



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
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August 2021

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the use of prisons for immigration detention.

The Government is committed to using immigration detention sparingly and only when necessary. Indefinite detention is not permitted in UK law. The Government is held to account on this by the courts, and by a series of safeguards that ensure proper scrutiny of decisions to detain, and on-going detention.

I understand you have concerns regarding the use of prisons for the purposes of immigration detention. It is important to consider that these individuals are held in prison because they have been assessed as unsuitable for the conditions of immigration removal centres. This is because they are high-risk or high harm.

There are dedicated Home Office teams working in prisons to support these individuals. Importantly, this includes access to legal advice. With regards to time-served foreign national offenders, these individuals are risked assessed before they are detained alongside other immigration offenders in the immigration detention estate. If they pose a significant risk of harm, they are detained within the prison estate.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY