

[Not for release before 3.30pm on Thursday 13 March 1997]

ROISIN McALISKEY UPDATE

Roisin McAliskey was informed today [3.30hrs, 13 March] that she will be permitted to keep her baby with her on the Mother and Baby Unit at Holloway Prison. The decision which has been made by Alan Walker, the Director of Operations (South), and was given to Parliament in response to a written question.

Conditions

Following last week's revision of her security status further changes in her general conditions have been made today by the Director of Operations (South), Alan Walker:

- she will be able to use the swimming pool as other expectant mothers are allowed to do;
- she will be able to attend ante-natal classes;
- she will be allowed to use the gymnasium;
- she will be able to go to the chapel for services;
- she will be checked less frequently during the night so that the subdued light in her cell can be switched off for most of the time.

Bull points

- She will be allowed to keep her baby with her after it is born.
- She will not be restrained by handcuffs (or any other method) while she is in hospital to give birth.
- She is not and never has been locked in her cell for 23 hours a day at Holloway.
- She can freely associate with her prisoners.
- She receives open visits from her immediate family and other visitors. There is no glass or other kind of screen between her and her visitors.
- She has made considerable use of the prison's library.
- She is subject to the same search procedure as all other prisoners at Holloway.
- She is able to use an exercise area in the open air.
- The subdued light in her cell is now turned on less frequently to check her during the night.