



Robert Neill MP
Justice Select Committee Chair
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 July 2019

Dear Bob,

PUBLICATION OF THE INCENTIVES POLICY FRAMEWORK

I write to inform you, in your capacity as chair of the Justice Select Committee, that the new Incentives Policy Framework will be published today.

The system of incentives is a key tool for motivating prisoners to abide by the rules and engage in the prison regime. The new Policy Framework focuses on incentivising positive behaviour from prisoners, including engagement in activities which reduce reoffending, while ensuring that poor behaviour can still be tackled through loss of privileges. It provides a common framework across prisons, while providing governors with greater freedom to tailor their incentive schemes to the local needs and challenges in their prison.

The publication of the Policy Framework follows our consultation on the draft Incentives and Earned Privileges policy, a copy of which was sent to you in September 2018. Consultation responses were received from governors and a wide range of stakeholders, and these have been considered in the development of the final Policy Framework. In particular, changes were made to ensure the right balance between flexibility for governors and consistency between prisons; to integrate additional evidence on effective behaviour support; and to strengthen equalities considerations for a range of prisoners, including those with protected characteristics and those with low maturity.

Alongside our other reforms, the new Incentives Policy Framework will reinvigorate the system of incentives in prisons. By placing greater emphasis on incentivising positive behaviour, whilst tackling poor behaviour through sanctions, we will help prisoners to make the right choices and prepare them to lead crime-free lives when they leave prison.

A copy of the Policy Framework, embargoed until 11.30am is attached.

ROBERT BUCKLAND QC MP