

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE RECOVERY OF COSTS (REMAND TO YOUTH DETENTION**  
**ACCOMMODATION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2021**

**2021 No. 287**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Ministry of Justice and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

**2. Purpose of the instrument**

- 2.1 This instrument amends the Recovery of Costs (Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation) Regulations 2013 which make provision about the recovery of costs from local authorities in respect of children who are remanded to youth detention accommodation.
- 2.2 This instrument amends the amount the local authority designated by the court is liable to pay to the Secretary of State where a child is detained on remand in a Young Offender Institution (YOI), Secure Training Centre (STC) or Secure Children’s Home (SCH).

**3. Matters of special interest to Parliament**

*Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments*

- 3.1 None.

*Matters relevant to Standing Orders Nos. 83P and 83T of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to Public Business (English Votes for English Laws)*

- 3.2 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure there are no matters relevant to Standing Orders Nos. 83P and 83T of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to Public Business at this stage.

**4. Extent and Territorial Application**

- 4.1 The territorial extent of this instrument is England and Wales.
- 4.2 The territorial application of this instrument is England and Wales.

**5. European Convention on Human Rights**

- 5.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

**6. Legislative Context**

- 6.1 The Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (“LASPO 2012”) permits the Secretary of State, by regulations, to make provisions about the recovery of the costs of a child being remanded to youth detention accommodation and associated transport costs from a local authority that has been designated by the court. The Recovery of Costs (Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation) Regulations 2013 provide for cost recovery to be undertaken by the Secretary of State.

- 6.2 This instrument sets the amount local authorities are charged where a child is detained on remand to a YOI, STC or SCH on or after 1 April 2021. This price is being changed to reflect the changes in the amount these services cost.

## 7. Policy background

### *What is being done and why?*

- 7.1 A 32 per cent decline in the youth custody population occurred between 2008/9 and 2011/12. A similar decline did not, however, occur in the level of children being remanded securely. Furthermore 60 per cent of children remanded securely in 2011/12 were acquitted or did not go on to receive a custodial sentence. As a result of this disparity, it was determined that a better approach to secure remand for children was needed.
- 7.2 From 1 April 2013 local authorities were given greater financial responsibility for the secure remand of children. Section 103(2) of the LASPO Act 2012 allows the Secretary of State to make provision for recovery of the costs from local authorities for all 12 to 17-year olds remanded to youth detention accommodation. The Recovery of Costs (Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation) Regulations 2013 came into force on 1 April 2013 and makes provision for such cost recovery. Youth detention accommodation comprises of YOIs, STCs and SCHs.
- 7.3 To coincide with the beginning of the new financial year on 1 April 2021 we are updating the applicable amount in respect of YOIs, STCs and SCHs to reflect changes in the cost to remand children at these establishments.
- 7.4 Government has routinely updated these prices since 2013 to ensure actual costs are reflected.
- 7.5 The new sector price for children on remand in a SCH will be £753 as at 1 April 2021. This is a decrease of £9 per place per night from £762 as at 1 April 2020. The minor change is driven primarily by removal of additional escort costs, offset by inflation increases in unit costs across all SCHs.
- 7.6 The new sector price for children on remand in a STC will be £574 as at 1 April 2021. This is an increase of £121 per place per night from £453 as at 1 April 2020. This increase is due to re-modelling the impact of the closure of Medway STC in 2020.
- 7.7 The new sector price (excluding education and additional charges) for children on remand in an under-18 YOI will be £315 as at 1 April 2021. This is a decrease of £6 per place per night from £321 as at 1 April 2020. The change is driven by removal of additional escort costs, offset by steady increases in average bed night costs for the four public sector YOIs.
- 7.8 Costs per bed per night for SCHs and for YOIs have decreased as additional escort costs were included in the 2020 calculations. Adjustments have been made to ensure that escort costs are correct for 2021 which, when offset by increases in unit costs, results in a slight decrease in overall cost per bed per night for both institutions.
- 7.9 The cost per bed per night for STCs has increased from last year. The modelling for last year did not correctly take into account the closure of Medway in 2020 and so provided an underestimate of the actual cost. We have corrected this in the calculations for 2021 which now reflect the potential impact of this closure on the occupancy of beds in other parts of the youth estate. As a result, the average price per

bed per night for STCs has increased. The cost is now back in line with costs from previous years. In 2019, the cost for STCs was £536 per bed per night and for 2021, the cost has been calculated at £574 per bed per night.

## **8. European Union (Withdrawal) Act/Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union**

- 8.1 This instrument does not relate to withdrawal from the European Union / trigger the statement requirements under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act.

## **9. Consolidation**

- 9.1 No consolidation of the relevant legislation is planned.

## **10. Consultation outcome**

- 10.1 The Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales consulted publicly on proposals to alter level of costs recovered from local authorities from April 2013 onwards. An eight-week consultation was undertaken through the paper “*The new remand framework for children: allocation of new burdens funding to local authorities*”. The consultation closed on 16 November 2012. 107 responses were received from a range of stakeholders, including youth offending teams and local authorities. The Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board’s response to the consultation was published on 25 February 2013. Both the consultation paper and the response are available via the following link: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/remand-funding/>.
- 10.2 The vast majority of respondents to the consultation paper felt that using per bed per night applicable amounts was a fair and reasonable way to recover costs and would help with financial planning. Respondents asked for transparency in the calculation of costs and a clear indication of the circumstances in which costs can and will be recovered. As with previous statutory instruments, this instrument implements the same methodology outlined in the consultation paper in relation to determining the applicable amounts for STCs, SCHs and YOIs.<sup>1</sup> As the same methodology is being used to update the relevant figures, the consultation process remains relevant.

## **11. Guidance**

- 11.1 The statutory instrument makes no changes to existing financial arrangements and transactions. Existing guidance is available on the GOV.UK website.

## **12. Impact**

- 12.1 There is no, or no significant, impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.
- 12.2 There is no, or no significant, impact on the public sector.
- 12.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because there is no, or no significant, impact for business, charities, voluntary bodies or the public sector arising from this instrument.

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<sup>1</sup> S.I. 2013/2243, 2014/562, 2014/981, 2014/2931, 2015/569, 2016/330, 2017/230, 2017/1147, 2018/250, 2018/498, 2018/1126, 2019/508 and 2020/241.

**13. Regulating small business**

13.1 The legislation does not apply to activities that are undertaken by small businesses.

**14. Monitoring & review**

14.1 The arrangements for recovery of costs will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis and legislation amended accordingly.

**15. Contact**

15.1 Julie Holmes at the Ministry of Justice, telephone: 07976 637 557 or email: Julie.Holmes1@justice.gov.uk, can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument.

15.2 Dilys Alam, Deputy Director for Youth Justice, at the Ministry of Justice can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

15.3 Alex Chalk at the Ministry of Justice can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.