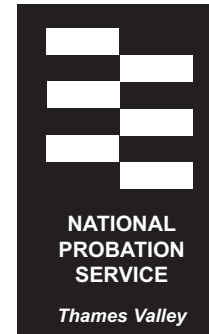


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# *Working together to tackle crime*



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## **A joint Press Statement from Thames Valley Police and Thames Valley Probation:**

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 11am, Monday, September 15, 2003

### **Thames Valley has second lowest number of Registered Sex Offenders in England and Wales**

Local figures released today show that the Thames Valley has 563 Registered Sex Offenders, which equates to 26 per 100,000 people in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. This represents the second lowest number of RSOs per 100,000 people in the whole of England and Wales.

Last year's figure was 19, but the increase is a cumulative effect of those who are already under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and those who have been added over the past year. Offenders remain on the Sex Offender Register for a minimum of five years and a maximum of life.

These new figures have been released by Thames Valley Probation Area and Thames Valley Police, who have a joint legal responsibility for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements, to coincide with the second annual MAPPA report.

Under these formal arrangements, probation and police bring together partner agencies who all work together to manage the risk an offender may pose to the public.

This multi-agency approach now means that Registered Sex Offenders, and any other 'dangerous' offender released back into the community, are better managed than ever before.

Each agency shares relevant information and an assessment is made on the level of risk an offender poses to the public. A plan is then agreed on how the agencies can work together to reduce that risk.

Plans take account of the needs and wishes of former and potential victims, where they can be identified, as well as the public at large.

A range of controls and treatment options are adopted, including restrictions on movement, electronic tagging and compulsory attendance on treatment programmes. Very high risk offenders, the 'critical few', are dealt with by Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels (MAPPPs). Eighteen registered Sex Offenders have been managed in this way in the Thames Valley during the past year.

Bruce Davison, Operations Director for the National Probation Service – Thames Valley, said: 'MAPPA are the jewel in the crown of both the probation service and the police. The latest figures released for the Thames Valley show how well the arrangements have been working since 2001. /.....mf

'The general public should draw confidence from these figures. They show that sex offenders and potentially dangerous persons are being managed properly and safely.

'The fact that we are watching all these offenders so closely, on the public's behalf, is part of their punishment. Even after prison their liberty and freedom to do as they wish is severely curtailed. This level of high intervention both protects the public and reduces the impact of crime on our society.

'Such persons always have been and will continue to be released into the community. The introduction of the MAPPA now means that such people are monitored far more closely than in the past.'

Thames Valley Police spokesman Supt Ray Lejeune said: 'The public should also be reassured by the relatively small number of high risk Registered Sex Offenders (18) who are subject to intensive supervision through the MAPPP process.

'The latest MAPPA annual report proves how well the system is working. The 'joined up' approach with probation and other agencies will continue to minimise the risk that Registered Sex Offenders and other dangerous offenders pose to the public.

'We will continue to work closely with probation and other agencies to make Thames Valley a safer place to live.'

ENDS

**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 imposed a duty on each of the 42 police and probation areas to work together to protect the public from sexual and violent offenders and other offenders who may cause serious harm to the public. The (MAPPA) arrangements were introduced in April 2001. These build on some of the good work that was already in place.

MAPPA: This is a term to describe all the arrangements set up locally to assess and manage offenders who pose a risk of serious harm. Typically they consist of a strategic board, a MAPPP for the highest risk offenders and subordinate joint arrangements for the management of offenders who are assessed as posing a lower risk.

A MAPPP (Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel) is the vehicle through which the risk posed by highest risk offenders is assessed and managed.

A full copy of the Thames Valley and all 41 of the other area MAPPA reports can be seen on the national Probation service website at: [www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk)

ENDS

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