

Minister for Science and Technology
Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

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20 SEP 2024

Ms Jen Butler MP
Member for Lyons
Care of the Clerk of the House of Assembly laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Constituency Question – Prisoner welfare

Dear Ms Butler

Thank you for your Constituency Question on 12 September about concerns raised by Mr Mikhail Altman, the grandfather of Zachery Altman, about his grandson's treatment, health, and wellbeing in the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS).

It is entirely understandable that Mr Altman would be concerned about Zachery's neurodivergence and vulnerability in the prison system. I am advised that TPS staff have made considerable efforts to address Zachery's specific needs.

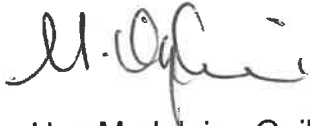
While I am constrained from providing detailed information about Zachery's management without his consent, I did request that the TPS contact Mr Mikhail Altman, which occurred on 12 September 2024 following my initial request on 10 September. Since then, our office has been in continuous contact with Mr Altman to ensure that his concerns are addressed. He has expressed his appreciation for the assistance and support provided.

I would also like to clarify that, although our office frequently has contact with prisoners' families, we do not always hold the information necessary to resolve inquiries immediately. We rely on close collaboration with the department to ensure that these concerns are appropriately addressed and managed.

Additionally, it is not standard practice to provide identifying information of prisoners or their family members in public communications. That is why I was concerned that your constituency question included the prisoner's surname. It was not clear to me whether consent to that disclosure had been obtained by you prior to disclosure. While consent may have been made by Mr Altman, it is important to acknowledge the distinction between informed consent and instances where the extent of understanding regarding all aspects of the situation might be unclear.

Thank you for bringing Mr Altman's concerns to our attention. Our office treats all constituent enquiries with the utmost seriousness and will continue to engage with all stakeholders as required.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Ogilvie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation