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22nd July 2019

IICSA REPORT: SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN IN CUSTODIAL INSTITUTIONS: 2009 - 2017

We are grateful to you and the Panel for this comprehensive report following your investigation into sexual abuse in the youth secure estate. Ensuring the safety and well-being of the children in our care is our highest priority and we, therefore, take the findings raised in the report very seriously.

We have carefully considered the report's recommendations and our response to each is set out in the memorandum attached to this letter. Overall, we have responded positively to the recommendations, which we believe will help to minimise the occurrence of sexual or other forms of abuse and improve outcomes for children. We will publish this letter and the government's response on GOV.UK on 23 July.

The memorandum explains that the use of pain-inducing restraint techniques in young offender's institutions and secure training centres is currently the subject of an independent review commissioned by the Ministry of Justice in late 2018. The outcome of that review will inform future policy in this area. We will respond to the report's recommendation on the use of pain-inducing restraint techniques in due course.

We thank the Inquiry for its work on these important issues.

EDWARD ARGAR MP

NADHIM ZAHAWI MP