SORAM: Towards a Multi-agency Model of Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management

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**Summary:** This paper charts the development of the multi-agency model for Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management (SORAM) from its origins of co-working a small number of very high-risk cases in 2007/8 to its national roll-out in May 2013. Consideration is given to the environmental context, drivers and challenges faced, while also capturing the significant benefits of a joint approach to high-risk offender management. The context includes an outline of the work of the Department of Justice and Equality in considering high-risk offender management and the targets set within governmental and intergovernmental committees, examining how these developments led and supported operational drivers to achieve specified targets. The parallel and aligned introduction of an all-island system of risk assessment, coupled with the establishment of a cross-jurisdictional ‘All-Island and UK committee’, is explained, including the cross-jurisdictional strategies initiated to support best practice, training and research.

**Keywords:** SORAM, sex offender, risk assessment, risk management, multi-agency model, Probation Service, An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive, Irish Prison Service, Sex Offenders Act 2001, better lives, treatment programme.