



# Home Office

**Rt Hon Baroness Neville-Jones DCMG**  
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SECURITY AND COUNTER-TERRORISM**

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**Lord Roberts of Llandudno**  
**House Of Lords**  
**London**  
**SW1A 0PW**

25 NOV 2010

*Dear Lord Roberts,*

Over the last few months we have been working to implement the Government's commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes. While the focus of this work has been on increasing the numbers returning voluntarily and exploring alternatives to detention, we currently retain the use of detention as a last resort. On 11 October you asked me in the Lords if I would make available in the Library every week a list of the numbers of detained children, where they are detained and their ages, so that we can end this practice and monitor it.

We already publish the information that you have requested quarterly as National Statistics. Publishing this information more frequently will require us to make adjustments to our systems for data collection, in accordance with how frequently the data is required. Having considered the various options for how we might supplement this information and taking account of the importance of coordinating the necessary quality assurance checks, and seeking to avoid identifying particular individuals, I have decided to publish this information on a monthly basis. This will enable us to provide timely monthly figures for children entering detention, a month in arrears, split by Immigration Removal Centre and age. We will publish this from today, November 25<sup>th</sup>. The Child Detention Review will conclude shortly. We will clearly re-examine the provision of this information in the light of that review.

Regarding your request for an accompanied visit to Yarl's Wood - we would be happy to facilitate this. If you would like to arrange a visit please contact Chris Barker from UKBA on 020 7035 8196.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House Library.

*Your ever,* *Pauline Jones*

**RT HON BARONESS NEVILLE-JONES DCMG**