Dear Bob,

HMP BIRMINGHAM

On 20 August Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) took over the running of HMP Birmingham for an initial period of six months. This was in order to focus on addressing the fundamental issues underlying the deterioration in performance, particularly around safety and decency. The initial period of HMPPS's statutory step-in is due to expire on 19 February 2019.

We have taken the decision to extend the statutory step-in at HMP Birmingham for a further period. The position will be reviewed again in summer 2019.

Whilst the actions taken since step-in have enabled encouraging signs of improvement, we nevertheless believe that the establishment continues to require considerable support from the wider HMPPS Agency to embed the improvements and make further progress.

I have also written to Shabana Mahmood, Member for Birmingham Ladywood advising of this decision.

RORY STEWART MP