



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2019-0080, 29 March 2019

Youth inmates in solitary confinement

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Summary

A Westminster Hall debate on Youth inmates in solitary confinement is scheduled for Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 2.30 pm. The Member leading the debate is Emma Hardy MP.

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

Under the rules for Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) and Secure Training Centres (STCs) children can, in certain circumstances, be removed from association with others.¹ In STCs children can be removed from association to prevent them causing harm to themselves; causing harm to another person or significantly damaging property. In YOIs boys can be removed from association for the maintenance of good order or discipline or in their own interests.

The Children's Commissioner for England published a [report examining the use of segregation in YOIs and STCs](#) in October 2018 following concerns raised during her visits to YOIs and STCs about the use of segregation.

The Children's Commissioner's report sets out what segregation means in practice, describing the conditions experienced by children:

The conditions under which children are separated vary greatly across different settings. In STCs, children are segregated in their rooms, or other spaces such as empty classrooms, for a relatively short period of time. In YOIs however, most recorded periods of segregation refer to when the child has been formally removed to the segregation unit. (...) Children are often left in the segregation unit without any meaningful contact with their peers, in cells with very few – sometimes none – of their possessions or other stimuli such as books and radios. In theory, removal from free association should not prohibit access to legal advice, advocacy, exercise and education. In practice, however, these appointments are often not facilitated. In some cases, children are in their cells all day and are only allowed out to shower or to exercise for 30-60 minutes. Sometimes they also have access to 'education packs' while in their cells.²

The Children's Commissioner's report notes an increase in the use of segregation:

The number of episodes of segregation in youth custody in England and Wales has increased in the past 4 years, even as the overall number of children detained has fallen. The average length of periods of detention has doubled, from 8 to 16 days, with seven out of ten episodes of segregation in Young Offender Institutions lasting over a week. The number of episodes of segregation in STCs has also risen and is now (on a pro rata basis) approximately 33 times higher, though it is likely this is influenced by changes in how data is recorded.³

The report states that there is a "growing consensus that segregation is inherently unsuitable for children":

¹ Rule 36 of the Secure Training Centre Rules 1998 and Rule 49 of the Young Offender Institution Rules

² Children's Commissioner, [A report on the use of segregation in youth custody in England](#), October 2018, p3

³ Children's Commissioner, [A report on the use of segregation in youth custody in England](#), October 2018, p1

In April 2018, the British Medical Association (BMA), the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) and Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) released a joint statement condemning the 'solitary confinement' of children, warning that for children the risk of long-term psychiatric and developmental harm is increased. UN CRC has also held that using solitary confinement as a disciplinary measure for children is a violation of article 37 CRC and must be strictly prohibited.⁴

The Government says that children are never subject to solitary confinement.

The safety and welfare of young people in our care is the core priority of the Youth Custody Service and children are never subject to solitary confinement. There are some occasions when it is necessary to remove children from association. On those occasions they will, as far as possible, have access to a regime that is comparable to the normal regime; including entitlements to social and legal visits, religious services, access to the phone, education, showers and exercise in the open air and, where possible, in association with other removed children.⁵

The Children's Commissioner in her report responds to such assurances, saying:

Our research, however, suggests that the conditions some children are exposed to do fit the definition of solitary confinement.⁶

The [UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners](#) (the 'Mandela Rules' 2015 Rev) defines 'solitary confinement' as confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact.

The Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) has [opened an inquiry into youth detention](#) examining the use of restraint and isolation on detained children, and compatibility with human rights laws, saying that "serious concerns have been raised about the conditions and treatment of children in detention".

The Minister, Edward Argar, said in oral evidence regarding segregation:

I am very clear that the rules are explicit that it should be used only as a last resort, for the shortest possible period and for the safety of staff, other prisoners or, indeed the individual themselves.⁷

Written evidence from HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) described what it had found to be children's experience of segregation, stating that it was:

... not uncommon for HMI Prisons to find poor regimes for children in YOI segregation units, that can be as basic as 30 minutes out of their cell each day.⁸

⁴ Children's Commissioner, [A report on the use of segregation in youth custody in England](#), October 2018, p4

⁵ [Written question 207582](#), 23 January 2019

⁶ Children's Commissioner, [A report on the use of segregation in youth custody in England](#), October 2018, p3

⁷ Joint Committee on Human Rights, [Oral evidence: Youth detention: solitary confinement and restraint](#), HC 994, 17 October 2018, p3

⁸ [Supplementary written evidence from the HMI Prisons \(YDS0031\)](#)

The Howard League for Penal Reform provides a specialist legal advice service for children and young adults in prison. In its [written evidence](#) to the JCHR inquiry it said:

- Children’s rights in prison are routinely breached: Guidance and practice in respect of both solitary confinement and restraint is not compatible with human rights legislation and international law.
- Children are held in solitary confinement in prison despite assertions by the Ministry of Justice that it does not happen: calls to the Howard League suggest that there are numerous instances where children are isolated for more than 22 hours a day, sometimes for days on end. That amounts to solitary confinement according to definitions accepted both by international and domestic experts and the Supreme Court.⁹

The [Howard League](#) expressed concerns that there are insufficient procedural safeguards with respect to segregation. Access to justice is another concern, with children unaware of their right to challenge their segregation and facing barriers to making a complaint.¹⁰

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission noted in its [evidence to the JCHR](#) that there are substantial disproportionalities in the use of solitary confinement. The Commission’s evidence referred to a [study by the Children’s Commissioner published in 2015](#) that found that specific groups of children, including disabled and ethnic minority children, are at increased risk of being placed in isolation.¹¹

In a case which received media attention in July 2017,¹² the High Court ruled that the treatment of a boy (known as AB) then aged 15, was unlawful because his removal from association was in breach of YOI Rules and his rights under article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to family and private life). His removal from association was not properly authorised or reviewed and he did not receive the education he should have done.¹³ AB’s lawyer said that for a period of 55 days AB was essentially confined to his cell for more than 22 hours per day with little meaningful contact with other human beings; with no education provided to him; and with no opportunity to engage in physical exercise. The High Court found that the treatment of AB did not, in light of all the facts of the particular case, breach article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (which prohibits anyone being subject to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment). This point was upheld by the Court of Appeal on appeal.¹⁴

⁹ [Written evidence from the Howard League for Penal Reform \(YDS0013\)](#)

¹⁰ [Further written evidence from the Howard League for Penal Reform \(YDS0029\)](#)

¹¹ Children’s Commissioner, [Unlocking Potential, A study of the isolation of children in custody in England](#), 2015

¹² For example, [Feltham boy’s solitary confinement breached human rights](#), BBC, 4 July 2017

¹³ [R \(AB\) v the Secretary of State for Justice \[2017\] EWHC 1694 \(Admin\)](#)

¹⁴ [AB, R \(On the Application Of\) v Secretary of State for Justice \[2019\] EWCA Civ 9](#)

2. Media

2.1 Press releases

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

[Joint position statement on solitary confinement of children and young people](#)

18 April 2018

2.2 Articles and blogs

The Observer

[Youth prison put inmates in solitary confinement for up to 23 hours a day](#)

09.03.2019

Youth Justice Legal Centre

[Court of Appeal ruling on holding children in solitary confinement](#)

18 January 2019

The Guardian

[Child prisons are beyond reform - it's time to stop jailing young people](#)

03 December 2018

Independent

[Ministers must sign off before putting young people in solitary confinement, says Children's Commissioner](#)

10 October 2018

Rights Info

[Human Rights Committee Debate the Growing Problem of Solitary Confinement and Restraint in Youth Detention](#)

18 July 2018

Rights Info

[New Inquiry Into Children in Detention After Reports of Unlawful Restraint and Solitary Confinement](#)

08 May 2018

PoliticsHome

[Seema Malhotra MP: Solitary confinement should never be used on children and young people](#)

01.05.2019

The Justice Gap

['Cruel and inhuman': High Court challenge on behalf of boy held in cell 23 hours a day](#)

08 March 2017

3. Parliamentary business

3.1 Debates

[Solitary Confinement \(Children and Young People\)](#)

HC Deb, 01 May 2018, cc95WH-102WH

3.2 Parliamentary Questions

[Young Offenders: Solitary Confinement](#)

Asked by: Seema Malhotra

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many young offenders have been kept in solitary confinement for 22 hours a day in each Young Offenders Institution in the last month for which figures are available.

Answered by: Edward Argar | Ministry of Justice

Our response to PQ 141024 provided a breakdown of the total number of hours young people spent in segregation in each Young Offender Institution, where data is available, over the last 5 years. HMPPS are in the process of reviewing how this data is collected across each establishment in the Youth Estate.

The safety and welfare of young people in our care is the core priority of the Youth Custody Service and children are never subject to solitary confinement. There are some occasions when it is necessary to remove children from association. On those occasions they will, as far as possible, have access to a regime that is comparable to the normal regime; including entitlements to social and legal visits, religious services, access to the phone, education, showers and exercise in the open air and, where possible, in association with other removed children.

23 Jan 2019 | Written questions | 207582

[Secure Accommodation: Ethnic Groups](#)

Asked by: Richard Burgon

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many incidents of segregation have occurred at each secure institution that holds children by each ethnic group in each of the last five years for which information is available.

Answered: Edward Argar

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) do not hold the specific information requested centrally but are currently reviewing how

segregation data is collected across each establishment in the Youth Estate. However, in answering PQ 141024, we did provide a breakdown of the total number of hours young people spent in segregation in each Young Offender Institution, where data is available, over the last 5 years.

The safety and welfare of young people in our care is the core priority of the Youth Custody Service. There are some occasions when it is necessary to remove children from association because their behaviour is likely to be so disruptive that keeping them on ordinary location would be unsafe, or because their own safety and wellbeing cannot reasonably be assured by other means. We are clear removal from association must only be used under specified safeguards and regular review, where children are putting themselves and others at risk. As far as possible, children removed from association have access to a regime that is comparable to the normal regime including entitlements to social and legal visits, religious services, access to the phone, education, showers and exercise in the open air and where possible, in association with other removed children. Throughout removal, the child will continue to have regular contact with staff.

23 January 2019 | Written questions | 208327

[Secure Accommodation](#)

Asked by Richard Burgon

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the longest length of time was that a child spent in the segregation unit in each secure institution that holds children in each of the last five years for which information is available.

Answered by: Edward Argar

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) do not hold the specific information requested centrally and it could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by manually searching through individual records and logs. HMPPS are, however, in the process of reviewing how segregation data is collected across each establishment in the Youth Estate.

22 January 2019 | Written questions | 209823

[Secure Accommodation](#)

Asked by: Burgon, Richard

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many incidents of segregation have occurred at each secure institution that holds children in each of the last five years for which information is available.

Answering member: Edward Argar

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) do not hold the specific information requested centrally but are currently reviewing how segregation data is collected across each establishment in the Youth Estate. However, in answering PQ 141024, we did provide a breakdown of the total number of hours young people spent in segregation in each Young Offender Institution, where data is available, over the last 5 years.

The safety and welfare of young people in our care is the core priority of the Youth Custody Service. There are some occasions when it is necessary to remove children from association because their behaviour is likely to be so disruptive that keeping them on ordinary location would be unsafe, or because their own safety and wellbeing cannot reasonably be assured by other means. We are clear removal from association must only be used under specified safeguards and regular review, where children are putting themselves and others at risk. As far as possible, children removed from association have access to a regime that is comparable to the normal regime including entitlements to social and legal visits, religious services, access to the phone, education, showers and exercise in the open air and where possible, in association with other removed children. Throughout removal, the child will continue to have regular contact with staff.

22 Jan 2019 | Written questions | 208326

[Young Offenders](#)**Asked by: Richard Burgon**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of children in secure institutions were on average confined to their cells for more than 22 hours a day in each of the last five years.

Answering member: Edward Argar

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) do not hold the specific information requested centrally but are currently reviewing how segregation data is collected across each establishment in the Youth Estate. However, in answering PQ 141024, we did provide a breakdown of the total number of hours young people spent in segregation in each Young Offender Institution, where data is available, over the last 5 years.

The safety and welfare of young people in our care is our priority. That is why there are strict safeguards on segregation, which is only used as a last resort when someone is likely to cause harm to themselves or others. We are recruiting more staff and investing in enhanced support units for the most vulnerable offenders, so young people have the support they need to turn away from crime and contribute to society.

10 Jan 2019 | Written questions | 205345

[Young Offenders: Segregation of Prisoners](#)

Asked by: Hussain, Imran

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of children in secure institutions were on average confined to their cells for more than 22 hours a day in each of the last five years the average length of time spent in segregation by a young offender was in each year since 2010.

Answering member: Edward Argar | Ministry of Justice

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) do not hold the specific information requested centrally but are currently reviewing how segregation data is collected across each establishment in the Youth Estate. However, in answering PQ 141024, we did provide a breakdown of the total number of hours young people spent in segregation in each Young Offender Institution, where data is available, over the last 5 years.

The safety and welfare of young people in our care is our priority. That is why there are strict safeguards on segregation, which is only used as a last resort when someone is likely to cause harm to themselves or others. We are recruiting more staff and investing in enhanced support units for the most vulnerable offenders, so young people have the support they need to turn away from crime and contribute to society.

16 October 2018 | Written questions | 176338

[Feltham Young Offender Institution: Education](#)

Asked by: Richard Burgon

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 4 July 2018 to Question 159027 on Feltham Young Offender Institution, whether his Department has a mechanism by which to determine whether the legal minimum education requirement is being provided to children in the segregation unit at HMYOI Feltham.

Answering member: Edward Argar

Monitoring of education provision in Young Offenders Institutions (YOI) is undertaken via regular contract and performance review meetings between the provider, establishment and senior civil servants within the Youth Custody Service. The governance of young people held within care and separation units is set out under YOI rule 49 and managed via Prison Service Orders (PSO 1700 - <https://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/offenders/psipso/psi-17-2006.doc>).

Good education in and out of the classroom is the key to unlocking a secure and stable future for young people. I am determined to drive forward our reforms so that young people are equipped with the skills to live successful, crime-free lives.

10 Jul 2018 | Written questions | 161220

[Feltham Young Offender Institution](#)**Asked by: Richard Burgon**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average number of hours per week was of (a) taught education and (b) vocational training provided to children held in the segregation block at HM Feltham Young Offenders Institution in 2018.

Answering member: Edward Argar | Ministry of Justice

Outreach education is commissioned for those young people who are unable or unwilling to attend the classroom. This applies to the whole establishment. As per my answer to PQ156475 and PQ157476, this information is not collected centrally in respect to children held in the care and separation unit at HM YOI Feltham and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Good education in and out of the classroom is the key to unlocking a secure and stable future for young people. I am determined to drive forward our reforms so that young people are equipped with the skills to live successful, crime-free lives.

04 Jul 2018 | Written questions | 159027

[Young Offender Institutions: Education](#)**Asked by Richard Burgon**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average number of hours per week was of taught education and vocational training provided to children held in a segregation block in each Young Offender Institution in each month in 2018.

Answered by: Edward Argar | Ministry of Justice

The information requested is not collected centrally and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Good education in and out of the classroom and purposeful activity are the key to unlocking a secure and stable future for young people and I am determined to drive forward our comprehensive reforms so that young people are equipped with the skills to live successful, crime-free lives on release.

21 Jun 2018 | Written questions | 154763

[Segregation of Prisoners](#)**Asked by: Seema Malhotra Seema**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests to authorise a removal from association as specified in Paragraph 2(B) of Rule 49 of the Prisons and Young Offender Institution Offender Rules he received from Prison Governors in 2017; and how many of those requests for removal from association were granted. Under paragraph 2(C) of Rule 49 of the Prisons and Young Offender Institution Offender Rules 2000 he received from governors in 2017; and many of those requests were granted.

Answered by: Dr Phillip Lee

Prison and Young Offender Institution (YOI) Rule 49 (Removal From Association - RFA) permits a Governor to segregate a young person from others (either generally or for particular purposes). Segregation under this rule must be desirable either for the maintenance of good order or discipline, or for the young person’s own interests.

Although Rule 49 (2b) provides that the governor must obtain leave from the Secretary of State in writing to authorise continuing segregation beyond 42 days, Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service’s policy on segregation mandates that young people cannot be segregated beyond 21 days without this leave being obtained.

The safety and welfare of all young people held in custody is one of our highest priorities. When young people in custody are putting themselves or others at risk, segregation can be used as a last resort for limited periods of time when no other form of intervention is suitable. This is closely monitored by specialist staff and accompanied by a strategy of intervention.

The table below provides the number of applications received for authorisation of continued RFA after 21 days and 42 days as well as the number of applications that were approved during 2017.

	RFA beyond 21 days	RFA beyond 42 days
No of applications received	73	27
No of applications approved	73	27

NB : All applications received were approved

The numbers above represent occurrences and not individual young people

16 May 2018 | Written questions | 139499

[Young Offender Institutions](#)

Asked by: Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many children in young offender institutions were locked in their cells for (a) 22 hours a day and (b) more than 22 hours a day in each of the last 5 years.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 14 May 2018. Corrected on 29 October 2018

The correct answer should have been:

The safety and welfare of young people held in custody is one of our highest priorities and is fundamental to the proper functioning of our justice system. We are committed to reforming youth custody so that it is safer for both young people and staff, as well as being better equipped to help young people turn their lives around.

There are some occasions when young people in custody are putting themselves or others at risk, during which segregation can be used as a last resort for limited periods of time when no other form of intervention is suitable. Any decision to remove a young person from association is subject to regular review and a range of safeguarding measures are in place to ensure appropriate oversight of their care. There are careful limits placed on the length of time for which young people can be removed from association without review of the decision to remove.

Please see the number of hours of segregation that young people have been placed on, broken down via each Young Offender Institute (YOI) within each of the past five years. Please note that the data collected below is classified by the number of hours young people in total have been on segregation in each current YOI establishment. We do not have a breakdown via the number of young people that have been in segregation and nor the number of hours spent per segregation.

Establishment	No. of Hours young people in 'Segregation' for						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Sub-total
HMYOI Cookham Wood	744	2009	2392	2000	2576	710	10431
HMYOI Feltham	2232	1229	1286	1139	1274	279	7439
HMYOI Parc	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HMYOI Werrington	1003	1185	1732	2045	1765	283	8013

HMYOI Wetherby	1578	1400	1592	1589	1394	263	7816
<i>Sub- Total</i>	2581 5557	2585 5823	3324 7002	3634 6773	3159 7009	5461 535	158293 3699

Notes

- This is unpublished data that is not in the public domain.
- 2018 figures only apply to the months from January to March 2018.
- We have not included data for HMYOI Ashfield, HMYOI Hindley and HMYOI Warren Hill. These establishments also held young people at times during the period requested but were all decommissioned.
- The data from HMYOI Parc is not comparable as it relates to single separation data – not time on segregation.
- This data includes some 18 year olds who remain in the under 18 secure estate.
- These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Answered by: Dr Phillip Lee

The safety and welfare of young people held in custody is one of our highest priorities and is fundamental to the proper functioning of our justice system. We are committed to reforming youth custody so that it is safer for both young people and staff, as well as being better equipped to help young people turn their lives around.

There are some occasions when young people in custody are putting themselves or others at risk, during which segregation can be used as a last resort for limited periods of time when no other form of intervention is suitable. Any decision to remove a young person from association is subject to regular review and a range of safeguarding measures are in place to ensure appropriate oversight of their care. There are careful limits placed on the length of time for which young people can be removed from association without review of the decision to remove.

Please see the number of hours of segregation that young people have been placed on, broken down via each Young Offender Institute (YOI) within each of the past five years. Please note that the data collected below is classified by the number of hours young people in total have been on segregation in each current YOI establishment. We do not have

a breakdown via the number of young people that have been in segregation and nor the number of hours spent per segregation.

Establishment	No. of Hours young people in 'Segregation' for						Sub-total
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
HMYOI Cookham Wood	744	2009	2392	2000	2576	710	10431
HMYOI Feltham	2232	1229	1286	1139	1274	279	7439
HMYIO Parc	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HMYOI Werrington	1003	1185	1732	2045	1765	283	8013
HMYOI Wetherby	1578	1400	1592	1589	1394	263	7816
Sub-Total	2581	2585	3324	3634	3159	546	15829

Notes

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2018 figures only apply to the months from January to March 2018.

We have not included data for HMYOI Ashfield, HMYOI Hindley and HMYOI Warren Hill. These establishments also held young people at times during the period requested but were all decommissioned.

The data from HMYOI Parc is not comparable as it relates to single separation data – not time on segregation.

This data includes some 18 year olds who remain in the under 18 secure estate.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

14 May 2018 | Written questions | 141024

[Young Offenders: Solitary Confinement](#)

Asked by: Seema Malhotra

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what information his Department holds on the (a) number of instances of, (b) average length of time and (c) average number of hours per day people aged 18 were held in solitary confinement in the youth secure estate in (i) England and (ii) Wales since 2010.

Answered by: Dr Phillip Lee

The safety and welfare of young people held in custody is one of our highest priorities and is fundamental to the proper functioning of our justice system. We are committed to reforming youth custody so that it is safer for both young people and staff and better equipped to help young people turn their lives around.

There are some occasions, when young people in custody are putting themselves or others at risk, during which segregation can be used as a last resort for limited periods of time when no other form of intervention is suitable.

Any decision to remove a young person from association is subject to regular review and a range of safeguarding measures are in place to ensure appropriate oversight of their care. There are careful limits placed on the length of time for which young people can be removed from association without review of the decision to remove.

02 May 2018 | Written questions | 137566

[Young Offenders: Solitary Confinement](#)

Asked by: Seema Malhotra

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what his Department's policy is on the use of solitary confinement within the youth secure estate.

Answered by: Dr Phillip Lee

Young people in the youth secure estate are some of the most vulnerable people in society and their safety and welfare is our highest priority.

We do not use solitary confinement. Young people can be removed from association under careful control where they will not be permitted to associate with other young people.

Any decision to remove a young person from association is subject to regular review and a range of safeguarding measures are in place to ensure appropriate oversight of their care. There are careful limits placed on the length of time for which young people can be removed from association without review of the decision to remove. Young offenders cannot be removed from association as a punishment.

23 Jan 2018 | Written questions | 122793

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Conor McGinn

There are reports today of children being held in solitary confinement in prisons in this country, which is shocking, immoral and probably unlawful. Surely, the Secretary of State understands that, whatever chance these young people have of turning their lives around, they will

not find it if they are locked in a cell for 23 hours a day. Will she commit now to ordering an end to this practice?

Answered by: Dr Phillip Lee

I am aware of the reports from the Howard League. The safety and welfare of young people held in custody is our highest priority. I would stress, though, that these cases are extremely difficult. Some of these young individuals are extremely difficult to manage, and governors on the ground have to make decisions that are in the interests of the broader community in prison and the wider security of society.

07 Mar 2017 | Oral answers to questions | 622 c674

3.3 Parliamentary Committees material

Joint Committee on Human Rights

[Youth Detention: Solitary confinement and restraint inquiry](#)

4. Organisations and further reading

[The Queen on the application of AB \(by his Mother and Appellant Litigation Friend CD\) and Secretary of State for Justice, \[2019\] EWCA 9 \(Civ\)](#), 18 January 2019

Children's Commissioner, [A report on the use of segregation in youth custody in England](#), October 2018

Human Rights Law Centre, [Explainer: Solitary confinement](#), 08 February 2018

Howard League for Penal reform, [Solitary confinement](#)

British Medical Association, [The medical role in solitary confinement: Guidance for doctors working in the youth justice system](#), 2018

[On the Application of "AB" \(a child, by his Litigation Friend\) and THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE, \[2017\] EWHC 1694 \(Admin\)](#), 25-27 April 2017

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