Question: You have categorised them into two or three areas: actual self-harm, threatened self-harm and attempted serious self-harm. The 2009-10 date only has two categories. Can you explain to me why it was recorded in the 2008-09 year but then not? What was the reason for not recording it?

Answer: In 2008-2009 G4S was the department’s sole detention service provider and reports were recorded under three categories.

From September 2009 to February 2010, the detention services contract was transitioning from G4S to Serco. The categories for recording self-harm were not identical in the G4S and Serco systems, so for accuracy and consistency, a two-category system was adopted for departmental reporting during transition.

Following the transition to Serco, the reporting moved back to a three category system.