

# MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Councillor Mrs Terri Beer

Date received: 19 November 2025

To the Cabinet Member for: tudor.evans@plymouth.gov.uk

Question: I attached two photos that will assist in your answer to me. On the 21st October there was a vote in Parliament on the sentencing bill (divison 320) in which two Plymouth Labour MPs voted to allow the early release of priosoners who had committed rape, grooming child sex abuse. The Labour MPs for for this bill so again I ask my question: Do you as the Labour Leader support your MPs on this vote? Does your Labour group agree this was the right thing to do? The public deserve an answer to a straight forward question.

Answer:

As I said in my previous response there was no vote in Parliament *'for the early release of rapist and child abusers'* as described in your question.

The vote you refer to in this subsequent question on Division 320 of the Sentencing Bill reads:

*Amendments made: 2, page 2, line 46, at end insert—*

*"(ea) the offence, or an associated offence, was committed while the offender was subject to a supervision order,"*

*This amendment makes clear that the presumption to suspend certain sentences under section 264A of the Sentencing Code (inserted by this clause) does not apply to offences (or offences associated with those offences) committed while the offender was subject to a supervision order (as defined by subsection (7) of that section).*

*Amendment 3, page 3, line 2, after "constituted" insert*

*", or occurred in circumstances closely connected with,".*

*This amendment provides that the presumption to suspend certain sentences under section 264A of the Sentencing Code (inserted by this clause) does not apply to offences (or offences associated with those offences) committed in circumstances which are closely connected with the breach by the offender of a court order or an order or award in proceedings in respect of a service offence.*

*Amendment 4, page 5, line 7, at end insert—*

*"(ea) the offence, or an associated offence, was committed while the offender was subject to a supervision order,".*

*This amendment makes clear that the presumption to suspend certain sentences under section 277A of the Sentencing Code (inserted by this clause) does not apply to offences (or offences associated with*

*those offences) committed while the offender was subject to a supervision order (as defined by subsection (8) of that section).*

Amendment 5, page 5, line 9, after “constituted” insert

*“, or occurred in circumstances closely connected with,”.—(Jake Richards.)*

*This amendment provides that the presumption to suspend certain sentences under section 277A of the Sentencing Code (inserted by this clause) does not apply to offences (or offences associated with those offences) committed in circumstances which are closely connected with the breach by the offender of a court order or an order or award in proceedings in respect of a service offence.*

*Question put, That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill.*

*This amendment does not mention the words in your question ‘prisoners who had committed rape, grooming child sex abuse’.*

*The purpose of the Sentencing Bill is ‘to make provision about the sentencing, release and management after sentencing of offenders; to make provision about bail; to make provision about the removal from the United Kingdom of foreign criminals; and for connected purposes’. This does not mention the words in your question ‘prisoners who had committed rape, grooming child sex abuse’.*

*Having checked the latest text of the Bill, version HL Bill 142 (as sent from the Commons), to ensure a full answer the words ‘rape’, ‘rapist’, ‘groom’, ‘groomer’ or ‘grooming’ and the terms ‘child sex abuse’, ‘child sexual abuse’, ‘child sex abuser’ or ‘child sexual abuser’ do not appear in the text.*

*I therefore do not accept the premise of your question as ‘prisoners who had committed rape, grooming child sex abuse’ are not mentioned in either the current draft of the Bill or the amendment that was voted on.*

Signed:

Date: 21/11/25

Cllr Chris Penberthy, on behalf of Cllr Tudor Evans OBE