



HM Government

Criminal Justice Board
12/2025
criminaljusticeboard@justice.gov.uk

Criminal Justice Board Minutes

Monday 8 December 2025

Chaired by the Rt Hon. David Lammy MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Attendees

The Rt Hon. David Lammy MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

The Rt Hon. Shabana Mahmood MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Rt Hon. Ellie Reeves MP, Solicitor General

Lord James Timpson OBE, Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending, Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

Dr Jo Farrar OBE, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

Stephen Parkinson, Director of Public Prosecutions, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

Emily Spurrell, Chair, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)

Matt Jukes, Deputy Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police Service

Dame Victoria Sharp DBE, President of the King's Bench Division

CC Sacha Hatchett, Criminal Justice Lead, National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)

Lord Justice Green, Senior Presiding Judge

Barbara Mills KC, Chair, Bar Council

Graeme Biggar CBE, Director General, National Crime Agency (NCA)

Nick Goodwin, Chief Executive, HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS)

Keith Fraser, Chair, Youth Justice Board

James McEwen, Chief Executive, HM Prisons & Probation Service (HMPPS)

Richard Miller, Head of Justice, The Law Society

Ian Barrow, Chair, Criminal Justice Board for Wales

Thomas Cracknell, Chief Executive, Office of the Victims' Commissioner

Richard Clarke, Director General, Public
Safety, Home Office (HO)

Sir Brian Leveson, Chair, Independent
Review of the Criminal Courts (IRCC)

Apologies

The Rt Hon. Lord Hermer KC MP,
Attorney General

Sir Mark Rowley, Commissioner,
Metropolitan Police Service

Sarah Sackman KC MP, Minister of State
for Courts and Legal Services, Ministry of
Justice (MoJ)

Sarah Jones MP, Minister of State for
Policing and Crime, Home Office (HO)

Mark Evans, President, The Law Society

Gavin Stephens, Chair, National Police
Chiefs' Council (NPCC)

ACTIONS

- 1. MoJ (Jo Farrar) to bring an item on the Sentencing Bill to a future Criminal Justice Board meeting.**
- 2. Criminal Justice Action Group (Jo Farrar) to explore the development of a joint action plan to strengthen the criminal justice system's collaboration and coordination in addressing challenges posed by large-scale and repeat protest events.**

DECISIONS

- 1. Members agreed that the Criminal Justice Board should drive a coherent criminal justice system.**

Item 1. Introduction

1. THE CHAIR welcomed members and thanked Thomas Cracknell for representing the Office of the Victims' Commissioner following the sad passing of valued colleague and Criminal Justice Board member, Baroness Helen Newlove.
2. THE CHAIR said that as the leaders accountable for the criminal justice system, members would have to do more, together and as one system. In Part II of his Independent Review of the Criminal Courts, Sir Brian Leveson would make recommendations about the criminal justice system's governance, and officials should ensure that the foundations were laid for the successful implementation of relevant changes.
3. The following points were made in discussion:
 - The criminal justice system could learn from the youth justice system, where strong national and local leadership and vision had helped to raise overall system functionality.
 - The MoJ Permanent Secretary's Criminal Justice Action Group could support a Criminal Justice Board vision and its link to the local criminal justice system through Local Criminal Justice Boards.
 - The Sentencing Bill – which was at Committee Stage in the Lords – would present performance challenges and opportunities to the criminal justice system.
4. THE HOME SECRETARY said that she endorsed the Chair's vision of members doing more work as one system. To do so, it would be useful for the Criminal Justice Board to have a real and practical sense of national criminal justice system performance.

Item 2. Independent Review of the Criminal Courts Part II

5. THE CHAIR welcomed Sir Brian Leveson and thanked him for Part I of his report, published on 9 July 2025, which the Government had responded to in Parliament on 2 December 2025. Radical action was needed to turn the tide on the court backlog.
6. SIR BRIAN LEVESON said that he was finalising his Part II report on optimising efficiency and timeliness from charge to acquittal, but that improved efficiency alone would not fix the systemic challenge posed by a fragmented criminal justice system operating under multiple individual objectives. As members had noted during item 1, the criminal justice system needed to work towards a common purpose.
7. MEMBERS supported the direction of Sir Brian Leveson's Part II report.
8. THE CHAIR and the HOME SECRETARY said that it would be important to continue to collectively consider, in the context of legislative timelines, the impact of reforms such as the Sentencing Bill, the government's response to the Independent Review of the Criminal Courts, and the police reform programme on the criminal justice system.

Item 3. CJS approach to protest related offences

9. THE HOME SECRETARY said that she had appointed Lord Ken Macdonald KC to lead an independent review of existing public order and hate crime legislation.
10. RICHARD CLARKE said that the criminal justice system's response to the public disorder events of summer 2024 could not necessarily be replicated for all instances of public disorder, but that a combined response and strong collaboration between the Police and the CPS could be useful.
11. MEMBERS supported the Criminal Justice Action Group exploring the development of a joint action plan to strengthen the criminal justice system's collaboration and coordination to address challenges posed by large-scale and repeat protest events.

Item 4. AOB & Close

12. THE CHAIR thanked members and closed the meeting.