



Ministry
of Justice

Mike Freer MP
Minister for Courts and
Legal Services

Sir Bob Neill MP
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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19 July 2023

Dear Sir Bob,

CHAIR OF THE CRIMINAL LEGAL AID ADVISORY BOARD

I am pleased to be able to share that the Lord Chancellor has approved the appointment of HH Deborah Taylor as Chair of the Criminal Legal Aid Advisory Board (CLAAB).

The appointment will be for 18 months and Deborah will chair the next CLAAB meeting which is taking place tomorrow, Thursday 20 July 2023. An official announcement is also expected to be made tomorrow.

Deborah has extensive experience in criminal law and this will be invaluable to the Board as we continue our work to improve the criminal legal aid system.

Deborah was a Senior Circuit Judge, Resident Judge at Southwark Crown Court and Recorder of Westminster until her retirement from the Judiciary in December 2022. In 2022 she was Treasurer of Inner Temple, where she advocated for greater diversity at the Bar.

I hope you can join me in welcoming Deborah as the Chair of the CLAAB.

MIKE FREER MP