

Victims and Prisoners Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Clause 48

LORD BLUNKETT
BARONESS CHAKRABARTI

Clause 48, page 52, line 23, after ““three”,” insert “and

- (ii) at end insert “in the case of a person serving a sentence of imprisonment for public protection and one and a half years beginning with the date of his release in the case of a person serving a sentence of detention for public protection.”;

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would halve the qualifying period for men and women who were sentenced as children in line with other statutory provisions, such as when convictions become “spent”, to reflect the principle that children change in a shorter period than adults.

After Clause 48

LORD BLUNKETT
BARONESS CHAKRABARTI

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause –

“Enhanced sentence progression for individuals sentenced to detention for public protection who have not been released

After section 28 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 (duty to release certain life prisoners) insert –

“28ZA Duty of enhanced progression for individuals sentenced to detention for public protection

- (1) This section applies to a person serving a sentence of detention for public protection who has not been released on licence by the Parole Board and who is not considered suitable for executive release by the Secretary of State.

- (2) It is the duty of the Secretary of State to convene quarterly sentence planning meetings in respect of a person falling within subsection (1) with a view to ensuring that all possible steps are taken to enable their safe release at the earliest possible time.”

Member's explanatory statement

This would require the Secretary of State to ensure that where a DPP is “stuck” either at first instance or following recall, instead of usual annual sentence planning meetings setting out what is expected of the person to progress through their sentence, there should be quarterly reviews.

LORD BLUNKETT
BARONESS CHAKRABARTI

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause—

“Annual referrals for individuals sentenced to detention for public protection

In section 28 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 (duty to release certain life prisoners), after subsection (6A) insert—

- “(6B) In the case of a person serving a sentence of detention for public protection, the Secretary of State must refer his case to the Parole Board at any time—
- (a) after he has served the relevant part of his sentence, and
 - (b) where there has been a previous reference of his case to the Board, no later than the period of one year beginning with the disposal of that reference.”

Member's explanatory statement

This would require the Secretary of State to refer cases of those sentenced to DPPs as children to the Parole Board annually. This would ensure these cases are subject to enhanced scrutiny in line with the well-established duties owed to those who offended as children.

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