Dear 

Thanks for your help on this, apologies for the late submission. It is just a few general paragraphs from on the ‘Strengthening Family Relations - A Draft Strategy February 2019’ document. (see below)

Many thanks,

As a Party we recognise that criminality and imprisonment are not simple ‘law and order’ issues and imprisonment are not a quick fix to those who break the law. We understand that there are major and complex contributory factors that lead people to commit crimes, and indeed reoffend. Thus it is vital that the DoJ looks at a comprehensive approach towards prisoners and their wellbeing.

We welcome this document, and the continued commitment of the DoJ to improving the wellbeing of offenders and their families, especially children, with the view of reducing the harm caused to society both now and in the future.
We strongly support the principle of including families in the rehabilitation of relatives, as a means of understanding the reasons for their imprisonment, but also for the purposes of stability and continuous family contact, where it is positive, throughout their rehabilitation.

As is noted we recognise that family relations can be positive or harmful when it comes to supporting prisoners and therefore an individual approach is necessary. We however would have concerns that the Department should ensure to assign adequate resources to implement policy, to avoid an inconsistent approach, and worse, a lapse in support for families and prisoners in this regard. Furthermore, the Prison Service should take to ensure that visiting conditions are good, and staff are always respectful towards visitors, to encourage continued positive family contact.

Overall however, we warmly welcome and agree with the proposed approach to family relations, and hope this forms an increasingly holistic support system for prisoners and their families.

From: [email]@justice-ni.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 February 2019 16:20
To: [email]@allianceparty.org'
Cc: Armour, Ronnie
Subject: Letter to Strengthening Family Relations - A Draft Strategy February 2019

Dear

Please see letter and attachment from Ronnie Armour.

Thank you

[Redacted]

PS/Ronnie Armour
Director General, Northern Ireland Prison Service &
Director, Reducing Offending

Northern Ireland Prison Service
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