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Professor Dr Theo Gavrielides
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Our ref: ADR341483

JW April 2013

Dear Professor Gavrielides,

RESTORATIVE SERVICE STANDARDS AND QUALITY MARK

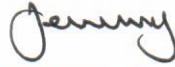
Thank you for your letter of 26 March regarding the Restorative Justice Council's (RJC) proposed Restorative Service Standards and the Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM).

The importance of have properly trained Restorative Justice (RJ) practitioners and safeguarding victims through appropriate standards has been highlighted in recent responses to the Government public consultations '*Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses*' and '*Punishment and Reform: Effective Community Sentences*'. As a result, our intention for the development of a quality mark with minimum standards for RJ practice was made clear in the RJ Action Plan for the Criminal Justice System, which was published last November. By setting minimum standards for RJ practitioners with a supporting quality mark, we will be able to ensure that there will be quality and consistency of RJ services across England and Wales. This will help to increase public confidence in the service being provided by RJ practitioners in their community and safeguard victims. The consultation on the standards and RSQM was led by the RJC. I hope that you responded to their consultation.

With regard to the RJ Implementation Board, its members are voluntary and their terms of reference are to manage and set the direction and delivery of the RJ Action Plan including identifying and managing risks to delivery, and working collaboratively to resolve issues that arise. The Board does not have responsibility for decisions on funding or commissioning of RJ. It will provide quarterly progress reports.

We look forward to continuing to work constructively and collaboratively with IARS in promoting RJ. It would be helpful if you could provide details as to when you expect to receive findings from the Restorative Justice in Europe project that have been peer reviewed and accepted by the research community.

Yours ever,



JEREMY WRIGHT