



Ministry
of Justice

Sir Robert Neill MP
Chair of the Justice Select Committee

The Right Honourable
Alex Chalk KC MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

MoJ Ref: 111449

8 January 2024

Dear Sir Bob,

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO HMP WANDSWORTH ALLEGED ESCAPE

I am writing to update you and the members of the Justice Select Committee on the Independent Investigation into the alleged escape of Daniel Khalife from HMP Wandsworth on 6 September 2023. Keith Bristow QPM has completed his Independent Investigation and submitted his report to me and the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.

You will likely be aware that, since the Investigation was commissioned, Daniel Khalife pleaded not guilty to the charge of unlawful escape from custody. In considering what I can share of the Investigation's findings and conclusions, it is my utmost priority to ensure that I do not compromise the ongoing criminal proceedings. As a result, the Written Ministerial Statement which I issued this morning unfortunately cannot go into detail of the Independent Investigation's findings and conclusions.

However, the statement does confirm that in addition to the measures taken immediately after the alleged escape to ensure the security of the prison, and further improvements in the weeks since in response to the internal investigations and reviews I also commissioned, I have asked HMP Wandsworth, HMPPS and the Ministry of Justice to take forward the Independent Investigation's recommendations as a matter of priority.

While I am constrained in terms of what more information I can put into the public domain at this stage, Minister Argar would be happy to brief you on a confidential basis on the Investigation's findings and recommendations. Do let me know if this would be of interest, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON ALEX CHALK KC MP

LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE