

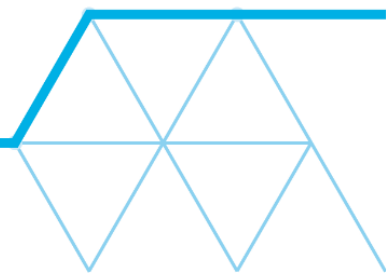


Criminal Justice Board Minutes

Held on 1 July 2020, chaired by the Rt Hon. Robert Buckland QC MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Members

- Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Rt Hon. Robert Buckland QC MP)
- Secretary of State for the Home Department (Rt Hon. Priti Patel MP)
- Attorney General (Rt Hon. Suella Braverman QC MP)
- Minister of State for the Home Department and Ministry of Justice (Kit Malthouse MP)
- Lords Minister for the Home Department (Baroness Williams of Trafford)
- President of the Queen's Bench Division (Rt Hon. Dame Victoria Sharp DBE)
- Senior Presiding Judge (Rt Hon. Lady Justice Thirlwall)
- Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (Dame Cressida Dick)
- Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (Nick Ephgrave)
- Director General, National Crime Agency (Lynne Owens)
- Chair, National Police Chiefs' Council (Martin Hewitt)
- Director of Public Prosecutions, Crown Prosecution Service (Max Hill QC)
- Chief Executive, HM Prison and Probation Service (Jo Farrar)
- Chief Executive, HM Courts and Tribunal Service (Susan Acland-Hood)
- Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Representative (David Lloyd)
- Victims' Commissioner (Dame Vera Baird)



- Chief Executive, Youth Justice Board (Colin Allars)

By invitation

- Chair of the Bar Council (Amanda Pinto QC)
- President of the Law Society (Simon Davis)

Senior Officials

- Director General, Policy, Communication and Analysis, Ministry of Justice (James Bowler)
- Director General, Crime, Policing and Fire Group, Home Office (Tricia Hayes)
- Director and Deputy Head of the Attorney General's Office (Shehzad Charania)
- Deputy Director, Criminal Courts and Criminal Law Policy Unit, Ministry of Justice (Matthew Gould)
- Deputy Director, Identity Policy, Home Office (Alex MacDonald)

Introduction

1. The LORD CHANCELLOR thanked everyone for attending the Criminal Justice Board. He thanked Board members for their continued support. Hard work was taking place across the country to ensure that justice continued to be delivered despite the difficulties the country was facing.
2. The LORD CHANCELLOR commented on the tragic death of George Floyd in the United States and noted that, whilst efforts had already been underway to tackle race inequality in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) here, there was still significant work to do to address this issue and that we should be impatient for progress. The Board was asked if they would support the Senior Officials' Group and the Race and Ethnicity Board in developing a plan to be presented at a future CJB to address disproportionality within the CJS.
3. The LORD CHANCELLOR and HOME SECRETARY spoke about the public disorder that had taken place in some parts of the country. The Board was united in condemning the unlawful behaviour of a minority of people and the violence towards police officers.
4. MARTIN HEWITT re-assured the Board that appropriate plans were in place to deal with any public disorder that may occur in the coming weeks, particularly in relation to the re-opening of the hospitality sector on 4 July 2020.

Agenda Item 1: Covid-19: Impact and Recovery

5. MATTHEW GOULD outlined the work of the Senior Officials' Group over recent weeks and the steps the Group would take in the future to aid the recovery of the CJS. He outlined four key proposals: to learn lessons from the impact of Covid-19, to analyse the impact of technology, to

examine the use of data, and increase cross-system working. The LORD CHANCELLOR thanked MATTHEW GOULD and asked the Board to endorse the proposals.

6. The HOME SECRETARY, the ATTORNEY GENERAL and MINISTER MALTHOUSE thanked everyone for their hard work over the previous months. They agreed that Covid-19 had provided an opportunity to reform and rebuild the CJS, reflecting on lessons learned during this crisis.
7. Members of the Board provided verbal updates and comments on agenda item one. These included operational reports from frontline colleagues, concerns raised by different parts of the system and the impact upon specific groups within the CJS. The Board agreed that strong leadership at a local level supported by a national framework is critical so that local partners feel empowered to make bold decisions that will aid the joint recovery effort. The Board welcomed the publication of the HMCTS recovery plan.

Agenda Item 2: Forensics: Stocktake 2020

8. The LORD CHANCELLOR spoke about the importance of forensics within the CJS and was pleased to receive an update from the Forensics Sub-Group to the CJB which is jointly chaired by the Ministry of Justice and Home Office.
9. BARONESS WILLIAMS OF TRAFFORD noted that the Sub-Group had identified the need for the Forensic Science Regulator to become a statutory body.
10. The LORD CHANCELLOR thanked the Sub-Group for all their work and invited Board members to provide further comments, outside of the meeting, on the paper presented.

Closing remarks from the Chair

11. The LORD CHANCELLOR thanked the Board for their time and their continuing support. The last few months had been challenging, there was still some way to go but great strides had been made.
12. Last year the Board established four Sub-Groups to tackle cross-system issues. The Sexual Offences Sub-Group will update the Board on progress at the next CJB meeting.

Action 1: The Board commissioned the Senior Officials' Group and the Race and Ethnicity Board to develop a plan in relation to race inequality within the CJS and report back to the CJB.

Action 2: The Board approved the following work programme for the Senior Officials' Group:

- **A set of CJS strategies should be produced on priority areas**
- **An end-to-end analysis of video enabled justice should be undertaken**
- **Departments should work to produce a cross-CJS data sharing plan so demand can be monitored throughout the system**

- **Criminal justice departments should explore the possibility of joint or aligned Spending Review bids to fund cross-system priority areas**

Action 3: The Board agreed, at the request of the Forensics Sub Group:

- **To support the Forensic Science Regulator in becoming a statutory body with powers of enforcement**
- **To note the limitations of single-year departmental level investments and support the development of a tri-lateral business case for multi-year investment, in readiness for a future Comprehensive Spending Review**

Action 4: Board Members were invited to provide comments on “Paper 2: Forensics” to the Home Office.