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Ministry
of Justice



HM Prison &
Probation Service



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Public Health
England



From: Co-Chairs of the National Prison Healthcare Board

**To: Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair
Health and Social Care Committee**
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

9th October 2019

Dear Dr Wollaston,

Equivalence of Care in Prisons

In June you wrote to the National Prison Healthcare Board regarding the recommendation from the Health and Social Care Committee's report on prison health around developing a definition of equivalence of care. The Board has now had the opportunity to complete its consideration of this issue and has consulted with key stakeholders, including the Royal College of GPs.

As a result of this consideration, we have now published our response to this recommendation at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/837882/NPHB_Equivalence_of_Care_principle.pdf (also attached for your reference). Please note that our scope is limited to healthcare in prisons in England, so this principle is in reference to that context.

We, as the co-chairs of the National Prison Healthcare Board, are committed to continuing to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of people in prisons and in delivering the objectives outlined our [published workplan](#). We value the interest and support of the Health and Social Care Committee and would be pleased to engage with you again as we work to progress our shared priorities.

Yours sincerely,

**Caroline Allnutt – Deputy Director, Serious
Mental Illness and Offender Health,
Department of Health & Social Care**

**Dr Eamonn O'Moore – National Lead
Health & Justice Team, Public Health
England**

**Kate Davies CBE – Director of Health &
Justice, NHS England & NHS Improvement**

**Simon Marshall – Deputy Director,
Rehabilitation & Support Services Group,
Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service**

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**Madeleine Percival & Catherine Pearson –
Deputy Directors, Vulnerable Offenders,
Ministry of Justice**