



Justice Committee

The Rt Hon. Shabana Mahmood MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice

By email only

8 July 2025

Dear Shabana

RECALL AND THE SENTENCING BILL

I write to express concern about the significant public protection implications arising from the implementation of 28-day fixed term recall for those serving prison sentences of under four years and, in due course, the introduction of a 56-day fixed term recall as proposed by the Independent Sentencing Review and accepted by the Government in principle.

The recent change to a 28-day fixed term recall period for sentences under four years means that a significant number of recall cases are now no longer subject to the Parole Board's rigorous risk assessment process, which we believe has serious implications for public protection. Currently, 70 per cent of all types of recall are 'knocked back', in other words, the Parole Board decides that the offender cannot be re-released. This is a significant proportion, highlighting the risks associated with the removal of Parole Board scrutiny through extending automatic release. It is therefore imperative that you set out how the Government plans to mitigate the risk posed to public safety by recent, and any future, changes to fixed term recall, and reassure the Committee, Parliament and the public in so doing.

Furthermore, we would be grateful if you could answer the following questions in relation to recent and future policy developments on recall:

1. Will the forthcoming Sentencing Bill contain provisions implementing a 56-day fixed term recall for certain offenders? If so, will 28-day fixed term recall for prisoners serving sentences of under four years be withdrawn?
2. How will the earned progression model for standard determinate sentences and the replacement of standard recall with a 56-day fixed term recall impact the work of the Parole Board?
3. What assessment has been made of the risk to public safety of introducing a 56-day fixed term recall?



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4. Will certain prisoners be exempted from 56-day fixed term recall on public safety grounds, for example "top tier" offenders as defined in the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 and those serving a sentence of seven or more years for certain sexual or violent offences?
5. Will prisoners who have been subject to fixed term recall on multiple occasions be exempted from 56-day fixed term recall? Will a parole decision be required in such cases?

I would be grateful if you could provide your response ahead of the introduction of the Sentencing Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Slaughter MP
Chair
Justice Committee