



Science and Technology Committee

Dr Jo Farrar
Second Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Justice

(By e-mail)

28 September 2022

Dear Dr Farrar,

7 September evidence session

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for giving evidence on 7 September. I am writing to follow-up on part of your evidence.

During the session, we considered the Government's proposals to stop probation officers and psychologists from putting forward individual recommendations when they provide evidence to Parole Boards. You stated that: "We are operating now in a similar way as we would in court".

Please can you confirm:

- whether probation officers and psychologists still provide recommendations to courts, for example, in relation to pre-sentencing reports;
- in which other criminal justice forums probation officers and psychologists have stopped giving recommendations and in which circumstances they continue to give them; and
- if there has been a change to the above, when this occurred.

We would be grateful for your response to these questions by 21 October 2022. As is usual with the Committee's correspondence, I will place this letter and your response in the public domain.

With best wishes,

Carol
Monaghan MP
Interim Chair, Science and Technology Committee