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My lord

**HOUSE OF LORDS COMMITTEE DEBATE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND
COURTS BILL: LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOMMODATION FOR 17 YEAR OLDS**

During day 3 the Committee Stage of the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill, your proposed amendment (amendment 32) concerning the right of 17 year olds to be transferred to local authority accommodation was considered. I agreed to write to you on the timeframe of the Home Office's review on this issue.

As I explained to the Committee, the Government's review of the primary legislation has revealed a complexity that requires appropriate consideration. In doing so, the Government will be informed by consulting with the police, local authorities and other Government departments. It is important, too, that full scrutiny is given to any changes to the legislation by Parliament, as it is vital to ensure that any proposed change is fit for purpose and achieves its intended outcome.

The Home Office has established a working group under the national PACE Strategy Board to examine the costs, benefits and issues were amendments be made to primary legislation, particularly in relation to section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. This working group will convene in late August, following which recommendations will be presented to the next PACE Strategy Board at the end of September.

The Government therefore expects to be in a position to announce its intentions by Spring 2015, including any associated actions.

I hope this letter has been of assistance. I am placing a copy in the House of Lords library.

Jan Hiccup

Edward Faulks

EDWARD FAULKES