

# PRISONERS (DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ABOUT VICTIMS) BILL

## EXPLANATORY NOTES ON LORDS AMENDMENTS

### What these notes do

- 1 These Explanatory Notes relate to the Lords Amendment to the Prisoners (Disclosure of Information about Victims) Bill as brought from the House of Lords on 8 September 2020.
- 2 These Explanatory Notes have been prepared by the Ministry of Justice in order to assist the reader of the Bill and the Lords amendment, and to help inform debate on the Lords amendment. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by Parliament.
- 3 These Explanatory Notes, like the Lords amendment itself, refer to HL Bill 102, the Bill as first printed for the Lords.
- 4 These Explanatory Notes need to be read in conjunction with the Lords amendment and the text of the Bill. They are not, and are not meant to be, a comprehensive description of the Lords amendment.
- 5 Lords Amendment 1 was tabled by Baroness Kennedy (Labour).

### Commentary on Lords amendments

#### Lords Amendment to Clause 3: Parole board database

##### Lords Amendment 1

- 6 Clause 3 requires the creation of a Parole Board database of family members of victims of indeterminate sentenced prisoners caught by new sections 28A and 28B of the 1997 Act, within six months of the Bill becoming an Act. The clause also creates an obligation for the Board to contact relevant persons and provide specified information to them about the parole process.
- 7 Clause 3(1) would require the Parole Board to create and maintain a database of all the family members of victims whose circumstances are covered by new sections 28A and 28B of the 1997 Act (the provisions which will apply to indeterminate sentenced prisoners).
- 8 Subsection (2) of the new clause sets out that the Parole Board must contact relevant persons to provide information about parole applications and hearings. This information may include the timing of Parole Board hearings, decisions of the Board, and rights of the victim relating to the offender's case. 'Relevant persons' is defined in subsection (5) as specified family members of the victim, dependent on the relevant index offence.
- 9 Subsection (3) of the new clause provides the Parole Board must remove a relevant person from the database if they do not wish their details to be included.
- 10 Subsection (4) of the new clause provides that the Secretary of State must review and report on the effectiveness of this measure to Parliament within one year of the database being created.

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