



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
Robert Buckland QC MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of
State for Justice

Peter Dawson
Director
Prison Reform Trust
15 Northburgh Street
London
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MoJ ref: ADR 80175

26 August 2020

Dear Peter,

ROLLOUT OF VIDEO CALLING IN PRISONS

Thank you for your letter of 15 July.

We are considering a longer-term solution for video calls in line with Lord Farmer's recommendations, focussing on those who do not receive face-to-face visits under normal circumstances. We are currently working through the detailed policy and operational considerations for this longer-term solution.

However, I can assure you that it is absolutely not the intention that video calling will be a substitute for face-to-face visits. Where face-to-face visits can safely be delivered and remain the preference, no prisoner should be asked to substitute that for a video call.

I hope that helps to answer your question. I hope also that Minister Frazer's letter of 23 July, setting out plans for the rollout of video calling across the estate, was informative.

If you have any questions about the rollout of video calling please contact Simon Marshall, Deputy Director Rehabilitation and Support Services who oversees family services on Simon.Marshall@justice.gov.uk or e-mail familyservices.management@justice.gov.uk

Yours ever

RT HON ROBERT BUCKLAND QC MP