

Criminal Justice Board

10 July 2017 14:30 – 16:00 Rm 9.29a Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France

Attendees:

- Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (The Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP) - **JS**
- Attorney General (The Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP) - **AG**
- Home Secretary (The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP) - **HS**
- Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service (Nick Hurd MP) - **NH**
- Senior Presiding Judge (Lady Justice Macur) - **SPJ**
- CEO Crown Prosecution Service (Nick Folland) - **NF**
- Deputy Director, Head of the Police Powers Unit, Home Office (Sarah Gawley) - **SG**
- Director of Public Prosecutions (Alison Saunders) - **DPP**
- Police and Crime Commissioner Representative (Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd) - **DL**
- Director General, Prison Reform and Youth Justice Policy Group, Ministry of Justice (Justin Russell) - **JR**
- Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (Cressida Dick) - **CD**
- Deputy Legal Secretary and Head of Operations, Attorney General's Office (Michelle Crotty) - **MC**
- CEO Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (Michael Spurr) - **MS**
- Acting Director General, Justice and Courts Policy Group, Ministry of Justice (Scott McPherson) - **SM**
- Observer for Number 10 (Jack Cole) - **JC**
- Deputy Chief Executive, HMCTS (Kevin Sadler) - **KS**

Apologies:

- Non-executive member (Sir Martin Narey)
- President of Queen's Bench Division (Sir Brian Leveson)
- Non-executive Board Member (Sir Theodore Agnew)
- Chair, National Police Chiefs' Council (Chief Constable Sara Thornton)
- Director General, Crime, Policing and Fire Group, Home Office (Paul Lincoln)
- CEO of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (Susan Acland-Hood)

Agenda item 1: Introduction

1. The Justice Secretary (JS) welcomed members and said that he wanted to agree with them how to make best use of the Criminal Justice Board (CJB). He thought that the CJB should focus on system-wide issues. He also stressed the importance of keeping the CJB focused, and not taking on too many diffuse items at any one time.

Agenda item 2: Themes for the CJB

2. JS suggested that the CJB could focus on the following themes:
 - **Promoting cross-system collaboration and collective action.** Responsibility for the Criminal Justice System (CJS) is shared across departments and agencies, but changes introduced to one part of the system can have impacts elsewhere in the system. There are also cross-cutting services, such as victim

services, that are provided by multiple agencies in the CJS with no overriding ownership where more collaboration could be beneficial.

- **Anticipating future changes demand in the CJS** to enable CJS agencies to get on the front foot and plan for the cross-system impact of changing crime trends.
 - **Increasing local join-up of the CJS**, including the role of Police and Crime Commissioners.
 - **Understanding regional performance variation** to identify gaps in delivery as well as good practice.
3. JS sought views on this approach, and whether there were specific subjects that should be brought to the CJB.
 4. The Home Secretary (HS) welcomed the focus on cross-system issues. She stressed the importance of all CJB members doing everything possible to support victims, especially in priority areas such as domestic violence. She agreed the focus on better local join-up, including the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
 5. The Attorney General (AG) thanked the Justice Secretary for reconvening the CJB. He agreed that the CJB should focus on one or two substantial topics at each meeting. He suggested that Brexit and court reform should be areas of focus for the CJB.
 6. The Police and Crime Commissioner representative (David Lloyd - DL) supported this approach. He said that PCCs were eager to do more in the local CJS, to be the single point of contact for the local system, but would ultimately need more powers and resources to do so. The devolution model being adopted in Greater Manchester showed promise.
 7. DPP endorsed the cross-system focus. In her view the CJB could usefully explore the interaction between the court reform programme and other policy and operational changes.
 8. SPJ said that it would be good to have an end-to-end perspective for how offenders passed through the system. She would also welcome a discussion of non-custodial sentencing options. Regarding the local CJS, she said that there would always be regional variation across the system, but we should all strive for the best possible outcomes.

Agenda item 3: Pre-charge Police Bail

9. JS raised police bail and the early data seeming to show a fall in the use of police bail as a result of the changes introduced in April 2017.
10. The CJB recognised the positive intent of the policy to stop people being put on police bail for too long. They discussed some anecdotal evidence that the policy could be having downstream impacts, such as higher numbers of postal requisitions. If sustained, these could pose challenges for CJS agencies. All members agreed that we need more evidence to understand the issue better and conclusions should not be drawn on the basis of one month's data.
11. HS agreed to bring a report on police bail to the next CJB with more detailed analysis of the data and recommendations. The Home Office chaired cross-agency bail

implementation group would lead the work, and the paper would include a focus on downstream impacts in the CJS.

Action 1. Home Office to lead a paper on police bail for the next CJB meeting.

Owner: Home Office

Date: For the next CJB

Agenda item 4: Victims

12. JS suggested that the Board could focus on ways to join up services for victims and vulnerable witnesses more effectively. HS agreed and added that not all victims had the same needs and we should be careful of adopting a one-size-fits all approach. The AG stressed the importance of CJS agencies keeping victims informed about the progress of their case. The Board agreed to invite the Victims' Commissioner to the Board meeting at which this issue would be discussed substantively.

Agenda item 5: Anticipating future demand

13. JS said that online economic crime could have a growing impact on the CJS and asked how the CJB could best deal with this. SPJ said gathering crime data was an important first step as well as developing intelligence by liaising across agencies.

14. HS said that it would help to have a clear view of the scale of the problem and how far the CJS was equipped to deal with it. The Commissioner added there was more to this than fraud. Digitally enabled crime was growing rapidly, whether fraud or sexual offences, and it raised the broader question of what the CJS should be doing to address cyber crime.

15. JS asked the HS to take the lead and prepare a paper for the next CJB on online economic crime.

Action 2. Home Office to lead a paper about online economic crime for the next CJB meeting.

Owner: Home Office

Date: For the next CJB

Agenda item 6: Local join-up of CJS agencies

16. JS asked the Police and Crime Commissioner representative for his views on the local criminal justice landscape. He said that only PCCs had democratic accountability for the CJS. The mixed geography of the CJS agencies was a barrier. As PCC, he chaired his Local Criminal Justice Board, but the agencies did not come together effectively. There was no single model for all local areas, but it made sense to have a single person accountable for the CJS.

Conclusion

17. JS thanked members for their suggestions. The CJB agreed that the next agenda should focus on:

- Pre-charge police bail; and
- Online economic crime.

18. Future meetings would focus on Brexit and its impact on the CJS, victims, community sentences, and court reform.