

Remand Centre and Ashley Youth Detention Centre Access to Confidential Legal Counsel

Ms ROSOL question to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

An experienced lawyer has contacted me with concerns surrounding the difficulties in speaking confidentially to clients being held in the Remand Centre. Prior to the first bail hearing, there is a small window where lawyers should have an opportunity to discuss their client's case confidentially. It is a basic legal right that someone accused of a crime can be given an opportunity to discuss their case in this way, yet it is not consistently happening.

It is also not uncommon for lawyers representing children and young people held at Ashley Youth Detention Centre to first speak with the young person over the phone in a non-confidential environment. This leads to cases being adjourned to facilitate a person's right to confidential legal counsel, clogging up the system with more people being held in custody for longer. What is the government doing to ensure that people, including children and young people who are accused of a crime, can access confidential legal counsel before their first bail hearing?