



Education Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Robert Halfon MP, Chair

Alex Chalk MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

29 April 2021

Youth custody and educational data

Dear Alex,

You may have seen that we have begun our new inquiry into prison education. We were grateful to receive the Ministry of Justice's submission both in respect of adult prison education and the arrangements within the youth custody service.

As part of our evidence gathering, we wish to request that the Department provide us with further information in relation to children and young people in custody. It would be helpful to receive the following data for those who were in the youth custody during 2019-20, as follows:

- number of learners, by age group, inducted into learning and the corresponding average sentence;
- the levels of previous learning on induction in relation to literacy and numeracy;
- number of learners with (a) learning difficulties or disabilities and (b) who had an Education, Health and Care Plan in place;
- number of learners with speech, language and communication needs;
- number of learners assessed as having mental health needs;
- number of learners enrolled working towards qualifications as prescribed by Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework;
- average number of hours of education delivered by (a) secure training centre, (b) secure children's home and (c) YOI;
- number of learners with a looked-after status;
- number of learners, prior to entering custody, who had been (a) persistently absent from school and (b) permanently excluded from school;
- number of learners who had previously been in custody; and
- the destination of learners on release, e.g. whether back into education, or into the adult prison estate, etc.

More generally, it would be helpful if the Department could provide information on what data are collected to measure educational attainment of those entering custody and how progress and outcomes are measured educationally for those whilst in custody, providing the latest data on these by category of custodial institution.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Halfon', written in a cursive style.

Robert Halfon MP
Chair of the Education Committee