



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

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home
Department
Home Office

14 September 2021

Dear Secretaries of State

I am writing regarding the Government's failure to respond to e-petition 580647, entitled "Make it a specific offence to expose a child to any amount of Class A drug".

The standards for responding to e-petitions, which have been agreed between the Petitions Committee and Leader of the House, state that Government responses should be provided within 14 days and no later than 21 days.

A response to this petition was first requested on 14 July. Despite repeated requests, the Government's response is now almost six weeks late. I understand that has been some difficulty agreeing which department should respond to this petition, but the delay in responding to this petition is clearly not acceptable. Petitioners are entitled to a response from the Government when their petition receives over 10,000 signatures, and this should be provided in a timely fashion.

I would be grateful if you could provide the Government's response to this petition, and an explanation for the delay in responding, 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