



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology

*Privatising Probation: The Death Knell  
of a Much-Cherished Public Service?*

Professor Paul Senior

Director  
Hallam Centre for Community Justice, Sheffield

16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013, **at 1.00pm for 2.30pm**  
Faculty of Law (LG18), 10 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DZ

- 1.00pm – Registration and refreshments (Institute of Criminology)
- 2.30pm – *Privatising Probation: The Death Knell of a Much-Cherished Public Service?*  
to be given by Professor Paul Senior
- 3.30pm – Response and discussion
- 4.30pm – Tea and coffee (5.00pm End of event)

*The Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture is generously supported by the Probation Chiefs' Association, the Clarke Hall Fund, the Barrow Cadbury Trust, and the late Hugh Sanders OBE*

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

To book a place please contact: Joanne Garner,  
Institute of Criminology, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

Tel: 01223 335360, Email: [jf225@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jf225@cam.ac.uk)

(When booking, please state if you have problems with mobility, or any special dietary requirements)

*Sixteenth Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture*

**Privatising Probation: The Death Knell of a Much-Cherished Public Service?**

**Professor Paul Senior**



Paul Senior became Professor of Probation Studies in 1996 following a career in probation from 1977 to 1994, which included 11 years as a joint appointment between South Yorkshire Probation and Sheffield Hallam University. He was co-editor of the three-volume, fifth edition, of Jarvis from 1992. As a freelance consultant, Paul's extensive engagement in probation training secured, in 1997, a key role in its revision, creating the structure and curriculum for the new, graduate level, Diploma in Probation Studies. In 2002, having developed a robust criminology and community justice presence within Sheffield Hallam University, Paul started the Hallam Centre for Community Justice, a contract research centre specialising in offender management, resettlement and restorative justice, where he is now Director. Paul launched the Community Justice Portal (<http://www.cjp.org.uk>) providing an online information exchange facility in 2002, which also saw the creation of the international journal, the *British Journal of Community Justice* in a partnership between Hallam and de Montfort universities, which he continues to co-edit. Paul's career has thus been linked to policy, practice and research in and around probation and with probation partners in criminal justice. He has written on many aspects of probation practice and community justice and two recent books include *Understanding Modernisation in Criminal Justice* (2007) with Crowther-Dowey and Long and *Moments in Probation* (2008). His association of 38 years with probation has seen Paul engaged as a practitioner, manager, trainer, consultant, researcher, advisor and policy developer in the UK and in Europe, Hong Kong and Singapore.

## THE BILL McWILLIAMS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Bill McWilliams, who died in 1997, had a prestigious career as a probation practitioner, researcher and writer. His quartet of articles on the probation service's development up to the point at which the "punishment in the community" debate began, is now widely regarded as its definitive history of ideas. He was a staunch advocate of the need for rigorous evaluation of probation practice – but an equally staunch critic of the excesses of the management ideal. He had an independence of mind – irritating to more timid souls – that won him friends across the spectrum of political opinion in the Service. There are many who would say – as W. H. Auden said of George Orwell – "how I wish he were still alive, so that I could read his comments on contemporary events".

To keep his spirit alive, a group of Bill's relatives, colleagues and friends has established *The Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture*. It is intended to honour the contribution he made to the probation service over a thirty-year period and keep his perspectives at the forefront of probation thinking as the Service moves into the 21st century. Beginning in 1998, speakers to date have been Ken Pease (Professor of Criminology), John Harding (then Chief Probation Officer), Barbara Hudson (Professor of Law), Martin Wargent (then Chief Executive of the Probation Boards' Association), Antony Duff (Professor of Philosophy), Rod Morgan (then HM Chief Inspector of Probation), Todd Clear (Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice), Hindpal Singh Bhui (HM Inspector of Prisons), Anthony Bottoms (then Wolfson Professor of Criminology, University of Cambridge and Professorial Fellow in Criminology, University of Sheffield), Mike Nellis (Professor of Criminal and Community Justice, University of Strathclyde), Judy McKnight (then General Secretary, Napo), Loraine Gelsthorpe (Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Cambridge), John Crawforth (then Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Probation Trust), Peter Raynor (Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Swansea University), and Steve Collett (Retired Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation Area/Trust (2001–2010)). Each of the lectures has been, or is to be, published in *The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice* (see below). The lecture series has already run over a fifteen-year period - the "transition years" of the 20th to 21st centuries - developing a tradition of drawing on academic and professional contributors and using educational and probation service settings in different parts of the country. It has now been scheduled to continue in the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge.

For information or to offer suggestions about the development of the lecture series, please contact *The Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture* Steering Group at 48 Rock Road, Cambridge, CB1 7UF; e-mail [brendamcwilliams70@gmail.com](mailto:brendamcwilliams70@gmail.com); tel 01223 511810.

### References for the lectures:

- Pease, K. (1999) 'The probation career of Al Truism', *Howard Journal*, 38, 2-16.  
Harding, J. (2000) 'A community justice dimension to effective probation practice', *Howard Journal*, 39, 132-49.  
Hudson, B. (2001) 'Human rights, public safety and the probation service: defending justice in the risk society', *Howard Journal*, 40, 103-13.  
Wargent, M. (2002) 'The new governance of probation', *Howard Journal*, 41, 182-200.  
Duff, R. A. (2003) 'Probation, punishment and restorative justice: should Al Truism be engaged in punishment?', *Howard Journal*, 42, 181-97.  
Morgan, R. (2004) 'Thinking about the future of probation inspection', *Howard Journal*, 43, 79-92.  
Clear, T. R. (2005) 'Places not cases? Re-thinking the probation focus', *Howard Journal*, 44, 172-84.  
Bhui, H. S. (2006) 'Anti-racist practice in NOMS: reconciling managerialist and professional realities', *Howard Journal*, 45, 171-90.  
Bottoms, A. (2008) 'The community dimension of community penalties', *Howard Journal*, 47, 146-69.  
McKnight, J. (2009) 'Speaking up for probation', *Howard Journal*, 48, 327-43.  
Crawforth, J. (2011) 'Taking on trust: new leadership perspectives for probation', *Howard Journal*, 50, 289-306.  
Raynor, P. (2012) 'Is probation still possible?', *Howard Journal*, 51, 173-89.  
Collett, S. (2013) 'Riots, revolution and rehabilitation: the future of probation', *Howard Journal*, 52, 163-89.

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