

# The Level of Service Inventory in the Republic of Ireland

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**Summary:** By 2004 it was widely accepted that structured risk instruments such as the Level of Service Inventory-Revised could help improve the accuracy of predictions of the likelihood of reconviction and other outcomes. The Probation Service in Ireland came later to it than UK services but learned from their experiences, for example, of the importance of training and of acknowledging and planning for the consequential changes to service culture. After the system was rolled out, periodic valuations were made of samples of test scores which yielded valuable information on the risk and need levels of offender populations and of the quality of the tests themselves. The emphasis now is on refresher training, exploration of newer versions and other instruments and computerisation of the test process.

**Keywords:** Assessment, risk, partnership, staff training and support.