



Child M is one of many...

Background information on children held in UK immigration detention

- There were 884 children held at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre in Bedfordshire between July 2008 and July 2009
- Tinsley House, near Gatwick Airport, held 328 children between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009
- One hundred and three children were held at the Dungavel centre in South Lanarkshire between October 2008 and 18 September 2009.
- "These figures show nearly 200 children a year are being held for more than four weeks."
- "Regardless of what provision is made for children in these centres, that they are being held behind bars is unacceptable." Wishart SNP
- **Child M's mother sent a message to her friends saying " He is ill from dinner to now. He is vomiting all the time and has stomach ache. The officer said it doesn't matter, he'll go to the doctor tomorrow. From 4am he vomited just blood. I know at the moment everyone is asleep but i want you to know that it's not safe in here for children. Please pray for Child M in the morning."**
- He accused the government of "detaining the equivalent of a high school every year across the UK". Wishart SNP

All figures obtained from the Medical Justice Foundation, www.medicaljustice.org.uk

No Place For Children

"Every year, around 2,000 children pass through the UK's immigration detention centres. They are there because their parents have applied for asylum in the UK. Detention is physically and emotionally damaging for children, as the detainees' testimonies so painfully demonstrate. In many cases, children have lived for most of their lives in Britain, and consider this country their home. Many subsequently receive refugee status, but children who have been detained remain deeply traumatised by their experiences."

<http://www.newstatesman.com/subjects/no-place-for-children>