



The Rt. Hon. Lord Trefgarne  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

9 July 2018

Dear David,

### **IMPRISONMENT FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION (IPP)**

Following Lord Beecham's question on 27 June, asking what plans Her Majesty's Government have in place to review the effectiveness of the National Probation Service, I am writing to you to provide the latest figures on the number of IPP prisoners currently in detention, following your question on the progress the Probation Service have made in reviewing these cases.

The most recent statistics published by the Ministry of Justice show that, at the end of March 2018, the IPP population stood at 2,884. This was a significant reduction from 3,029 at the end of December 2017, and 3,162 at the end of September 2017. Those serving the sentence continue to achieve release in high numbers, with 616 first time IPP releases in 2017, the highest number since the sentence was introduced.

These figures demonstrate the Government's success in balancing our primary objective, public protection, with that of ensuring there are appropriate opportunities for these prisoners to engage with building evidence, to the satisfaction of the Parole Board, that their risks can be safely managed in the community. It is important that the release of prisoners serving IPP sentences is considered within the wider context of public protection, as many IPP prisoners currently pose a high risk of committing further serious violent or sexual offences if released. Therefore, in some cases, it remains the case that prisoners continue to present too great a risk to public protection for the Parole Board to safely direct their release.

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) is committed to supporting and motivating IPP prisoners to achieve release, by providing opportunities to progress, whilst ensuring the public continue to be protected. HMPPS and the Parole Board continue to oversee the delivery of the joint IPP Action Plan, which is striving to both assess the needs of IPP prisoners, and increase their progression opportunities.

As a result of these measures, during 2016/17, 46% of all IPP prisoners who had a review by the Parole Board were released and 24% recommended for a progressive move to open conditions. Thus, less than a third of all IPP cases considered received a negative outcome.

I hope these figures and information on the joint IPP action plan help clarify the work the Government are doing to improve release prospects for IPPs still in detention, and indeed the significant advancement achieved for this group of prisoners, whilst prioritising its duty to safeguard the public from high risk prisoners that are not yet able to be safely released into the community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Keen', written in a cursive style.

**RT HON LORD KEEN OF ELIE QC**