



Criminal Justice Board meeting

3 July 2019

Attendees, Members

- Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (The Rt Hon David Gauke MP) – **JS**
- Attorney General (The Rt Hon Geoffrey Cox QC MP) – **AG**
- Secretary of State for the Home Department (The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP) - **HS**
- President of the Queen’s Bench Division (Dame Victoria Sharp DBE) – **PQBD**
- Senior Presiding Judge (Lady Justice Macur) – **SPJ**
- Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (Nick Ephgrave) – **NE**
- Chair of the Youth Justice Board (Charlie Taylor) – **CT**
- Chief Executive of the Crown Prosecution Service (Paul Staff) – **PS**
- Victims Commissioner (Dame Vera Baird) – **VB**
- Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Representative (Sue Mountstevens) – **APPC**
- Chair, National Police Chief’s Council (Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt) - **NPCC**
- Chief Executive, HM Prison and Probation Service (Jo Farrar) – **JF**
- Director General, Crime Policing and Fire Group, Home Office (Scott McPherson) – **SM**
- Chief Executive, HM Courts and Tribunals Service (Susan Acland-Hood) – **SAH**

By invitation

- Chair of the Bar Council (Richard Atkins) - **RA**
- Head of Justice from the Law Society (Richard Miller) – **RM**

Senior Officials

- Director, Family and Criminal Justice Policy, Ministry of Justice (Melissa Case) - **MC**
- Deputy Director, Implementation Unit, Ministry of Justice (Ed Lidington) - **EL**
- Deputy Director for Identity Policy, Home Office (Alex MacDonald) - **AM**
- Deputy Director, Attorney General’s Office (Isabel Wootton) - **IW**

Introduction

- 1) JS opened the Criminal Justice Board (CJB) meeting by welcoming PQBD to her first meeting as the new President of the Queen's Bench division.
- 2) JS also welcomed NE in his new role as the Assistant Commissioner to the Met, standing in for Met Commissioner Cressida Dick, VB in her new role as Victims Commissioner, and Sue Mountstevens, representing the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 3) JS noted the invitation to the National Crime Agency and looked forward to them taking up membership in the Autumn

Agenda item 1: The Criminal Justice System today and CJB actions tracker

- 4) MC provided a high-level overview of published criminal justice system statistics, noting that the picture remained consistent since the previous CJB.
- 5) MC highlighted the additional detail on offence types requested at the last board. Board members asked for the underlying information on these trends.
Action 1: Secretariat to ensure more information on these trends is brought to the next CJB.
- 6) MC noted the key priorities agreed at the last board and highlighted ongoing work to increase visibility between Local CJBs and the National Board.
- 7) MC also noted the past action to bring an item on mental health back to the board.
Action 2: Secretariat to liaise with Department of Health and Social Care and other colleagues to bring this item to a future meeting.

Agenda item 2: Disclosure

- 8) AG thanked the Board for committing to this work and highlighted the real progress being made by both the Disclosure Sub-Group and the National Disclosure Improvement Plan.
- 9) IW provided an update on the revised guidance documents and the recent Tech Summit.
- 10) The Board welcomed the ongoing work and agreed that disclosure should remain a priority.

Agenda item 3: Forensics

- 11) JS introduced this item, noting the recent ransomware cyber-attack on a forensic service. The Board discussed how this incident highlighted the need for all organisations to stay vigilant about their cyber security systems.
- 12) AM updated the Board on the work of the Forensics Steering Group. The Board agreed that the Steering Group should become a Sub-Group of the CJB but wished to extend the membership to better represent the sector.
Action 3: HO and MoJ officials to ensure views of defence, academic and the wider sector are represented in the new governance structure for forensics.

Agenda item 4: Demand

- 13) EL facilitated a discussion around demand flowing through the criminal justice system.
- 14) The Board agreed that this is an important area of work which they fully endorse. JS concluded the discussion by welcoming the cross-department work already underway and emphasising the need for effective collaboration.

Agenda item 5: A.O.B

- 15) The Board briefly discussed pre-charge bail and cyber security. MC confirmed that pre-charge bail will be on the agenda for the Autumn Board.