



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: 135410

30 June 2026

Dear Andy,

LAUNCH OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE PRISON SYSTEM IN ENGLAND AND WALES

I am writing to notify you of the launch of an Independent Review of the Prison System in England and Wales tomorrow.

This Review will take a broad, system-wide view of the pressures facing the prison system in England and Wales. It will consider key risks across capacity, safety, workforce, security, and the long-term condition and resilience of the estate. Its purpose will be to provide a robust evidence base to inform future strategy for the prison system and investment decisions, ensuring that resources are targeted effectively to address the most significant risks and pressures facing the estate.

The Review will draw on a wide range of evidence, including stakeholder engagement and operational insight, to develop a set of recommendations aimed at strengthening the system's resilience and sustainability for the long term. It will seek to draw on a wide range of perspectives, including from across the criminal justice system and drawing on international comparisons and perspectives, to ensure its findings are comprehensive and informed by their experience and expertise.

Given the need for a review that commands confidence across Parliament and supports delivery over the long term, it is important that the Chair brings cross-party credibility and experience at the highest levels of government. For that reason, I have chosen to appoint The Rt Hon. Amber Rudd as the Chair. The Review will operate independently of Ministers and the Department, supported by a panel of experts and a dedicated secretariat.

The Review is expected to report by the end of this year. There will be a Written Ministerial Statement made to Parliament tomorrow to set out further details, and the Terms of Reference

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for the Review will be deposited in the Library of the House and published on GOV.UK. I will ensure the Committee is informed of progress and I would welcome the Committee's engagement in this work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**RT HON DAVID LAMMY MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**

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