# Policing Minister assures public of safety during pause on non-priority arrests



Policing Minister Chris Philp assured the public that safety remains intact despite guidance for police to pause non-priority arrests due to an overcrowded prison system. An internal memo from the National Police Chiefs' Council advised chief constables to reconsider planned operations expected to result in numerous arrests.

Philp conveyed to the House of Commons that, according to Leicestershire Chief Constable Rob Nixon, these contingencies have not been necessary. He added that there had been no significant delays in arrests or court arrivals.

Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper criticized the government for its failure to manage prison capacity, referencing the controversial End of Custody Supervised Licence (ECSL) scheme that allows some inmates to be released up to 70 days early. Sir Bob Neill, Chair of the Justice Committee, also called for substantial investment in prison infrastructure and rehabilitation programs.

The debate continues amid a backdrop of rising prison populations and a strained criminal justice system.