

Detention Services Policy Unit

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20 February 2009

Dear Steve,

Further Consultation on the draft Short-Term Holding Facility (STHF) Rules

First of all I must apologise that we have not yet introduced the STHF Rules, which I appreciate will be disappointing given that it is now some time since we asked you for comments on the draft Rules. We had hoped to have had them in place some time ago (following consideration of comments received as part of the external consultation exercise), but I am afraid that owing to other legislative measures which have taken priority it has not been possible to do so.

Because of the time that has elapsed and that a number of changes have been made to the Rules we thought it only right not to progress matters without first giving you a further opportunity to consider the content of the Rules. To help with this process I attach (at **Annex A**) a note that seeks to explain the reason for change since the original version was circulated for comment.

Following the earlier consultation, letters were sent to those who offered comments or proposed changes to the original Rules. The correspondence confirmed those changes we accepted and explained why it was not possible to accept others. In some instances we accepted proposals but took the view that they would better feature in the operating standards that will underpin the Rules as opposed to the Rules themselves. (I should add that we will be seeking your comments on the draft operating standards in due course.) For those who did not comment at the first time of asking this is an opportunity to do so.

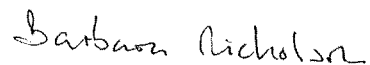
For the benefit of those who commented on the earlier version of the Rules I am attaching details (see **Annex B**) of our comments on theirs and hope that in doing so this will also make the exercise simpler. Please note that **Annex B** goes only to those concerned.

Attached with this letter is a copy of the latest revised Rules together with a copy of the version that was issued originally; these are at **Annexes C** and **D** respectively.

I should be grateful to receive responses no later than Friday, 17 April. If anyone has a particular difficulty in meeting this deadline please let me know.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your cooperation and to apologise again for not having the Rules in place before now.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Nicholson".

Barbara Nicholson

Detention Services Policy Unit

Cc Susan Rowlands