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Mr Andrew Newell
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Heathrow Immigration Removals Centres
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Independent Monitoring Board – Heathrow IRCs Annual Report 2016

Thank you for your Board's report on Heathrow Immigration Removal Centres published on 21st June 2017.

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. As the newly appointed Immigration Minister, please be assured, moving forward this will not occur in the future. I am extremely grateful to you and your colleagues for your conscientious work in producing such a comprehensive and informative report, which I have read with keen interest.

It is pleasing to note your comments, particularly around the improvements to facilities within the centres.

I acknowledge the issues you raise in relation to the timing of transfers, mental health provision, social networking for detainees and the length of detention of a small number of detainees. I enclose an action plan responding to these and each of the other issues you have raised.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your dedication in monitoring the care and welfare of the many detainees that are housed at Heathrow IRC. Your role is extremely important, and provides the public with independent assurance that those entrusted in our care are treated appropriately. I look forward to visiting as part of my new Ministerial Portfolio and hope to meet you then.

**Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Minister for Immigration**