



The Right Honourable
Brandon Lewis CBE MP
Lord Chancellor and
Secretary of State for Justice

Justice Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: SUB100378

18 October 2022

Dear All,

**JUSTICE SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT: INDETERMINATE SENTENCES OF
IMPRISONMENT FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION (IPP)**

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the Justice Select Committee's report into Indeterminate Sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP). I would like to thank the Committee for their continued hard work in examining this key justice challenge, and the year-long commitment to delivering this thorough inquiry. The evidence and observations outlined in the report will prove valuable in aiding our consideration of our next steps to continue to enable the progression of those serving an IPP sentence while upholding the paramount duty to protect the public. A full response to the report will be provided by 28 November.

The IPP sentence has long been an important and complex challenge for government, with previous Secretaries of State for Justice having taken this work forward via His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) IPP Action Plan, with some real successes.

I note your primary recommendation to look at legislative action to undertake a resentencing exercise, and you rightly acknowledge the difficulty and complexity of such an exercise. Protection of the public remains our priority and your recommendations will have to be considered in this context.

The Committee's findings and recommendations will, in particular, help HMPPS assess its approach to the strategic management and monitoring of this cohort, and inform the planned review of the IPP Action Plan. While HMPPS has been working diligently for some time to deliver improved prospects for those serving IPP sentences, I recognise that we must be responsive to new information and take further steps to ensure that this work is robust, structured, clear, measurable, and properly targeted. The report provides a good opportunity to review our practice and identify any areas for improvement.

I look forward to being able to share with you a full and considered response, outlining our plans going forwards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'B' followed by a series of fluid, connected loops and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward flick.

RT HON BRANDON LEWIS CBE MP

LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE