

# A Reply to Colm Power

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We are grateful to the Editors of the *Irish Probation Journal* for inviting us to respond to Colm Power's critique of our research on the Irish on probation in England. In the following response we have tried to maintain a balanced and respectful tone as well as a concern with accuracy and veracity, as we have in all our work. Readers of the *IPJ* would quite rightly be bored by a detailed point-by-point response to Dr Power's critique, so we will be brief, dealing with specific points only when they are directly relevant to his claims about the quality of our research and the validity of its findings. Dr Power's central argument appears to be this: our findings did not coincide with his preferred beliefs, and the explanation for this must be that our findings were wrong. Our findings were wrong because our methodology was wrong: we failed to read the right things or talk to the right people. Indeed, we researched the wrong subject, and were the wrong people to be doing the research in the first place. We supposedly admitted the inadequacy of the