



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Criminal Justice Committee

Siobhian Brown MSP
Minister for Victims and Community
Safety
The Scottish Government

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18 July, 2024

Dear Minister,

Re. Death in custody, HMP&YOI Polmont

I am writing to you on behalf of the Criminal Justice Committee following the tragic death of Jonathan Beadle at HMP&YOI Polmont on Saturday.

As you know, the Committee has been concerned with deaths in custody for some time now, especially those relating to young people. That is why we commented on the proposal to prevent anyone under the age of 18 years of age from being transferred to Polmont in our Stage 1 report on the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill¹. I understand that this Bill has now received Royal Assent but those particular sections have not yet been implemented.

I recognise that the death of Mr Beadle will be the subject of an FAI in due course. In the meantime, I would be grateful for details of the timeline in this case and the circumstances that lead to the decision to move Mr Beadle from secure care to HMP&YOI Polmont.

I would also be grateful for an update on the timescales for the implementation of sections 16 to 18 of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act and the reasons why these remain to be enacted.

¹ <https://bprcdn.parliament.scot/published/%20CJ/2023/5/12/f9a98ab4-e3ff-47bb-8590-b89b7c47bd9a/CJS062023R7.pdf>

I know that the HM Inspector for Prisons in Scotland has commented on this case and I am therefore copying this letter to her and to the Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service.

Best wishes,

Audrey N: 

Audrey Nicoll MSP
Convener, Criminal Justice Committee

cc. Wendy Sinclair-Gieben, HMIPS
Teresa Medhurst, SPS