



Martin Kettle
Interim Head of the UK NPM

HM Inspectorate of Prisons, 3rd Floor
10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

Lord Alton of Liverpool
Chair
Joint Committee on Human Rights
House of Lords

Sent by email

11 December 2025

Dear Lord Alton,

National Preventive Mechanism annual report 2024-25

I am pleased to share the UK National Preventive Mechanism's (NPM) 16th Annual Report, which was laid in Parliament today. The report draws on the findings of 50,000 monitoring and inspection visits by the UK NPM's [21 constituent bodies](#) to detention settings across the UK in the reporting period. In line with the UK's obligations under the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture ([OPCAT](#)), our work aims to prevent torture and ill-treatment through regular, independent, preventive scrutiny.

While NPM bodies regularly encounter dedicated and skilled staff working hard to provide excellent care and support to people deprived of their liberty in the UK, we are disappointed to reiterate in yet another annual report that these staff continue to deal with the same systemic issues that we have reported for the past 16 years.

These include significant concerns in immigration detention, including increasingly crowded and violent conditions, prolonged detention periods, and cases of indefinite detention – even among vulnerable individuals. These findings have significant human rights implications and underscore the need for urgent attention to safeguard those deprived of liberty.

This year's report also details how the NPM's new [Reporting Dashboard](#) captures the findings of the 21 NPM organisations in a single, searchable database. This tool offers public and duty-bearer access to the collective insight of more than 3,500 monitors working across the UK's places of detention.

We recognise the work of dedicated staff working in difficult conditions, and we know you share our aims to eliminate ill-treatment in places of deprivation of liberty and

improve treatment and conditions for those detained. We would be pleased to discuss these issues, and how the dashboard can support your work, at any time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Kettle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Martin Kettle
Interim Head of UK NPM