

Here are some points that you need to consider. You should have included all of these in your reflective activity.

- This is not the right thing to do. While it is essential to now complete the full risk assessment and review, you need to discuss it with your manager. It is important to tell your manager why you made your decisions and what you are doing now.
- While there are times you should use your own professional judgement, when you were first assigned this case the right thing to do would have included doing a full risk assessment.
- Preparing assessments and reports are crucial social work tasks in the criminal justice system. They are central to defensible decision making and are the foundation on which appropriate interventions are built.
- Reports should be completed in line with the National Outcomes and Standards for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System. The standards are designed to support you to improve your performance and results.
- The standards place a high importance on good quality reports. Completing an effective report includes using an agreed risk assessment tool. Report writing and risk assessment are key professional skills.
- While you have worked with John before, it is necessary to do a new risk assessment. The standards emphasise that assessment should be an inclusive and participative process with the worker and individual working together. You should make sure John understands the purpose of the report and can see its content.
- Doing a new assessment using a participative approach is essential to developing an understanding of John's current circumstances and identifying risks and needs. A new assessment will take into consideration factors like the impact of any previous sentences. It should consider near future contexts and the situations in which re-offending may occur.
- Effective risk assessments and their implementation are essential to ensuring good outcomes in the reduction of re-offending and promotion of community safety and public protection.
- In future you should act sooner and not leave risk assessments incomplete. Your mistakes could call into question your suitability to be a criminal justice social work professional and an investigation by your employer could result in disciplinary action.
- You must act in a way that demonstrates you are trustworthy and dependable. As a result of your actions you may lose the trust of colleagues, people using services and the wider community.

When you were assigned John's court report the right thing to do would have been to discuss the case with your manager, prioritise your workload as agreed with your manager and make sure the report was completed in line with the National Outcomes and Standards for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System.