THE USE OF PAIN INDUCING TECHNIQUES IN THE YOUTH SECURE ESTATE

Given previous interest that you have expressed in this issue, I am writing to let you know about a piece of work that we are about to undertake regarding the use of pain inducing techniques. As you know, pain inducing techniques are part of the Use of Force policy framework which was published in 2012, following the development of the new restraint syllabus ‘Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint’ (MMPR). It sets out both the circumstances in which restraint can be used and the techniques permitted in accordance with current UK domestic law.

The Ministry of Justice current position recognises that in very limited circumstances the use of pain-inducing restraint techniques in YOIs and STCs may be necessary and proportionate to protect a child or others from an immediate risk of serious physical harm.

Given that the policy was published in 2012, the Ministry of Justice has now decided to carry out a fuller assessment of the inclusion of pain-inducing techniques in the MMPR syllabus applicable across the youth estate and including their potential availability for use in the escort environment. The precise scope of this assessment is yet to be set, but we will communicate these to you in due course. We expect this further exercise to take 12 months.

Yours Ever,

[Signature]

DR PHILLIP LEE MP