



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Briefing and Casework Unit
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Mr A Hinchliffe
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Your ref:
Our ref:
Date: 27 November 2008

Dear Mr Hinchliffe

Thank you for your further letter of 17 November about Mr Wilkinson. I am pleased to see your acceptance of the position of the Prison Service, that it is for the courts to determine whether a person is guilty of a criminal offence. Furthermore that the Prison Service has to approach any convicted prisoner from the point of view they have been correctly found guilty by the Courts.

Your concern, as I read your comments, is that Mr Wilkinson remains Category A despite the many years spent in prison custody. In common with all other Category A prisoners, a review of the category is undertaken on a regular basis. In the course of that review, comments from the prisoner and/or his legal advisers are invited on the reports received about him. The information obtained will then be considered in determining whether the prisoner should continue to remain Category A.

Where a prisoner does not agree with the result of the review, they are able to challenge that decision by submitting a complaint. Should that result in a reply not to the approval of the prisoner, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman can be approached and be asked to consider the matter or, as an alternative, a Judicial Review of the decision can be sought. As this office does not deal with matters relating to reviews of category A status, I am unable to comment on the points specifically raised that you say question the decision of the Director, but Mr Wilkinson is able to refer to these in any complaint he might wish to make to the Director about the decision.

Equally should Mr Wilkinson be of the view the Director has failed to properly take into account work he has undertaken, that can also be referred to in any complaint. Correspondence about the Category A status should be sent to the Category A Team which is also located at Cleland House.

Yours sincerely

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