20 May 2020

Dear Robert Buckland

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System welcomes the Ministry of Justice announcement regarding the release from prison of pregnant women and women and babies in Mother and Baby Units who do not pose a high risk of harm to the public. We are pleased that some women and babies have already been released.

We urge the Ministry of Justice to act swiftly to release mothers and mothers-to-be in prison who are eligible immediately. In addition, women eligible for end of custody release and who meet the criteria for compassionate release on licence should also be enabled to return to the community.

The release of all these women will help to save lives and is the right thing to do. It will help to keep women, babies and prison staff safe.

The announcement of the release of women prisoners was the right decision and we know you would want to see this followed by bold action to ensure that it has real impact and saves lives.

Yours ever,

Rt Hon Baroness Corston
Kate Green MP
Co-chairs, APPG on Women in the Penal System

Baroness Hamwee

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