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