



## RT HON DR THERESE COFFEY MP

*Member of Parliament for Suffolk Coastal*

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

020 7219 7164 [therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk)



The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP  
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London SW1H 9AJ

16 February 2022

Dear Dominic,

### **RE: Men Convicted of Sexual Offences in Open Prisons**

I am writing to you in light of the recent news that Paul Robson, a man convicted of sexual offences, has fled from an open prison in Lincolnshire and is currently on the run. This concerns me deeply as an MP representing a constituency with an open prison.

As you may be aware, I have been involved in numerous discussions with the MoJ regarding plans to hold category D men convicted of sexual offences in my constituency at HMP & YOI Hollesley, sharing concerns on behalf of Hollesley Parish Council and the wider community.

I note that the police are advising the public that Paul Robson is a dangerous individual and should not be approached. Therefore, I would like to question why an open prison would be deemed suitable for a convicted man where this level of risk is involved.

Open prisons have the lowest security levels, which brings into question public safety when eligible prisoners, including convicted sex offenders, are able to spend most of their day away from the prison and carry out work in the local community. I am concerned that similar risks of public safety will incur on local residents who live and work near HMP & YOI Hollesley Bay.

While I appreciate that ministers have previously written to me with assurances that there are robust risk assessment of prisoners' suitability for open prison conditions in place, I would like to know what measures are being introduced to ensure that cases, like Paul Robson, will not occur in my constituency.

Yours sincerely,