



## Press Statement from Thames Valley Probation

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**Issued: August 14, 2009**

As everyone is aware, Thames Valley Probation agreed to a six week freeze on negotiations to acquire Trajan House, situated on the industrial site at the end of Mill Street, Oxford, for redevelopment as a new probation office.

We did so for several reasons: a) to reaffirm the transparency of our actions so far and to confirm adherence to the correct and proper process we went through to choose Trajan House as our preferred site and b) to acknowledge the depth of feeling of opposition by residents of Mill Street and the surrounding streets to our presence at that location.

Our decision was despite the fact that we were not formally required to consult over our plans (Trajan House has a valid planning consent) and we have acted in accordance with all procedures laid down to us by the Ministry of Justice.

We agreed to a re-examination of the 13 original sites in the search and to add into that search any new properties which came to light during that 6-week freeze, including properties put forward by WOCAMP protesters. To ensure this was as thorough as reasonably possible a further search was also arranged for the Ministry of Justice with the additional help of local agents.

The end of the 6-week freeze is today, August 14. By the end of August the Ministry will confirm the timing of its decision on the suitability of all properties.

They will tell us which ones best meet our requirements and, once we have that final list, Thames Valley Probation will – with the Ministry of Justice, determine its final choice.

ENDS

### **Notes for Editors**

#### **Additional information regarding probation property:**

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Additional Information from Thames Valley Probation:

Gerry Marshall, Chief Officer

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**Please note:** Communications Manager Fiona Tarrant is on leave until August 24, 2009

### **Additional information**

Thames Valley Probation works with adult offenders, supervising them through their Community Orders and assisting with rehabilitation. We also supervise offenders released from prison on licence and work with victims of serious crime. The main aim of the service is to increase public protection and reduce the re-offending rate. Community Payback is the name and logo used for the Unpaid Work that offenders carry out. It has been designed to highlight the work of offenders to put something back into communities in which they've offended.

For more information, visit our website at: [www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk)