

Robert Buckland QC MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
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Dear Secretary of State,

Parole Board - Independence

I read with interest today's article in the Telegraph reporting clear, factual and balanced remarks by the Chief Executive of the Parole Board concerning the release of people who do not disclose the whereabouts of their victim's remains. But I was shocked by the last sentence of the article, which reported that "a government source said: 'as far as the Government is concerned, the public and Parliament have made their views and concerns very clear and it would be unwise of the Parole Board to not take note of that.'"

At a time when the Parole Board is subject to a "root and branch review" being conducted within the ministry and without the benefit of an independent chair, the implied threat to the board's independence is clear.

It would be reassuring to everyone whose liberty depends upon the board's independent exercise of its powers, and all of us concerned with the integrity of the review process that you have instigated, if you could clearly dissociate yourself from the remark from the "government source".

With best wishes,



Peter Dawson
Director