

Restricted - Policy

WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Establishment of the UK's National Preventative Mechanism (NPM) in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).

Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Michael Wills)

The Operational Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which the UK ratified in December 2003, requires states party to establish a “national preventative mechanism” to carry out a system of regular visits to places of detention in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

OPCAT provides that a national preventative mechanism may consist of one body or several. The Government intends that the requirements of OPCAT be fulfilled in the UK by the collective action of existing inspection bodies.

I am designating the following bodies to form the UK NPM. If it is necessary in future to add new inspection bodies to the NPM, or if bodies within the NPM are restructured or renamed, I will notify Parliament accordingly.

England and Wales

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP)
Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB)
Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA)
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)
Care Quality Commission (CQC)
Healthcare Inspectorate of Wales (HIW)
Children's Commissioner for England (CCE)
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)
Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)

Scotland

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS)
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland (HMICS)
Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)
Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWCS)
The Care Commission (CC)

Northern Ireland

Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB)
Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI)
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)
Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (NIPBICVS)

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The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, Lord Bach of Lutterworth:

My honourable friend the Minister of State, Michael Wills, has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

“The Operational Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which the UK ratified in December 2003, requires States party to establish a “national preventative mechanism” to carry out a system of regular visits to places of detention in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

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