

Lucy Frazer QC MP  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
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7 December 2020

Dear Minister

**Women in prison: future projections**

I imagine you will have been as dismayed as we were by the recent publication of new projections for the prison population. These suggested that, far from achieving the very explicit goal of the government's female offender strategy to "reduce the female prison population", the government's policies will see that population rise sharply to around 4,500 by 2025.

This cannot be the government's intention, and so we hoped that the Chancellor's spending announcements would include significant support for the strategy designed to prevent it. But none of the detail so far published suggests that the strategy is to be resourced, despite the eye watering amounts that have been found to deliver new prison places.

It would be helpful if you could set out what resources, if any, have been secured for the strategy's implementation as part of the recent spending round, and what the implications are for the number of women likely to suffer imprisonment in the future.

Yours sincerely



Peter Dawson  
Director  
**Prison Reform Trust**