



Ministry
of Justice

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

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

MoJ ref: 120003

18 December 2024

Dear Andy,

PUBLIC BODIES REVIEW OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD

I am writing to you as Chair of the Justice Select Committee to announce the government's intention to undertake an in-depth Public Bodies Review of the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

I have taken the decision to proceed to an in-depth review of the YJB as part of the Cabinet Office Public Bodies Review Programme based on:

- 1) The amount of time since the last Cabinet Office review of the YJB (2013).
- 2) The change in the nature of the youth justice system (YJS) since the YJB's formation. Whilst there are currently far fewer children in the YJS, the YJS has become more concentrated with children who have particularly complex needs, and there has been an increase in the number of children that youth offending teams are working with on non-statutory caseloads.
- 3) The change to the structure and responsibilities of the YJB following provision for the youth secure estate moving to the Youth Custody Service (YCS).

Public Bodies Reviews are generally conducted in two stages. First, a "self-assessment" is undertaken by the public body and its sponsoring department using a Cabinet Office template. This comprises a series of questions relating to efficacy, efficiency, governance and accountability, and outlines the minimum expectations and indicators of good practice. Should there be grounds to progress to an in-depth review, an independent Lead Reviewer is appointed to carry out the review.

The Review Team in the Ministry of Justice has completed the self-assessment for the YJB. The analysis of the findings noted that whilst there are areas in which the YJB works well, there are fundamental questions around the form of the YJB, the functions it undertakes and the effectiveness of its performance metrics.

The review will commence in December 2024. The Lead Reviewer will be Steve Crocker, former President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services. Steve has significant experience and knowledge of children's services and the challenges facing youth justice. Should the Justice Select Committee wish to contribute views to the review, I would welcome this in writing. I will write to you again with the outcome from the review once it has concluded.

Yours sincerely,

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

SIR NIC DAKIN MP