I am writing in response to a question you raised during the debate on the management and treatment of offenders, on 3 October 2019. This is recorded in Hansard, Volume 799, Column 1824.

You asked if the Government will look again at reforming the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 from the vantage point of what we now know about adverse childhood experiences, and the harrowing ramifications which flow from a lack of good relationships.

The Government recognises that children who come into contact with Youth Offending Services or the police are some of the most vulnerable in society. We are committed to allowing children who have offended to move on from their previous behaviour to live rich and fulfilled lives. As you will be aware, the Government committed to consider the outstanding recommendations of the Justice Select Committee report on youth criminal records, and those considerations remain ongoing.

I am copying to all noble lords who spoke in the debate and I will place a copy of this letter in the library.

EARL OF COURTOWN

Lord Farmer
House of Lords