



Ministry  
of Justice

Sir Martyn Oliver  
HM Chief Inspector, Ofsted  
10 South Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
London  
E14 4PU

The Right Honourable  
**Shabana Mahmood MP**  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary  
of State for Justice

**MoJ ref:** ADR126273

28 August 2025

Dear Martyn,

### **URGENT NOTIFICATION – OAKHILL SECURE TRAINING CENTRE**

Thank you for your letter outlining the serious concerns raised following your full inspection of Oakhill Secure Training Centre (STC), published on 31 July, and invoking the Urgent Notification process. I am pleased to provide this response within the 28-day timeframe, in accordance with the 'Joint inspection framework: secure training centres' and the linked protocol between the Ministry of Justice and HM Inspectorate of Prisons.

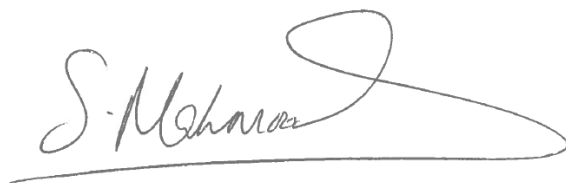
As you know we had concerns about Oakhill and had discussed these with Ofsted. We are, therefore, grateful for the planned routine full inspection whereby you have raised very serious issues including systematic failures in safeguarding procedures, poor leadership and staff conduct, and the lack of a child-centred culture. You have raised concerns around the new healthcare provider's ability to address healthcare issues given their scale and complexity.

Rapid action has already been taken to put in an experienced Director and Deputy Director and the YCS had provided the site additional safeguarding and operations expertise. Where inappropriate practices were found, these have ceased, and healthcare and mental health provision has been bolstered. This Government is determined to continue to drive much needed improvement in response to your findings. To achieve this, I have enclosed the action plan for Oakhill STC which will be published alongside this letter. The action plan focuses on tackling the most pressing issues including child safeguarding, leadership, culture and accountability, staff conduct and capacity, healthcare provision, and living conditions and decency standards.

I note that in accordance with your framework, you will be publishing your full report in September and undertaking a further visit within 8 weeks of your findings. I assure you that I will be closely monitoring the situation at Oakhill STC to help ensure that you see improvements and that the site will continue to receive bolstered support so that these can be sustained and further built on.

I would like to thank you and your team for your valued scrutiny of our youth estate, and I look forward to receiving your full inspection report and hearing the outcomes of subsequent visits in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mahmood', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**RT HON SHABANA MAHMOOD MP**

**LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**