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**HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
PETER CLARKE CVO OBE QPM**

Date : 1 May 2019

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Editor: The Prisons Handbook
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Ref: B016-2019

By e-mail to: request-566708-eobagb6e@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Leech,

Thank you for your e-mail of 7 April where you requested information again about Independent Review of Progress (IRP) visits to prisons.

A guide to IRPs for prison staff, which answers questions 2-5 and 8, is available on our website at <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/04/GUIDE-TO-IRPs-FOR-PRISON-STAFF-March-2019.pdf>. This information is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the FOI Act as the information is reasonably accessible by other means.

In response to your other questions :

1. Please detail precisely what 'additional resources' have been made available to HMIP by the Prisons Minister for IRP visits as referred to in his letter of 12th November.

Our budget for the financial year 2019/20 has not yet been confirmed by the Ministry of Justice and so we are unable to provide specific details at the present time

7. Was a business case made out by HMIP for additional resources for IRPs and, if so, please provide a copy of it. You said previously a case was made out but “the

methodology for IRPs is still under development.” Now it has been implemented please provide a copy of the Business Case.

As stated above, our budget for 2019/20 has still not been confirmed. We therefore stand by our previous response that we are not obliged to provide information if its release would affect the delivery of effective central government and other public services (section 36(2)(c) of the Act). In this case, we believe that releasing the information while deliberations are ongoing could prejudice the decisions of the Ministry of Justice about its budget allocations.

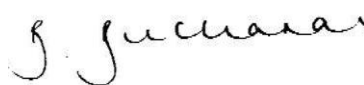
We have again considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information, despite the exemption being applicable. After careful consideration, we have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: *Mrs Lesley Young, HM Inspectorate of Prisons, 3rd floor, 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU.*

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,



BARBARA BUCHANAN