Ministry of Justice

[redacted]

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The Parole Board for England and Wales
Floor 3
10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

MoJ ref: ADR96579

By Email Only

10 June 2022

Dear [redacted],

RESPONSE TO THE ROOT AND BRANCH REVIEW

Thank you for your letter of 10 May setting out the Parole Board's response to the Root and Branch Review of the Parole System.

I am grateful to you and the Board's Management Committee for your comprehensive views on the outcomes and proposals for reform in the Review. I welcome your support on improving victims' access to the parole system and for public parole hearings, alongside implementing the measures to improve end-to-end scrutiny of the process and increasing the number of members with law enforcement experience.

I note your concerns around how the proposed victim participation in parole hearings will work, particularly in relation to retraumatising victims, and welcome assistance from the Board in ensuring those measures work as intended for victims. I also note your concerns in other areas relating to the proposed legislative changes to the release test and powers for ministerial oversight in the most serious cases. I consider these reforms to be vital for improving public confidence in the parole system and ensuring that the release of the most serious offenders is subject to a more precautionary approach with additional checks and safeguards. My officials will work with you and colleagues at the Board to implement these reforms in an efficient and effective way.

I look forward to putting these reforms into action and ensuring the parole system is focused on public protection.

Yours sincerely

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