



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
David Lammy MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

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

Ref: 131447

02 February 2026

Dear Andy,

JONATHAN HALL'S INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SEPARATION CENTRES AND THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

I am writing to update the Committee on Jonathan Hall KC's Independent Review of Separation Centres (SCs). I will shortly be providing a full update to the House, but given the Committee's remit, I am providing this early notification.

Following the attack on prison officers by convicted terrorist Hashem Abedi in the SC at HMP Frankland on 12 April 2025, Mr Hall was appointed to conduct an independent review of the operation of SCs. SCs are small units designed to allow for greater separation and specialised management of terrorist and terrorist risk prisoners (i.e. those assessed at risk of committing terrorist offences in prison or in the community after their release), who present a level of risk that cannot be managed on a mainstream location. Individuals are typically referred to SCs on the grounds of radicalising others or using ideology to undermine good order.

Mr Hall was asked to recommend measures to reduce the risk of any similar incidents occurring in the future. Mr Hall has since delivered his report to the Government and it will be published shortly alongside the Government's response. The review makes 13 recommendations, all of which we accept. At their core, they seek to simplify and strengthen the flexibility of the SC model.

Mr Hall's review identifies a significant opportunity to modernise the way SCs are governed and operated. The Government agrees that the current model must evolve. We will therefore take forward a comprehensive redesign programme, including the development of a new tiered SC system that enables movement between varying levels of control based on robust and improved risk assessments. Mr Hall also highlights the need to update procedural and legislative frameworks, which he finds have constrained flexibility and exposed the system to unnecessary litigation risk. The Government is committed to ensuring our policies support, rather than impede, effective risk management. He further notes that intelligence collection processes are overly bureaucratic and insufficiently focused. We will review and strengthen these practices to ensure they are streamlined, purposeful, and directly support operational decision making.

This Government remains steadfast in its commitment to public protection and to ensuring prisons can safely manage the most dangerous offenders. Our response to this review will enhance security, improve staff safety, and reinforce the resilience of our counter-terrorism arrangements across the estate.

I trust this letter is helpful to the Committee and further detail will be set out in my statement to the House. The report from Mr Hall will be made available in the Library of the House, and the Government response will be laid before Parliament. Should the Committee require additional information or wish to discuss any aspect, I would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', followed by a long horizontal flourish that ends in a small loop.

RT HON DAVID LAMMY MP

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**