



Ministry
of Justice

Sir Richard Heaton KCB
Permanent Secretary
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ
T: 020 3334 3709
E:
Richard.Heaton@justice.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/MoJ

Peter Dawson
Prison Reform Trust
15 Northburgh Street
London
EC1V 0JR

// September 2019

Dear Peter,

Sentencing Review

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2019 regarding the sentencing review.

I confirm that the review is looking at:

- what measures we could take to ensure that the most serious violent and sexual offenders spend time in prison that matches the severity of their crimes;
- the rules governing when and how offenders are released, and how we incentivise good behaviour while in prison; and
- how we can ensure we have robust and effective sentences for prolific offenders.

This is a rapid review which we are undertaking internally, drawing upon resources across the department and its partner agencies. We plan to report to the Prime Minister on the outcome of the review very shortly. Given the time constraints, it has not been possible to undertake any formal public engagement, but we have conducted telephone interviews with some key stakeholders to give them the opportunity to give their views. I understand we contacted you for this purpose, but you felt that participation in this form would be inadequate. I am sorry we were not able to accommodate a more in-depth consultation.

The review will enable ministers to draw conclusions on next steps, including on their approach to future consultation. You are right to highlight the potential implications for the criminal justice system, including likely demands placed on capacity and resources. We would very much welcome further engagement with you following completion of the review.

Yours ever,
Richard

RICHARD HEATON