

**Speech by Kevin McGrath, High Sheriff of Greater London, 28 October 2014**

I am delighted to welcome you here today at the Clink restaurant to the launch of the Bromley briefings prison factfile.

Today I wear two hats one as co-founder of The Clink and the other as The High Sheriff of Greater London.

I will say a few words about The Clink and then some give some background to the PRT Bromley Briefings.

This will be followed by Ed Tullet, the Governor of Brixton Prison and then Lord Woolf, the chair of PRT.

It is interesting to note how the PRT Bromley Briefings came into being:

When the settlor of the Bromley Trust, Keith (Toby) Bromley, died in 2003 three awards were instigated in his memory.

One of these awards is the Bromley Briefings.

In the last few years of his life Toby had been collating, and distributing statistics on the prison service to politicians, civil servants and the judiciary, believing that if this information was readily available steps would be taken to reform the prison service that he considered to be both a waste of money and a waste of lives.

He worked with both David Ramsbotham and the late Stephen Tumin to do this.

And so it made perfect sense when he died for the Trustees to approach Juliet Lyon and ask whether the Prison Reform Trust would accept a grant to publish a regular 'Bromley Briefing' on prison statistics in his memory.

The Prison Reform Trust agreed to do this and thus the Bromley Briefings came into being.

It is of course only funded by the Bromley Trust, and the work collating and producing the excellent information is all that of the Prison Reform Trust.

The Bromley Briefings is an independent, factual and high quality publication and the first port of information for many decision makers, and also High Sheriffs!

I believe that it is a good example of funders and grantees working well together.

It is a wonderful memory of Toby Bromley and an example of the work the Bromley Trust seeks to undertake.

I will now pass you over to by Ed Tullet, the Governor of HMP Brixton who will say a few words of welcome.