



Ministry
of Justice

Mike Freer MP

Minister for Courts and Legal
Services

Sir Robert Neill KC (Hon) MP
Chair of the Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

8 May 2024

Dear Sir Bob

ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR JURORS TEST

Juries are a vital part of our criminal justice system, as evidenced by this Government's decision to retain jury trials during the pandemic. Jury service is therefore an essential civic duty and we want to do everything we can to help jurors feel supported as they undertake this important role.

Research into the impact of jury service has found most people enjoy their service and find the experience interesting and informative. But we know that some people can find it distressing.

Last year I asked my officials to consider the need for additional emotional support for jurors. Following extensive research and engagement with stakeholders to inform appropriate interventions, I am pleased to confirm that today I have announced this Government's intent to deliver a time limited two-tiered test of enhanced support for Jurors in 15 Crown Courts centres across England and Wales.

Under the new scheme, Jurors will have access to a tailored service offering 24/7 telephone support, as well as up to 6 virtual trauma informed counselling sessions, accessible to all eligible Jurors post-trial on a self-referral basis. The programme will also include a short post-trial in court intervention to include the offer of a supportive space to decompress before leaving court, and enhanced training for Jury Officers. We aim to have this service up and running in the coming months.

I trust this will be a welcome announcement and I can share further details of the support test in due course should this be of interest.

MIKE FREER MP