



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice

14 September 2021

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing regarding the Government's failure to provide a revised to e-petition 577443, entitled "Increase minimum and maximum sentences for all sexual offences".

The Committee requested a revised response on 22 June 2021, because the original response did not respond sufficiently directly to the request of the petition. The standards for responding to e-petitions, which have been agreed between my Committee and the Leader of the House, state that Government responses, which includes revised responses, should be provided within 14 days and no later than 21 days.

Despite repeated requests, the Government's revised response is now over two months late. This is clearly not acceptable. When a petition receives over 10,000 signatures petitioners are entitled to a response from the Government that directly responds to the request of their petition, and this should be provided in a timely fashion.

I would be grateful if you could provide the Government's revised response to this petition, and an explanation for the delay in providing this, by Thursday 23 September.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee