



Ministry
of Justice

Alison Stradling
Head of UN Human Rights
Conventions, Security and Gender
Recognition Team
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
T 020 3334 3900
E alison.stradling@justice.gsi.gov.uk
www.justice.gov.uk

Mr Malcolm Evans
Chairperson
Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture
Human Rights Treaties Division
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

21st January 2014

Dear Mr Evans,

UK NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM

I am writing to inform you of changes to the UK National Preventive Mechanism (UK NPM) which was established in 2009 (as per our letter of 17 June 2009) in compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).

In summary, we expanded the number of inspecting bodies that are part of the UK NPM to include the following three additional members:

- Lay Observers, in England and Wales.
- Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland, better known as the Care Inspectorate (instead of the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care, which no longer exists), in Scotland.
- Independent Custody Visitors Scotland, in Scotland (as a separate entity from the Independent Custody Visiting Association, which was already part of the UK NPM).

The UK NPM is, as you know, coordinated by HM Inspectorate of Prisons which also updates the UK NPM's website (<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmi-prisons/preventive-mechanism>). General information on the UK implementation of its obligations under the OPCAT and also under the Council Europe European Convention for the Prevention of Torture is available at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/human-rights/international-monitoring-of-places-of-detention> . I should however flag that the UK Government is consolidating all government websites into a single web portal, www.gov.uk, and that, as a result, the above websites may change in the near future.

For information, I am copying this letter to HM Inspectorate of Prisons.

Sincerely,
ALISON STRADLING