



Ministry
of Justice

Andrew Selous MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

Philip Davies MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

19th November 2015

Dear Philip,

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - PRISONERS ON TEMPORARY RELEASE

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question (9483):

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prisoners in closed prisons have been released on temporary licence in each of the last five years.

I undertook to write to you when this information was available.

The Coalition Government completely overhauled the processes for allowing prisoners out on temporary licence, leading to a 39% drop in the number of temporary release failures. This is the lowest failure rate since 2002, and the absconding rate reached record lows under the last Government.

Release on temporary licence can be an important tool to help rehabilitate prisoners and reduce reoffending once they have been released. The Government supports prisoners using temporary licence to take work, training and educational opportunities that cannot be provided in prison as well as for maintaining ties with their families. The number of prisoners who were released on temporary licence from closed prisons in each year for the following years was; 3,204 in 2011, 3,554 in 2012, 3,644 in 2013, 2,560 in 2014 and 978 from 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2015. These figures include only prisoners released from prisons classified as having their predominant function to be closed. In addition, they have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

I hope you find this information helpful. I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours ever,
Andrew

ANDREW SELOUS