



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: SUB 126212

30 July 2025

Dear Andy,

URGENT NOTIFICATION ISSUED TO OAKHILL STC

I am writing to inform you that the Chief Inspector of Ofsted in conjunction with the Care Quality Commission and HMI Prisons have advised us of their intention to trigger an Urgent Notification (UN) for Oakhill Secure Training Centre (STC).

This is embargoed until published by Ofsted on 31 July 2025.

The UN has been triggered due to safeguarding issues, including concerns around staff conduct and failures to follow procedure that have in turn impacted children's welfare.

The findings of the inspectorate are challenging, and I would like to personally assure you that we are taking them extremely seriously.

Earlier this month we swiftly put additional support into the site following our own concerns. This included deploying a YCS Governor to provide independent oversight and assurance, alongside additional monitoring and safeguarding.

Prior to the Ofsted inspection the Director was replaced by G4S. Karl Styles has been interim Director since 14 July and brings extensive experience to the role, having served as deputy director at Rye Hill and previously deputy director at Oakhill STC.

The wellbeing of children and staff remains our utmost priority. Following assessments and multi-agency discussion, we will not be pausing placements of children at this stage, however this will be under constant review.

The UN process was established to drive a step change in performance in a prison, young offenders' institution or secure training centre (STC).

Under this process, the Chief Inspector of Ofsted can directly and publicly inform the Secretary of State in situations where there is an urgent and significant concern about the performance of a site.

The Secretary of State will respond promptly within 28 days on the immediate action taken and the plan to drive necessary further improvements at Oakhill STC.

Upon receipt of the full report, any additional recommendations will be addressed accordingly. Over the next 28 days the YCS will continue to work closely with colleagues from G4S to develop an initial action plan. The plan will address the Inspectors' concerns and improve outcomes for children, young people and staff at the site. This group will continue to monitor and assure progress until the Secretary of State is satisfied that there is sustained improvement.

I am committed to driving change at Oakhill STC that will make a positive and long-lasting difference for the children and young people in custody there.

I appreciate your ongoing work with the department in furthering these aims and look forward to continuing to work with you moving forward. If you would like to discuss this matter with me, please reach out to my office mcorrespondence.nicdakin@justice.gov.uk and I would be happy to do so.

I will place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nic', with a stylized flourish above it.

SIR NIC DAKIN MP