

# The Irish on Probation in England: A Critique

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**Summary:** This article is a response to an unpublished 2004 report by Sam Lewis, David Lobley, Peter Raynor and David Smith entitled 'Irish Offenders on Probation'. It argues that weak methodology and poor research practice undermined what should have been an important report with innovative propositions for probation policy and practice in England, Wales and beyond. The 2004 report directly informed two articles (Lewis *et al.* 2005a and 2005b), one of which, entitled 'The Irish on Probation in England', was published in the 2005 issue of this journal (*IPJ*). The authors' critique in the *IPJ* article of previous research on discrimination and the Irish in Britain is also challenged here, primarily on the grounds that the 2004 report did not list or examine core texts on the criminalisation of the Irish in Britain. The authors' understanding of Irish and Irish Traveller cultures in Britain is questioned, as is the usefulness of their engagement in a Census debate.