



Criminal Justice Board Minute

Held on 15 October 2024 chaired by the Rt. Hon. Shabana Mahmood MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Attendees

- Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Chair) – Rt. Hon. Shabana Mahmood MP
- Secretary of State for the Home Office – Rt. Hon. Yvette Cooper MP
- Attorney General – Rt. Hon. Lord Hermer KC
- Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending, Ministry of Justice and Chair, Women's Justice Board – Lord Timpson OBE DL
- Minister of State for Courts and Legal Services, Ministry of Justice – Heidi Alexander MP
- Minister of State for Police and Crime Prevention, Home Office – Rt. Hon. Dame Diana Johnson DBE
- Chair, Criminal Justice Action Group (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice) – Dame Antonia Romeo DCB
- Chief Executive, His Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service – Nick Goodwin
- Director of Public Prosecutions, Crown Prosecution Service – Stephen Parkinson
- Chief Executive, His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and Chair, Criminal Justice Board for Wales – Amy Rees
- Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service – Sir Mark Rowley QPM
- Chair, National Police Chiefs' Council – Gavin Stephens QPM
- Criminal Justice Lead, National Police Chiefs' Council – Rob Nixon QPM
- Chair, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners – Emily Spurrell
- President of the King's Bench Division – Dame Victoria Sharp DBE PC
- Senior Presiding Judge – Lord Justice Green

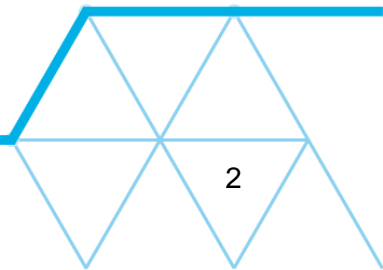
- Director General, National Crime Agency – Graeme Biggar CBE
- Chair, Youth Justice Board – Keith Fraser
- Chair, Bar Council – Sam Townend KC
- Victims’ Commissioner – Baroness Newlove
- Head of Public and Family Law, The Law Society – Arabella Lang
- Director General, Policy Group, Ministry of Justice – Jerome Glass
- Director General SRO, Safer Streets Mission, Home Office – Richard Clarke
- Director, Courts, Criminal and Family Justice, Ministry of Justice – Ed Lidington

Apologies

- President of the Law Society - Richard Atkinson

Agenda Item 1: Introduction

1. The LORD CHANCELLOR thanked members for their attendance and welcomed new members of the Board, including the chair of the recently announced Women’s Justice Board, Lord Timpson. She thanked members for their work over recent months, particularly in response to prison capacity issues and the public disorder, and said that she wanted to use the Board to approach issues in a collaborative way, as well as consider longer-term system improvements.
2. The HOME SECRETARY thanked members for their collective response to the recent public disorder and said it would be important to reflect on lessons learned.
3. The ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the system’s response had been an extraordinary display of public service and collaboration across the system.
4. KEITH FRASER said that a disproportionate number of children had been involved in the unrest.
5. During the discussion on the public disorder the following points were raised:
 - i. It would be useful to consider successes from the cross-system response and how we can learn from these and apply best practise in future scenarios.
 - ii. The system was able to cope with this increase in demand because of pre-existing cross-system arrangements. It was important that organisations did not work in silos and invested in close working relationships.



Agenda Item 2: HMPPS Update

6. AMY REES said the first tranche of prisoners had been released under the change to the Standard Determinate Sentence (SDS) release point and the second tranche was due to be released on 22 October. Throughout the process, HMPPS had consistently engaged with partners and collaboration had been excellent. Thirty-seven prisoners had been released in error in the first tranche because they had been prosecuted under outdated legislation, however all had since been returned to custody. HMPPS was aware of electronic monitoring (EM) delays and were working with contractors to resolve this as soon as possible.
7. ROB NIXON said that the system was well prepared for the release of the second tranche of prisoners, and it would be important to continue to monitor and discuss future prison capacity pressures at the CJB.
8. EMILY SPURRELL said when appropriate data was available it would be important to look at how many offenders from Tranche 1 had been recalled to custody.

Agenda Item 3: Safer Streets Mission

9. The LORD CHANCELLOR said that the Safer Streets Mission Board, chaired by the Home Secretary, had met in September and agreed that the CJB would play a crucial role in delivering the fourth outcome under the mission: 'improving confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS)'.
10. The HOME SECRETARY said that the Safer Streets Mission had been set up with a dual function to tackle serious crime and restore confidence in the CJS. The Mission had four outcomes: to halve violence against women and girls over the next 10 years, halve knife crime over the next 10 years, to improve confidence in the police and the local response to crime, and to improve confidence in the CJS. These goals were intertwined, and the first steps would be to increase neighbourhood policing.
11. RICHARD CLARKE said that the Home Office (HO) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) had been working together to ensure that the Mission was ambitious and carried out in a collaborative way.
12. JEROME GLASS said that the CJB would have a crucial role in improving confidence, and that the system would first need to be stabilised before longer-term reform could begin. The MoJ Permanent Secretary's Criminal Justice Action Group (CJAG) had been working to develop a vision and outcomes for the system and they had been tailored to what the Mission was trying to achieve.
13. During the discussion the following points were made:
 - i. Members agreed with the vision and outcomes identified through CJAG's work and supported the development of metrics to measure progress. They agreed that the next phase of this work should be brought to a future CJB meeting.
 - ii. Local partners should be engaged in the early stages of the Mission, as they would be crucial to its delivery.

- iii. It would be useful to consider why people commit offences and whether data could be collected on this.
- iv. There was an overlap between domestic abuse cases in the criminal and family courts. It would be important to consider how improvements in the family justice system could support the Safer Streets Mission.
- v. Legal defence colleagues should be engaged to consider how to increase out of court resolutions.
- vi. The involvement of other Government departments (such as the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education) would be important to the Mission's delivery.

Agenda Item 4: Efficiency across the Criminal Justice System

14. ED LIDINGTON said that a number of organisations had carried out work to assess efficiency in their own areas but more could be done to consider whole-system efficiency. A multi-year Spending Review (SR) was planned for the following year so it would be important to consider how to maximise efficiency in a difficult fiscal context.

15. During the discussion the following points were made:

- i. It could be useful to carry out a high-level system wide review of efficiency to streamline processes and maximise resources.
- ii. It would be useful to consider how ineffective trials could be decreased.
- iii. It would be important to ensure that victims received timely information.
- iv. It would be important to reduce reoffending to help the system to stabilise.
- v. Members agreed that further work should be carried out to explore opportunities to improve whole-system efficiency, and it would be important to determine a clear scope for this work.

Agenda Item 5: AOB

16. EMILY SPURRELL asked for clarification on the number of Crown Court sitting days that had been agreed.

17. The LORD CHANCELLOR thanked members for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close.

Action 1: The Board endorsed the vision and outcomes identified through CJAG’s work and supported the development of a programme of work and metrics. The work should be brought to a future CJB meeting.

Action 2: The Board agreed that local partners should be engaged early in the Safer Streets Mission work.

Action 3: The Board agreed that further work should be carried out to explore opportunities to improve whole-system efficiency. The work should be brought to a future CJB meeting.

