjustments must be considered.
- 8.3 In custody, the responsibility for chairing the progression panels is determined by whether the POM or the COM is the responsible owner of the case, in accordance with the OMIC Model. For offenders under the responsibility of the POM, the panels must be chaired at least at HOMD level. For offenders under the responsibility of the COM, the panels must be chaired at least at the nominated community lead SPO level. An alternative approach to chairing prison panels across an HMPPS area can be implemented, but only where a) the level of seniority is the same or higher, and b) where there is formal agreement by the AED to do so.

In the community, progression panels must be chaired at least at the nominated PDU SPO level.

Custody Panels

- 8.4 Core mandatory attendance at prison progression panels:
- HOMD
 - Nominated Lead SPO

- Community Offender Manager (to present the case where the prisoner is under their responsibility);
- Prison Offender Manager (to present the case where the prisoner is under their responsibility);
- Psychology Services Representative
- Community Case Administration Officer (secretariat) support for the meeting, unless otherwise agreed that the prison OMU will provide administrative support for the meeting.

Further details can be found in Annex B, including recommended additional core members and optional attendees.

Community

8.5 Core mandatory attendance at community progression panels:

- Nominated Lead PDU SPO
- Community Offender Manager (COM) to present the case
- Psychology Services Representative (where HMPPS Psychologist is involved in through the gate support provision)
- Community Case Administration officer or diary manager (secretariat)

As above, further details can be found in Annex B including recommended additional core members and optional attendees.

What staff should know

- 8.6 It is important that a broad range of people involved in the offender's case contribute to panels to ensure the outcomes are properly informed and understood.
- 8.7 Other relevant staff/stakeholders can join a progression panel if they are deemed to add value to the discussion. Practitioners may wish to consider, for example, inviting any relevant third sector representatives where they are actively working with the individual. Healthcare professionals should also be considered where they are contributing to the management of an offender.

9. Preparation

What staff must do

- 9.1 As part of the preparation for a progression panel the responsible practitioner must complete the Progression Panel Report. This will contain all relevant information to inform the Panel's discussion and decision making.
- 9.2 The responsible practitioner must complete the Progression Panel Report in line with the guidelines specified within the report template. This is to ensure that, where a panel is held as part of another meeting structure, critical records are still maintained whilst avoiding the resource impact of duplicating work and information.
- 9.3 The following actions must take place ahead of all progression panels:
- The responsible practitioner and SPO discuss the cases in supervision prior to a panel, and undertake appropriate manager oversight, recording this in nDelius.
 - Reviewing any actions from the previous panel,
 - The offender's views are sought, or they are invited to join the panel.

- 9.4 The offender must be provided with an agenda for the meeting, containing key discussion areas, at least 1 week ahead of the meeting. The offender should be made aware that they can receive a copy of the Progression Panel Report if they choose. The offenders' views on their progression must be actively sought following sufficient preparation time and fed into the meeting where they are unable to attend. This can be by a written communication or via conversations with their responsible practitioner. Any reasonable adjustments around their attendance or collecting their views must be considered. They must be notified whether this meeting will be combined with another meeting.
- 9.5 The responsible practitioner must have any conversations with relevant stakeholders, such as the Prison Safety Team, to ensure they are able to present the case, fully, to the panel. Consideration should be given to whether the VLO should be consulted to ensure any risk-related concerns have been shared, prior to discussions around progression. The practitioner should keep the VLO updated of key stages as normal, as detailed in the VLO Guidance: Key Stages and Disclosure of information⁴.
- 9.6 All progression panels must be informed by the Progression Panel Report, the last OASys assessment, where available, most recent psychology risk assessment and any latest ACCT review. These are the minimum for all types of panels. The responsible practitioner must provide relevant and appropriate evidence from other recent reports. A full list of relevant reports to consider can be found in the progression panel guidance document. Information on ViSOR can also be used to inform the panel. It is important that you include only those deemed pertinent to the individual's progression, and not to collate a lot of material unnecessarily. Where information is subject to non-disclosure concerns, staff must follow the process set out in the Practitioner Guidance – Handling Sensitive Information⁵

What staff should know

- 9.7 The responsible practitioner presenting a case at a panel is expected to have sufficient knowledge of it and any associated issues, to meaningfully discuss it and answer questions. The required information to inform the panel will be dependent on the purpose of the panel, as set out at 5.1 and described further in Annex A. The person managing the case should be able to clearly set out the reason for the panel, and all pertinent and relevant information to inform discussion and decision making.
- 9.8 When progression panels are considering the processes managed by the Parole Board, the COM must advise panel members to review the relevant report written for the Parole Board. Where a panel member cannot access the required documents, the COM must ensure they are provided. These are:
- PAROM1 (Parole report);
 - Recall Part B/C;
 - Suspension of Supervision Report
 - Reimposition of Supervision Report
 - IPP/DPP Licence Termination Report
- 9.9 Where there is information regarding victims, practitioners should be mindful of any non-disclosure information which must not be discussed in the meeting where the offender is

⁴ VLO Guidance - Key Stages and Disclosure of information (Master)

⁵ Link: Practitioner Guidance - Handling Sensitive Info v1.0 docx1.pdf

present. Where it is deemed necessary to discuss within a progression panel, the panel chair is responsible for deciding how to manage this. All non-disclosure information should be aligned with the processes set out in the Handling Sensitive Information Policy Framework⁶.

Progression Panels for Female Offenders

- 9.10 Practitioners intending to arrange a progression panel for a woman should first consult with relevant professionals in the cases of women on the Women's Estate Case Advice and Support Panel (WECASP - see WECASP Policy Framework). The WECASP provides some of the same functions as progression panels, with a focus on supporting progression through stabilising behaviour and improving wellbeing and, as such, it can provide important information for panels on a woman's progress.
- 9.11 To help ensure clear lines of communication and information sharing, you must invite the Women's Estate Psychology Services (WEPS) and HMPPS Women's Team to progression panels in custody in cases where the woman is on the WECASP. To support continuity and risk management, you must also invite WEPS and the HMPPS Women's Team to attend the initial panel in the community following release. Where it is not possible for WEPS and/or the HMPPS Women's Team to attend a panel, the responsible practitioner should discuss the case with them prior to the panel.
- WECASP functional mailbox - CNCSSWomensTeam@justice.gov.uk
 - WEPS functional mailbox - weps@justice.gov.uk

10. Panel Considerations and Recording Outcomes

What staff must do

- 10.1 When reviewing cases at a progression panel, chairs must, in conclusion, consider the following key questions:
- A. *Having considered the case, are you assured that there is a realistic progression plan that the offender is able to engage in, and that is appropriate for the current needs?*
 - B. *Having reviewed the case are you assured that there is robust case management, particularly in relation to risk management plans and sentence planning?*
 - C. *(where relevant) Is the proposed advice for the Parole Board (for example, regarding suspension of supervision, or IPP licence termination) appropriate and of sufficient quality to enable the Board to take a properly informed decision?*
- 10.2 The panel must assure itself that an appropriate progression plan, including appropriate activities, is in place, and that those managing the case are actively managing/removing any blockers to the offender engaging in the plan and associated activities or interventions.
- 10.3 The panel must further assure itself that the measures, activities and actions recorded on the Risk Management Plan presented to the Parole Board have been implemented as required. Similarly, there must be a focus on emerging or changing risks, and any measures to respond effectively to these to maintain a robust plan. There must be discussion as to:
- what action has been taken;

⁶ Link: [Handling Sensitive Information Policy Framework]

- what is still required;
- any difficulties or obstacles being faced;
- any timeframes in which anything still outstanding needs to be in place by; and
- the impact of any measures not being implemented;

10.4 This discussion, any actions arising, and a date for review must be recorded on nDelius by the COM or community case administration officer. Where any measures cannot be implemented which were relevant to a professional opinion provided to the Parole Board, (see section 9.8) the panel must consider what further actions are required such as whether the Probation Practitioner needs to update Public Protection Casework Section (PPCS).

10.5 It is important that, where a progression panel leads to a decision which may be viewed as negative by the offender, the feedback is given to them in a considered way, whilst considering their individual needs. The news should be delivered in person by the responsible practitioner so that their reaction and risk can be assessed and ensure that appropriate support for the prisoner or offender in community is put in place. However, it is essential to be mindful of how the offender may handle the feedback from a safety perspective. Prison and Probation staff must ensure the safety of staff and take appropriate safeguarding action where there is an increased risk posed by offenders.

10.6 If the prisoner is being supported by Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT), particular care should be taken when delivering the news. Staff should document the outcome and the prisoner's reaction to it in the ACCT document and ensure that there is the appropriate support in place. Also, staff may wish to consider carrying out an ACCT review if an increase in risk is indicated or the outcome results in change of circumstances.

Recording outcomes

10.7 To enable accurate monitoring of the number of panels both arranged and that have taken place, the following must be recorded on nDelius for all panels, both in custody and the community.

- Date and time once scheduled.
- The completion of the panel, and its next date (where required).
- Where a panel requires rescheduling and its new date.
- Actions to take forward
- Whether the offender been informed of the panel outcomes

10.8 A summary of the panel outcomes and any actions to take forward should also be added to the DPS case notes, and to ViSOR.

10.9 Progression Panels must still be recorded when the panel is absorbed into another meeting structure (please see 7.8). This will enable the quantity of progression panels being delivered to be monitored.

Annex A: Deliverables of the Progression Panels

Depending on the reason for holding it, the Panel must achieve the objectives in the following table, relevant to the Panel purpose.

Prison Progression Panels

Within 6 weeks of a negative parole outcome	<p>Objective: Identify the appropriate next steps in terms of the offender's progression so that any necessary transfer or other pre-progression activity may occur in a timely fashion.</p> <p>Consideration: IPP offenders will often have a short time between their parole reviews which means it is important to enable them to access whatever their next progression step is as soon as reasonably possible.</p>
Within 4 weeks of recall to custody	<p>Objective: Discussion around the plan for progression</p> <p>Consideration: It is critical that recalled IPP prisoners are put back on track as early as possible. An early Progression Panel informs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- consideration for early re-release via Risk Assessed Recall Review;- planning for next steps to work towards re-release through the most effective progression pathway (where re-release is not likely early); and- preparing reports for the Parole Board to consider the case once referred after 28 days from return to custody.

Community Progression Panels

Within 3 months of release and prior to move on from Approved Premises:	<p>Objective: Must consider whether the Risk management Plan is embedding as planned. It must also consider the move-on accommodation plans before the offender's time at an Approved Premises (where that is where they were released to) expires, identifying any transitional issues which may arise.</p> <p>Consideration: This will likely be the first Panel held in a community case and could be timed to fall around the plans being made for a person on probation to move on from Approved Premises, thereby enabling consideration of move on plans. Where Psychology Services Group is involved in the case through the prison gate, they should be a part of this panel.</p>
Where there is a significant change of circumstances that will negatively impact progression plans:	<p>Objective: Explore available options to mitigate the potential negative impact of whatever change has occurred and prevent a downward trajectory and consider whether the offender's community supervision can safely continue or whether recall action might be necessary.</p>

	<p>Consideration: Examples of potential negative changes include: changing COM; loss of critical service or other unplanned change; a deterioration in behaviour and associated risks which may have an impact on the progression plan. A Panel is not necessary where the issue is easily resolved and will not have a noticeable impact.</p>
Where there is a risk of recall (where time allows):	<p>Objective: Similarly to the above, consider the options for the person on probation to prevent downward trajectory.</p> <p>Consideration: Where circumstances and time allow, a Progression Panel must be convened where there are early indications of some disengagement, behavioural change or other considerations that, if unaddressed, may lead to a future recall.</p>
3 months ahead of the earliest eligibility point for suspension of supervision	<p>Objective: Consider the person on probation's suitability for suspension of supervision, providing the best opportunity to progress. Enable the decision to be actioned as close to the eligibility point as possible.</p> <p>Consideration: From February 2025, the eligibility points for different cases are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For IPP offenders: 3 years of continuous supervision in the community on licence (other than in exceptional circumstances). • For DPP offenders: 2 years of continuous supervision in the community on licence (other than in exceptional circumstances). • For Lifers: 10 years of continuous supervision in the community on licence (other than in exceptional circumstances). <p>Probation Practitioners can also consider suspension of supervision at the 4-year stage (for IPPs) and the 3-year stage (for DPPs) where the Parole Board declined to terminate or suspend the licence at the end of 3 or 2 year qualifying period following release respectively.</p> <p>For life licences, probation practitioners can re-consider suspension of supervision no sooner than 12 months after the last consideration.</p> <p>See the Supervision of Indeterminate Sentences Policy Framework for more information.</p> <p>For offenders convicted of sexual offense, ensure an up-to-date OSP assessment is completed.</p>
When considering reimposition of supervision (where time allows):	<p>Objective: Explore whether reimposition is the correct decision, or whether there are other options that can be explored.</p>

	Consideration: In circumstances where reimposition of supervision is being considered, and where there is adequate time to convene a Panel.
3 months ahead of a termination of IPP licence report submission deadline:	<p>Objective: Consider the termination report and recommendation prepared by the COM and whether termination is being supported.</p> <p>Consideration: The Parole Board will consider whether it is appropriate to terminate an IPP offender's licence after 3 years (2 years for DPP offenders) have elapsed since their initial release from the IPP sentence.</p>

Annex B: Additional Membership of the Progression Panel

Prison/Custody Progression Panel invitations should be aligned with the following:

Core Attendees	Expanded Core Attendees	Optional Attendees
<p>Head of Offender Management Delivery (HOMD)</p> <p>PDU Head or their nominated Lead Senior Probation Officer (SPO)</p> <p>Community and Prison Offender Manager (where allocated – the responsible practitioner will present the case)</p> <p>Psychology Services Representative / Women's Estate Psychology Services (WEPS) representative</p> <p>Case Administrator Officer (secretariat)</p>	<p>SPO</p> <p>Representatives of relevant prison intervention or treatment service which an offender is engaged with, has recently been deselected from or has completed (i.e. it was in their sentence plan)</p> <p>HMPPS Womens Team (for any cases known to CCSS)</p> <p>Any other key service relevant to the individual case, such as the prison Safety Team.</p>	<p>The IPP offender (recommended in all cases, where possible)</p> <p>Key Worker</p> <p>Police Liaison Officer</p> <p>Prison healthcare provider</p> <p>Prison Safer Custody Team</p> <p>Chaplaincy</p> <p>AP Manager</p> <p>Relevant community health, social care, treatment and accommodation providers.</p> <p>JEXU/SOCU/CTU Manager</p>

Community Progression Panel invitations should be aligned with the following:

Core Attendees	Expanded Core Attendees	Optional Attendees
<p>PDU Head or their nominated Lead PDU Senior Probation Officer (SPO)</p> <p>Community Offender Manager</p> <p>Psychology Services Group Representative (where involved in through the gate support)</p> <p>Case Administration Officer (secretariat)</p>	<p>SPO</p> <p>NSD psychologists</p> <p>OPD psychologists</p> <p>AP Keyworker (when resident at an AP) or supported housing lead.</p> <p>Police Officer managing the case (where a person is convicted of a sexual offence is required to comply with notification requirements)</p>	<p>The IPP offender (recommended in all cases, where possible)</p> <p>Police PPU Officer</p> <p>AP Manager</p> <p>HMPPS Women's Team (for any cases known to CCSS)</p> <p>Relevant community health, social care, treatment and accommodation providers.</p> <p>JEXU/SOCU</p>

Annex C: RAG rating indications and examples.

For prison-based IPP cases the ratings indicate the following:

	Level of Concern (for progression)	Description
Red	Significant	No identified progression pathway. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refusal to engage with sentence planning process• Willing to engage but without an identifiable, feasible pathway due to complex needs• Completed all aspects of their sentence plans but have not demonstrated a reduction in risk
Amber	Moderate	Possible delays to progression due to operational or specific engagement issues, but a pathway has been identified and should be possible once those specific barriers have been overcome. Could include individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On waiting lists for interventions• Being assessed for suitability for an intervention/service• Who have developed behaviours in custody which are impacting on progression, but a pathway exists to address these
Green	Minimal	Individual is engaging with their sentence plan and no current barriers to progression.

For community-based IPP cases the ratings indicate the following:

	Level of Concern	Description
Red	<i>There are no 'Red' community cases. These would be recalled into custody.</i>	
Amber	Some	On licence cases where they have not met the threshold for recall but there are some concerns that need to be actively managed and monitored.
Green	No Concern	The individual is progressing through their licence period well.