



Ministry  
of Justice

The Right Honourable  
**Robert Buckland QC MP**  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of  
State for Justice

**Sir Robert Neill MP**  
Chair  
Justice Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**MoJ ref:** 84610

29 January 2021

Dear Bob,

**THE PROSECUTION OF OFFENCES (CUSTODY TIME LIMITS) (CORONAVIRUS) (AMENDMENT)  
REGULATIONS 2021**

I wrote to you on 14 January 2021 to notify you of the above-mentioned Statutory Instrument, which the Department intended to lay in Parliament as soon as Parliamentary time allowed.

I am pleased to now say that the above-mentioned Statutory Instrument has been laid before the House of Commons and House of Lords as of 29 January 2021. The Instrument is subject to a negative procedure and will come into force as law on 19 February 2020. This Instrument amends The Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations, which temporarily extended Custody Time Limits for defendants awaiting trial at the Crown Court from 6 to 8 months. Once in force, defendants under the age of 18 will be excluded from this extension to Custody Time Limits.

I would also like to note that I have received your letter on this topic and a response will follow shortly.

Yours ever

**RT HON ROBERT BUCKLAND QC MP**