



Ministry
of Justice

Sir Nic Dakin MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

Andy Slaughter MP, Chair
Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: SUB121995

04 March 2025

Dear Andy,

REVIEW OF THE PLACEMENT OPTIONS FOR GIRLS IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECURE ESTATE

In November last year, I commissioned an independent review into the current placement options for girls in the youth secure estate, led by Susannah Hancock. I am pleased to inform you that the review has now concluded, and the final report has been published.

Having not placed girls at HMYOI Wetherby for several months while this review was underway, we can now confirm we will take immediate action to permanently end the placement of girls in the YOI sector. Our decisive action to end the placement of girls in YOIs is shaped by firsthand accounts of the challenges faced by our hardworking staff and the voices of vulnerable children in their care.

This review marks a significant step forward in reforming how we place and care for girls in the secure estate. I am deeply grateful to Susannah for her hard work and dedication in leading the review. We will now take the time to carefully consider the full range of recommendations and develop a clear action plan to address the challenges outlined in the report.

I want to assure you that the wellbeing and safety of the staff and girls in custody is of great importance to me, and I will remain focused on ensuring the best possible outcomes for the girls in our care.

I will place a copy of this letter and 'Delivering the best for girls in custody: An independent review into the placement and care for girls in the Children and Young People Secure Estate' in the library of the house.

SIR NIC DAKIN MP