



Ministry  
of Justice

**Lucy Frazer QC MP**  
Minister of State for Justice

Frances Crook  
Howard League for Penal Reform

Enver Solomon  
Just for Kids Law

Martha Spurrier  
Liberty

**MoJ ref:** ADR 082371

13 October 2020

Dear Frances, Enver and Martha,

### **CHANGES TO CUSTODY TIME LIMITS IN THE CROWN COURT**

Thank you for your letter of 30 September 2020 regarding changes to custody time limits in the Crown Court.

I am pleased to say that you can find the Equalities Impact Statement at:  
[https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/953/pdfs/uksipes\\_20200953\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/953/pdfs/uksipes_20200953_en.pdf)

It remains Departmental policy to avoid using custodial remand for children where possible. The extension of custody time limits does not alter the statutory framework governing remand. Custodial remand should only be used when absolutely necessary, when the court is satisfied that a stringent set of conditions is met (for example the defendant is at risk of absconding or presents a risk to the public). It is important to note that this extension is time limited and was a response to the unique set of circumstances that COVID-19 has presented.

Whilst a separate Child Rights Impact Assessment was not carried out, data on children was considered as a part of the Equalities Impact Statement referred to above.

Yours sincerely,

**LUCY FRAZER QC MP**