

**Melanie Jameson, Clerk of Quakers in Criminal Justice,
6 Gilbert Rd, Malvern, WR14 3RQ**

Dear Ruth Cadbury

November 23, 2023

I am contacting you in my role as Clerk of [Quakers in Criminal Justice \(QICJ\)](#). We are a recognised body within [Quakers in Britain](#), made up of Quakers with experience (including lived experience) and professional knowledge of many aspects of the criminal justice system. In view of your current role as Shadow Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation there are number of issues which we would like the opportunity to discuss with you. These are:

1. Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP)
2. The Crisis of Rising Prisoner Numbers
3. The Underperformance of a resource-starved Probation Service
4. Political pressure and delays affecting the Parole Board

Our most immediate concern is IPP: over the years we have become increasingly concerned about the fate of people sentenced under IPP, joining others to call for an end to this misguided, long abolished sentence which still affects around 8,000 individuals and their families. Our views are informed by members of QICJ with lived experience of this sentence and by zoom calls which include family representatives.

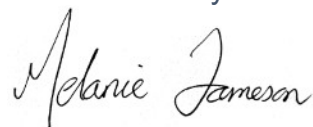
Clerks of Quaker Peace and Social Witness are writing to the Secretary of State at the MoJ urging him to accept the core recommendations of the Justice Committee's report on IPP and prepare the way for re-sentencing. The situation is increasingly urgent in view of the deteriorating mental health of those affected and the growing numbers of suicides/attempted suicides. In previous briefings QICJ has endorsed the research report by the Centre for Crime & Justice Studies: *Review of the Psychological Impact of IPP* and called for a well-funded/ ringfenced support package on release into the community.

We are writing to you now to seek clarification of the Labour Party's position on IPP when you come to power. We trust that Labour MPs are already well informed about this 'stain on the justice system' and that the Party will be prepared to move on this, especially if little happens to resolve matters in the interim. Meanwhile, is Labour currently joining others in urging the Secretary of State to reduce the term after which the sentence is terminated from ten years in the community to five?

Our other areas of concern listed above clearly require long term solutions and we hope that you will be happy to talk with us about how a Labour government will go about this. The IPP issue requires more immediate responses, and we hope that could be the starting point of any discussions with you.

If you are able to meet, our preference would be a face-to-face meeting with you, but we are open to one online if this is more convenient.

Yours sincerely



Melanie Jameson, Clerk of Quakers in Criminal Justice

BY POST AND VIA EMAIL