



Formal Minutes of the Justice Committee in Session 2023–24

The Formal Minutes of a select committee record its formal proceedings and decisions.

They include:

- the names of the members who attended (all or part of) each meeting of the Committee;
- declarations of members' interests;
- details of written and oral evidence reported to the House by the Committee;
- any other formal decisions taken by the committee (recorded as 'orders' or 'resolutions'), for example to begin an inquiry, to report evidence to the House, to make a visit or to appoint a specialist adviser; and
- visits made by the Committee.

When the Committee publishes a Report, the Formal Minutes relating to consideration of the draft Report are published with the Report itself, and are not included in this document. You can find these reports on the Committee's webpages.

For more information about Formal Minutes, see [Erskine May paragraph 38.26](#).

Transcripts of oral evidence taken in public by the Committee are available on the Committee's webpages.

Attendance statistics for members of the Committee are available on the Committee's webpages.

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

Kieran Mullan

Edward Timpson

1. Oral evidence: Constitutional relationship with the Crown dependencies

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister, but with a practising certificate. He is a former HM Solicitor General. He is also a former Chair of Cafcass, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practise Review Panel and his brother is the current Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Mike Freer MP, Minister for Courts and Legal services, Ministry of Justice, Rt Hon Greg Hands, Minister of State, Department for Business and Trade, Dr Gaynor Jeffery OBE, Director for Core Policy, Delivery and European region, Department for Business and Trade and Richard Mason, Deputy Director, Constitutional Policy, Ministry of Justice, gave oral evidence.

2. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Evidence reported for publication

Consultation on miscellaneous amendments to sentencing guidelines

Correspondence to the Chairman of the Sentencing Council, dated 15 November 2023

Consultation on the proposal to implement increases to selected court and tribunal fees

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 10 November 2023

Draft Mental Health Bill Update

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons and Probation, dated 7 November 2023

Future prison population and estate capacity

London Prisons Mission [FPP0035]

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies [FPP0036]

Introduction to the Criminal Justice Bill

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 14 November 2023

The Judicial Pensions Regulations 2023

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 14 November 2023

4. Work of the County Court

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Work of the County Court.

5. Probate

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Probate.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday 21 November 2023

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

James Daly

Chris Stephens

Edward Timpson

1. Declarations of interests.

Chris Stephens declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House 13 July 2023 (see Appendix).

2. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Evidence reported for publication

Accessing Access to Justice in HMCTS services

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 16 November 2023

Future prison population and estate capacity

Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody [FPP0037]

UNGRIPP [FPP0038]

Urgent notification at HMP Bedford

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons and Probation, dated 16 November 2023

4. Oral evidence: Future prison population and estate capacity

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

James Daly declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a partner in a firm of solicitors and a practising solicitor.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a former HM Solicitor General with a practising certificate (though not currently undertaking court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the current Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Charlie Taylor, Chief Inspector of Prisons, Elisabeth Davies, National Chair at Independent Monitoring Boards and Andrea Albutt, President, Prison Governors Association, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 28 November 2023 at 3.50 pm.

Tuesday 28 November 2023

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

James Daly

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Kingston Crown Court in connection with its inquiry into The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Analysis – Children in custody 2022-23

Correspondence from HM Chief Inspector for Prisons, dated 21 November 2023

Arbitration Bill – Introduction

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 21 November 2023

Consultation on including claimant data on the register of judgments order and fines

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 21 November 2023

Consultation on Murder Sentencing

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 24 November 2023

Follow up points from the Oral Evidence session on 15 November 2023

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Trade Policy and Minister for London, dated 23 November 2023

Follow up points from the Oral Evidence session on 17 October 2023

Correspondence from the Chairman of the Law Commission, dated 27 November 2023

Introduction of the Criminal Justice Bill

Correspondence with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 28 November 2023

New Prisons Programme update

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons and Probation, dated 21 November 2023

Publication of a review of health and social care in women's prison

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons and Probation, dated 23 November 2023

Regulation of the Legal professions

Council for Licensed Conveyancers (RLP0001)

Bar Council (RLP0002)

Legal Services Consumer Panel (RLP0003)

Professor Steven Mayson (RLP0004)

CILEx Regulation (RLP0005)

The Hague Convention consultation response

Correspondence from the Permanent Under Secretary of State, dated 22 November 2023

3. Oral evidence: Regulation of the legal professions

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

James Daly declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a partner in a firm of solicitors and a practising solicitor.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a practising certificate (though not currently undertaking court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the current Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Nick Vineall KC, Chair, Bar Council, Mark Neale, Director-General, Bar Standards Board, Kathryn Stone OBE, Chair, Bar Standards Board, Chris Bones, Chair, CILEX, Linda Ford, CEO, CILEX, Johnathan Rees, Chair, CILEx Regulation, John Barwick, CEO, CILEx Regulation gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday 5 December 2023

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

James Daly

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit HMP Five Wells and HMP Birmingham in connection with its inquiry into Future prison population and estate capacity.

Resolved, That the Committee visit HMCTS Service Centre, Birmingham in connection with its inquiry into Probate.

Resolved, That Members visit their Constituency's Coroners's Courts in connection with the Committee's inquiry into The Coroner's Service: follow-up.

Resolved, That the Chair visit Dartford and Bromley County Courts in connection with the Committees inquiry into the Work of the County Court.

2. Evidence reported for publication

HMCIP Appointment

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor, dated 4 December 2023

Murder sentencing Consultation

Correspondence with the Lord Chancellor, dated 4 December 2023

Regulation of the legal professions

Legal Services Board (RLP0006)

CILEx Regulation Ltd (RLP0007)

3. Members' attendance statistics

The Committee approved, for publication, its attendance statistics for the last session of Parliament.

4. Constitutional relationship with the Crown Dependencies

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Imposition of community and custodial sentences guidelines

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Oral evidence: Regulation of the legal professions

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

James Daly declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a partner in a firm of solicitors and a practising solicitor.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a practising certificate (though not currently undertaking court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the current Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Anna Bradley, Chair, Solicitors Regulation Authority, Paul Philip, Chief Executive, Solicitors Regulation Authority, Alan Kershaw, Chair, Legal Services Board, and Matthew Hill, Chief Executive, Legal Services Board gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 4.00 pm.

Tuesday 12 December 2023

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

Rachel Hopkins

Edward Timpson

1. Declarations of interests

Rachel Hopkins declared her interests in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Evidence reported for publication

Probate Registry performance

Correspondence with the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 12 December 2023

Follow-up to oral evidence session

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of the Solicitors Regulation Authority, dated 8 December 2023

Government response to Bishop James' Report on the experience of the Hillsborough families

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 7 December 2023

Introduction of travel expenses for the qualified legal representative (QLR) scheme

Correspondence from the Minister for Victims and Safeguarding, dated 6 December 2023

Legal aid provisions for England and Wales in the Illegal Migration Act 2023

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of Justice, dated 7 December 2023

Publication of government response to the 2019 consultation on coronial investigation of stillbirths.

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 7 December 2023

The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

West Yorkshire Police (PRE0006)

Sabina Hussain (PRE0007)

Dr Samantha Fairclough (PRE0008)

Matthew Roberts (PRE0009)

Synergy Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, SERICC, Southend-on-Sea Rape Crisis (PRE0010)

Crown Prosecution Service (PRE0011)

Citizens Advice Witness Service (PRE0012)

Laura May, Dr Henderson, Prof. Lamb (PRE0013)

Sue Thurman (PRE0014)

David Wurtzel (PRE0015)

Transform Justice (PRE0016)

Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre, Darlington and Durham (PRE0017)

National Police Chiefs Council (PRE0018)

The Senior District Judge of England and Wales (PRE 0019)

Solace Women's Aid (PRE0020)

Ministry of Justice (PRE0021)

Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales (PRE0022)

The Bar Council (PRE0023)

Prof. Jackson, Prof. Doak, Dr Saunders, Dr Wright and Dr Cooper (PRE0024)

Dr Kyneswood (PRE0025)

Johnathan Rees (PRE0026)

Criminal Bar Association (PRE0027)

Work of the County Court

Ministry of Justice (WCC0017)

4. Oral evidence: Pre-appointment hearing: HM Chief Inspector of Probation

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Rachel Hopkins declared she was a Trade Union member of PCS and a Trade Union Member of Unite.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a practising certificate (though not currently undertaking court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the current Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Martin Jones CBE, Chief Executive, Parole Board gave oral evidence.

5. Appointment of HM Chief Inspector of Probation

Draft Report (Appointment of HM Chief Inspector of Probation), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the First Report of the Committee, HC 397

Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 2.00 pm.

Wednesday 13 December 2023

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

Rachel Hopkins
Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Oral evidence: Recent Urgent Notifications on the Prison Estate

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a practising barrister (though not currently undertaking court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the current Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Rt Hon Edward Argar MP, Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, Ministry of Justice and Phil Copple, Director General Operations, HM Prison and Probation Service, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday 19 December 2023

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 17 March 2020.

LSB'S internal governance rules (IGR)

Correspondence from the Chair of the Legal Services Board, dated 13 December 2023

Urgent Notification HMP Bedford

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons and Probation, dated 14 December 2023

Publication of the joint Eight and Ninth Chief Coroner's Annual Report

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 18 December 2023

HMP Lowdham Grange

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons and Probation, dated 18 December 2023

Criminal Justice Bill Amendments – Transfer of prisoners to foreign rented prison

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 19 December 2023

Murder Sentencing Consultation

Correspondence from the Minister for Sentencing, dated 19th December 2023

Tuesday 9 January 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

James Daly

Rachel Hopkins

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Chair attend the meeting of the Business and Trade Committee on 16 January 2024 relating to Post Office and Horizon – Compensation: follow-up, pursuant to the invitation from that Committee under Standing Order No 137A(1)(e) (Select committees: power to work with other committees).

2. Evidence reported for publication

Independent investigation in the HMP Wandsworth alleged escape.

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 8 January 2024

JSC recommendation – public guide on accessing court and tribunal hearings.

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 12 December 2023

Launch of local criminal justice boards call for evidence

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 8 January 2024

Oral evidence session follow-up

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 21 December 2023

Regulation of the legal professions

Council for Licensed Conveyancers (RLP0010)
Bar Standards Board (RLP0011)

The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

Professor Cheryl Thomas (PRE0029)
Support after rape and sexual violence Leeds (PRE0030)
Erim Mushtaq (PRE0031)
Justice in Covid-19 for Sexual Abuse and Violence study (PRE0032)

3. Oral evidence: Future prison population and estate capacity

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

James Daly declared he was a practising solicitor and partner in a firm of solicitors.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a practising barrister (though not currently undertaking court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the current Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Professor Nicholas Hardwick, Professor of Criminal Justice, Royal Holloway University of London; Rob Allen, Independent Consultant on Prisons, Probation and Youth Justice; Richard Garside, Director, The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies gave oral evidence.

Mark Day, Deputy Director, Prison Reform Trust; Sonya Ruparel, CEO, Women in Prison; Anne Fox, CEO, Clinks gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Wednesday 10 January 2024

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 17 March 2020.

Justice Committee Report on Private prosecutions: safeguards

Correspondence with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 10 January 2024

Thursday 11 January 2024

Rachel Hopkins and Edward Timpson visited HMP Five Wells, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Future prison population and estate capacity, in accordance with the Committee's decision of Tuesday 5 December 2023.

Tuesday 16 January 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair
Tahir Ali
James Daly
Rachel Hopkins
Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Appointment of a temporary Chair of the Independent Monitoring Authority

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 12 January 2024

Government response to Public opinion and understand of sentencing report

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 3 January 2024

Post Office convictions: planned legislation

Correspondence from the Chair to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Recruitment of Chair of the Independent Monitoring Authority

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 9 January 2024

Response to the Chair's letter regarding the Law Commission

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 16 January 2024

Regulation of the legal professions

Solicitors Regulation Authority (RLP0012)

3. Oral evidence: Work of the Lady Chief Justice

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

James Daly declared he was a practising solicitor and partner in a firm of solicitors.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the current Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Rachel Hopkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a member of the PCS Trade Union.

The Rt Hon Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill, Lady Chief Justice of England and Eales, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday 23 January 2024

The Chair and Rachel Hopkins visited Kingston Crown Court, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999, in accordance with the Committee's decision of Tuesday 28 November 2023.

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

Rachel Hopkins

Kieran Mullan

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Oral evidence follow up – Recent urgent notifications on the prison estate - 13 December 2023

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 19 January 2024

Personal Injury Discount Rate call for evidence

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, dated 11 January 2024

Probate

Chartered Institute for Legal Executives (PRO0080)

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (PRO0084)

Recruitment of HMCI of Probation.

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 19 January 2024

The Coroner Service: follow-up

Rainsford (TCS0001)

Tom Luce C B (TCS0002)

Mr Lee Gibbs (TCS0003)

Dr Imogen Jones (TCS0004)

Lady Young of Dartington Dorit Young (TCS0005)

Miss Keshia Johnson (TCS0006)

Dr James Fraser (TCS0007)

Dr Thomas Dougherty (TCS0009)

Lanyon Bowdler (TCS0011)

PA Media (TCS0011)

Mr Richard Jones (TCS0012)

Mr and Mrs Neal & Lesley Davison (TCS0013)

The Royal College of Pathologists (TCS0014)

Mr Joao Coelho (TCS0015)

Ms Kelly (TCS0016)

Christopher & Nicole Taylor (TCS0017)

Independent Office for Police Conduct (TCS0018)

Hugh James (TCS0019)

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (TCS0020)

Birkbeck, University of London (TCS0021)

National Panel for Local Authority Coroners Services (TCS0022)

Dr Andrew Robins (TCS0023)

Ms Moira Durdy (TCS0024)

Ms Ashley Chaplin (TCS0026)

Association of Child Death Review Professionals, National Network of Designated Healthcare professionals (TCS0027)
Mrs Paula Robertson (TCS0028)
Mr Derek Blackham (TCS0029)
Miss Maxine Carrick (TCS0030)
Bevan Brittan LLP (TCS0031)
The Lullaby Trust, SUDC UK (TCS0032)
CPJ Field & Co. Ltd (TCS0033)
Kennedys Law (TCS0034)
Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (TCS0035)
Irwin Mitchell LLP (TCS0036)
Godhania (TCS0037)
The Society of Clinical Injury Lawyers (TCS0038)
INQUEST (TCS0039)
Chief Coroner of England and Wales (TCS0051)
Ministry of Justice (TCS0054)

3. Oral evidence: The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister, Honorary KC and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Chris Hartley, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service; Laura Hynes, National Vulnerable Witness Advisor, National Crime Agency and Genna Telfer, Assistant Chief Constable, Hertfordshire Constabulary, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Thursday 25 January 2024

The Chair, Tahir Ali, James Daly and Rachel Hopkins visited HMP Birmingham in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Future prison population and estate capacity, in accordance with the Committee's decision of Tuesday 5 December 2023.

The Chair, James Daly and Rachel Hopkins visited HMCTS Service Centre in Birmingham in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Probate, in accordance with the Committee's decision of Tuesday 5 December 2023.

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 17 March 2020:

Probate

Ministry of Justice (PRO0087)

Tuesday 30 January 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

James Daly

Rachel Hopkins

Kieran Mullan

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Campaign plans to recruit Chair of the Parole Board

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 25 January 2024

Crime Lower consultation and supporting Annex

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 29 January 2024

Employment tribunals and Employment Appeal Tribunal fees

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 30 January 2024

Funeral sector regulation following the CMA's published report in 2020

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 25 January 2024

Government response to the Private Family Law Early Resolution Consultation

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice, dated 25 January 2024

Response to the Committee's letter on Private prosecutions

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 25 January 2024

3. Members' attendance statistics

The Committee approved, for publication, its attendance statistics for the current session as at 20 December 2023.

4. Oral evidence: The Coroner Service: follow-up

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister, a former consultant to a law firm and Vice-President of the Local Government Association.

James Daly declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a partner in a firm of solicitors and a practising solicitor.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust. He and the Chief Coroner were members of the same Chambers in the past.

Rachel Hopkins declared she was a Vice President of the Local Government Association

His Honour Judge Thomas Teague KC, Chief Coroner for England and Wales; Derek Winter Deputy Lieutenant, Senior Coroner for Sunderland, Deputy Chief Coroner and

Her Honour Judge Alexia Durran, Senior Circuit Judge and Deputy Chief Coroner gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Thursday 1 February 2024

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 17 March 2020:

The Coroner's Service: follow up

Mr Richard Caseby [TCS0046]

Friday 2 February 2024

The Chair visited Bromley and Dartford Crown Court, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Work of the County Court, in accordance with the Committee's decision of Tuesday 6 December 2023.

Tuesday 6 February 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Dr Kieran Mullan

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

Resolved, That the Chair attend the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee on 25 March 2024 relating to Value for money in legal aid pursuant to the invitation from

that Committee under Standing Order No 137A(1)(e) (Select committees: power to work with other committees).

2. Evidence reported for publication

Review of the whiplash tariff: publication of a call for evidence

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, dated 6 February 2024

The Coroner Service: follow-up

Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (TCS0041)

Browne Jacobson LLP (TCS0042)

JUSTICE (TCS0043)

Patient Safety Learning (TCS0044)

Action against Medical Accidents (TCS0045)

Pan London Child Death Overview Panel (TCS0047)

Paediatric Critical Care Society (TCS0048)

Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust (BHRUT), Barts Health (TCS0049)

A.W. Lymn The Family Funeral Service – (TCS0050)

Mrs Maggie Abraham TCS0052)

Dr Joanna Ish-Horowicz (TCS0053)

National Association of Funeral Directors (TCS0055)

The Coroner's Support Service (TCS0056)

Douglas Cave (TCS0057)

Dr Georgia Richards (TCS0058)

Nicole and Chris Taylor (TCS0059)

The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

London's Victims' Commissioner (PRE0033)

Update on the expansion of the Category D open estate

Correspondence from Deputy Director, Prison Estate Expansion, HM Prison and Probation Service, dated 2 February 2024

Written Ministerial statement on the Government's decision not to extend the temporary legislation enabling video witnessing of wills

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, dated 1 February 2024

3. Oral evidence: Future prison population and estate capacity

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Rt Hon Edward Argar MP, Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, Ministry of Justice; Ross Gribbin, Director General, Policy - Prisons, Offenders and International Justice, Ministry of Justice and Amy Rees, Director General Chief Executive, HM Prison and Probation Service gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Thursday 8 February 2024

Edward Timpson visited Cheshire Coroner's Court, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into The Coroner's service: follow-up, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 5 December 2023.

Monday 19 February 2024

The Chair visited South London Coroners Court, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into The Coroner Service: follow-up, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 5 December 2023.

Tuesday 20 February 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

Rachel Hopkins

Chris Stephens

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee Considered this matter.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Consultation response on reforming UK Supreme Court fees

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, 12 February 2024

Improving the Criminal Justice System response to rape

Correspondence from Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice and Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 14 February 2024

New Prisons Programme update

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Justice, 14 February 2024

Pre-legislative scrutiny of planned legislation: Post Office convictions

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, 16 February 2024

Probate

Legal Workflow (PRO0004)

Janet Howson, Bowcock & Pursaill LLP (PRO0006)

Denney King (PRO0007)

Gary Kiely (PRO0008)

Ashley Welton (PRO0010)

John Yeomans (PRO0011)

Clive Lambert (PRO0014)

Ian Coules (PRO0015)

Elizabeth Howlett (PRO0018)

Kings Court Trust Limited (PRO0022)

Shentons Solicitors (PRO0026)

David Satchell (PRO0028)

Mrs Ball (PRO0029)

Dr Wendy Jones & Ms Rhian Roberts (PRO0033)

Peter Watson (PRO0035)

Hodge Jones & Allen LLP (PRO0037)

Anthony Tahourdin (PRO0038)

Exizent Ltd (PRO0040)

RSPCA (PRO0051)

Institute of Legacy Management (PRO0052)

Cancer Research UK (PRO0054)

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (PRO0069)

Response to the joint thematic inspection of remands in youth detention.

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, 19 February 2024

Secure 16 to 19 Academies Bill

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Justice, 8 February 2024

Statutory aggravating factor for manslaughter involving sexual conduct

Correspondence from the Minister for Victims and Safeguarding, 13 February 2024

Temporary Courts to Stay Open for Longer

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services 15 February 2024

The Supreme Court Fees Order 2024

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, 15 February 2024

The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

Dr Olivia Smith, Loughborough University et al. (PRE0036)

3. Oral evidence: The Coroner Service: follow-up

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust.

Deborah Coles, Director, INQUEST and Dr Georgia Richards, Teaching Fellow in Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM), Oxford University gave oral evidence.

Roey Burden OBE, Founder and Board of Trustees Hon. Secretary, Coroners Courts Support Service and Angela Geer, CEO, Coroners Courts Support Service gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Saturday 24 February - Saturday 2 March 2024

The Chair, Tahir Ali and Edward Timpson visited Singapore, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Work of the County Court, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 24 October 2023.

Tuesday 27 February 2024

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 17 March 2020.

Response to the consultation on Youth remand funding arrangements

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 20 February 2024

The Long Wait – a thematic review of delays in the transfer of mentally unwell prisoners.

Correspondence from HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, dated 6 February 2024

Update on Post Office Convictions legislation

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 22 February 2024

Update on the Court Reform Programme

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of HM Courts and Tribunals Service, dated 21 February 2024

Monday 4 March 2024

Dr Kieran Mullan visited Westminster Coroners Court, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Coroner's Service: follow-up, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 5 December 2023.

Tuesday 5 March 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

James Daly
Rachel Hopkins
Dr Kieran Mullan
Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee Considered this matter.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Access to Justice Update

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 5 March 2024

Community and suspended sentences (Notification of details) Bill: Second Reading

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 4 March 2024

Estimates Memoranda

Crown Prosecution Service Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2023-24
HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2023-24

Judicial Pensions Scheme Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2023-24

Ministry of Justice Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2023-24

UK Supreme Court Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2023-24

HMCTS Service Centre follow-up

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 20 February 2024

Ministry of Justice and Judicial Pension Scheme supplementary Estimate Memoranda 2023-24

Correspondence from the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice, dated 27 February 2024

Probate

Marc White & Co Solicitors (PRO0042)

Down Solicitors (PRO0043)

Wedlake Bell LLP (PRO0044)

Irwin Mitchell LLP (PRO0046)

Meridian Private Client Solicitors Limited (PRO0047)

Zedra (PRO0048)

Hadaway Giles (PRO0049)

RWK Goodman LLP (PRO0050)

Remember A Charity and The Institute of Legacy Management (PRO056)
Springle & Co. Solicitors (PRO0059)
Forsters LLP (PRO0063)
Inheritax Ltd (PRO0066)
Wansbroughs LLP (PRO0068)
Hunters Law LLP (PRO0070)
Legacy Futures (PRO0073)
The Waring Partnership LLP (PRO0074)
Thompson Snell & Passmore (PRO0077)
Humphrys & Symonds (PRO0078)
Council for Licensed Conveyancers (PRO0089)

SLAPPs Bill: Second Reading

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice,
dated 5 March 2024

The Coroner Service: follow-up

Nicole and Chris Taylor (TCS0059)
Jessica Clark (TCS0060)
Board of Deputies of British Jews (TCS0061)
Hugh Dillon (TCS0062)
Tom Bell (TCS0063)

The Prison and Young Offender Institution (Adjudication) (Amendment) Rules 2024

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 29
February 2024

The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

CPS Yorkshire and Humberside (PRE0034)
Dr Natalie Kyneswood (PRE0037)

Victims Commissioner for England and Wales

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice,
dated 4 March 2024

Work of the County Court

The Association of Consumer Support Organisations (WCC0039)
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (WCC0043)
The Bar Council (WCC0046)
The Forum of Insurance Lawyers (WCC0051)
Civil Court Users Association (WCC0057)
Forum of Complex Injury Solicitors (WCC0063)
The Wrekin Housing Group Limited (WCC0075)
Federation of Small Businesses (WCC0078)
The Association of HM District Judges (WCC0082)

3. Oral evidence: Work of the Ministry of Justice

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust and he is an adviser, on an informal basis, to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice (Lord Bellamy) and the Minister for Children and Families (David Johnston) on issues relating to the Family Justice System.

James Daly declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a practising solicitor and a partner in a firm of solicitors.

Antonia Romeo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice; James McEwen, Chief Operating Officer, Ministry of Justice; Amy Rees, Director General Chief Executive, HM Prison and Probation Service and Nick Goodwin, Chief Executive, HM Courts and Tribunals Service gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Thursday 7 March 2024

Rachel Hopkins visited Bedfordshire and Luton Coroner's Court, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Coroner's Service: follow-up, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 5 December 2023.

Tuesday 12 March 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali
James Daly
Rachel Hopkins
Dr Kieran Mullan
Chris Stephens
Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee Considered this matter.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Coroner Area Mergers SI

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 8 March 2024

Courts (Remote Hearings) Bill – Second Reading

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 7 March 2024

Magistrates' Court Sentencing powers

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 11 March 2024

Prison Media Bill – Second Reading

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 5 March 2024: Prison Media Bill

Probate

Nicola Hopper (PRO0053)
Law Society of England and Wales (PRO0055)
Mr Johnathan Hewitt (PRO0058)
Sophia Honey (PRO0079)
Trust Inheritance Group (PRO0081)
The Association of Lifetime Lawyers (PRO0082)
Council for Licensed Conveyancers (PRO0088)
Legacy Futures (PRO0091)
Ministry of Justice (PRO0092)
Devon Air Ambulance (PRO0093)

The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

COEUS (PRE0037)

3. Oral evidence: Probate

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust and he is an adviser, on an informal basis, to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice (Lord Bellamy) and the Minister for Children and Families (David Johnston) on issues relating to the Family Justice System.

James Daly declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a practising solicitor and a partner in a firm of solicitors, which undertakes probate work, and his wife is also a probate solicitor.

Alex McDowell, Vice Chair, Remember A Charity; Angela Morrison, Chief Operating Officer, Cancer Research UK and Dave Hawes, Director of Finance & Infrastructure, Devon Air Ambulance Trust gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday 19 March 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

Rachel Hopkins

Dr Kieran Mullan

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee Considered this matter.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Implementation of the Legal Aid Means Test Review

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 12 March 2024

Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill: House of Commons

Introduction

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services and the Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business, dated 13 March 2024

Probate

Ministry of Justice (PRO0093)

Regulation of the Legal Professions

Correspondence from the Chair to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 21 March 2024

The Coroner Service: follow up

Correspondence from the Chief Coroner, dated 15 March 2024

Work of the Lady Chief Justice

Correspondence from the Lady Chief Justice, dated 11 March 2024

3. Oral evidence: The Coroner Service: follow-up

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust and he is an adviser, on an informal basis, to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice (Lord Bellamy) and the Minister for Children and Families (David Johnston) on issues relating to the Family Justice System.

Mike Freer MP, Minister for Courts and Legal Services, Ministry of Justice and Terry Davies, Deputy Director, Death Management, Miscarriages of Justice Compensation, Inquiries and Coroners Division, Ministry of Justice gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Friday 22 March 2024

James Daly visited Rochdale Coroner's Court, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Coroner's Service: follow-up, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 5 December 2023.

Tuesday 26 March 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Dr Kieran Mullan

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the bulk scanning centre in Harlow, Essex in connection with its inquiry into Probate.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Civil National Business Centre in Northampton and the Central London County Court in connection with its inquiry into the Work of the County Court.

Resolved, That the Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights be invited to attend the meeting on 16 April 2024 relating to Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill pursuant to Standing Order No 137A(1)(e) (Select committees: power to work with other committees).

2. Evidence reported for publication

Constitutional relationship with the Crown Dependencies

Justice Committee visit note to Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man (RCD0007)

Estimates Memoranda

Serious Fraud Office Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2023-24

Follow-up to oral evidence session on 6 February 2024

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 19 March 2024

Follow-up to oral evidence session on 5 March 2024

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of HM Prison and Probation service, dated 19 March 2024

Follow-up to oral evidence session on 5 March 2024

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of HM Courts and Tribunals Service, dated 20 March 2024

HMYOI Cookham Wood to be repurposed

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 21 March 2024

Imposition of community and custodial sentences guideline

Correspondence with the Chairman of the Sentencing Council, dated 28 March 2024

Introduction of the Litigation Funding Agreements (Enforceability) Bill

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 19 March 2024

Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers

Correspondence with the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 26 March 2024

Probate

Liz Fielding (PRO002)

Anonymous (PRO0032)

Ms Deborah Hallford (PRO0034)

Mrs Sheila Alderson (PRO0041)

Mr Fowell (PRO0060)

Mr Roland d'Costa (PRO0067)

The Coroner Service: follow-up Inquiry

Correspondence with the Metropolitan Police, dated 19 March 2024

3. Future prison population and estate capacity

The Committee considered this matter.

4. The constitutional relationship with the Crown Dependencies

Draft Report (The constitutional relationship with the Crown Dependencies), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Second Report of the Committee, HC 30.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday 16 April 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

James Daly

Rachel Hopkins

Dr Kieran Mullan

Chris Stephens

Edward Timpson

Joanna Cherry also attended for item 4 under the provisions of paragraph (1)(e) of Standing Order No 137A (Select committees: power to work with other committees) (resolution of 26 March 2024)

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee Considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee be invited to attend the meeting on 23 April 2024 relating to Work of the President of the Family Division pursuant to Standing Order No 137A(1)(e) (Select committees: power to work with other committees).

2. Evidence reported for publication

Consultation on reforming the law of apologies in civil proceedings in England and Wales

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, dated 9 April 2024

Consultation response on implementing increases to selected court and tribunal fees

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services dated 2 April 2024

Future prison population and estate capacity inquiry session: follow-up

Correspondence from the Chair to the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation

Legal Aid Means test review – Implementation update

Correspondence from the Chair to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, dated 27 March 2024

Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 8 April 2024

Publication of Lay Observers' National Annual Report 2022-23

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 10 April 2024

The Courts and Tribunal Fees (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2024

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 10 April 2024

The Coroner Service: follow-up

Dr David Baker (TCS0064)

National Police Chiefs' Council (TCS0065)

Work of the County Court

Small Claims Advisor Ltd (WCC0001)

Julie Flanagan (WCC0009)

Propertymark (WCC0021)

Northumbrian Water Group (WCC0022)

Johnathan Hewitt (WCC0023)

DisputesEfilng (WCC0024)

Essex County Council (WCC0025)

Large Agents Representation Group (WCC0026)

Fieldfisher (WCC0027)

The Law Society of England and Wales (WCC0028)

Personal Injury Bar Association (WCC0029)

Wishart (WCC0032)

Ms Giles Gater and Mrs Nataha Thomas (WCC0034)

Winn solicitors Ltd (WCC0035)

Thomson Solicitors (WCC0036)

CFG (WCC0037)

Midland Heart (WCC0038)

DWF LLP (WCC0042)
DCB Legal Ltd (WCC0044)
True Solicitors LLP (WCC0045)
Forsters LLP (WCC0047)
Enterprise Mobility (WCC0048)
Hyde Houseing Association Ltd (WCC0049)
Anexo Group plc (WCC0050)
Registry Trust (WCC0052)
Carpenters Group (WCC0053)
Mills & Reeve LPP (WCC0054)
National Residential Landlords Association (WCC0056)
Keoghs (WCC0058)
Anonymous (WCC0059)
Overdales Legal Ltd (WCC0062)
Anonymous (WCC0064)
Landlord Action (WCC0067)
Anonymous (WCC0074)
The Wrekin Housing Group Ltd (WCC0075)
Peabody Group (WCC0076)
Anonymous (WCC0080)

3. The Coroner Service: follow-up

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust and he is an adviser, on an informal basis, to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice (Lord Bellamy) and the Minister for Children and Families (David Johnston) on issues relating to the Family Justice System.

Joanna Cherry declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she is a non-practising member of the faculty of advocates.

James Daly declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a practicing barrister and partner in a firm of solicitors.

Tahir Ali declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a member of the Communication Workers Union.

Joshua Rozenberg KC (Hon), Journalist; Dr Hannah Quirk, Reader in Criminal Law, King's College London; Dr Robert Craig, Lecturer in Law, University of Bristol and Professor James Chalmers, Regius Professor of Law, University of Glasgow gave oral evidence.

5. Probate

James Daly declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a partner in a firm of solicitors which undertakes probate work, his wife is also a probate solicitor.

Jo Summers, Private tax and wealth partner, Jurit and Stuart Simpson, Head of Equiniti Benefactor, Equiniti gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 23 April 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday 23 April 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

Dr Kieran Mullan

Caroline Nokes also attended for item 4 under the provisions of paragraph (1)(e) of Standing Order No 137A (Select committees: power to work with other committees) (resolution of 16 April 2024)

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee Considered this matter.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Civil and Family Proceedings Fees (Amendment) Order 2024

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 22 April 2024

Government response to the Law Commission's recommendation for a Legal and Technical Expert Group on digital assets

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 18 April 2024

Probate

Ministry of Justice [PRE0095]

Progress made on HM Inspectorate of Prisons concerns – Annual Updated 2024-2025

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 16 April 2024

3. Attendance statistics

The Committee approved, for publication, its attendance statistics for the current session as at 27 March 2024.

4. Work of the President of the Family Division

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

The Rt Hon Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 30 April 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Wednesday 24 April 2024

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 17 March 2020:

Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill

Correspondence with the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, dated 24 April 2024

Thursday 25 April 2024

The Chair visited the National Civil Business Centre in Northampton in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Work of the County Court, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 26 March 2024.

Tuesday 30 April 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Tahir Ali

Rachel Hopkins

Dr Kieran Mullan

Edward Timpson

1. Chair's announcements and future programme

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Serious Fraud Office in London in connection with its Work into the Serious Fraud Office.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Bail applications

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 26 April 2024

The Coroner Service: follow-up

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 29 April 2024

The Regulation of the Legal Professions

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of the Bar Council, dated 29 April 2024

Women's Prison Estate Expansion programme

Correspondence from HMPPS Deputy Director, Prison Supply Directorate and SFO, dated 29 April 2024

3. Issue relating to a public appointment

The Committee discussed this matter.

4. Probate

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust and he is currently advising Ministers on Family Justice policy.

Ian Bond, Chair, the Law Society's Probate Professional User Group; Sophie Wales, Regulatory Policy Director, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales; Mark Walley, CEO, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and Stephen Ward, Director of Strategy and External Relations, the Council of Licensed Conveyancers gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Wednesday 1 May 2024

Tahir Ali visited Birmingham and Solihull Coroner's Court in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Coroner Service: follow-up, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 5 December 2023.

Tuesday 7 May 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair
Bambos Charalambous
Rachel Hopkins
Edward Timpson

1. Declarations of interest

Bambos Charalambous declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 2992.

2. Chair's announcements and future programme

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Central London County Court in connection with its inquiry into the Work of the County Court.

3. Evidence reported for publication

Chief Inspector of HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

Correspondence from the Attorney General, dated 3 May 2024

Future prison population and estate capacity inquiry session: follow-up

Correspondence from the Minister of State dated 1 May 2024

Legal Aid Means Test Review: Implementation Update

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State dated 2 May from HMPPS Deputy Director, Prison Supply Directorate and SFO, dated 29 April 2024

Probate

Ian Davis (PRO0001)
Fraser and Fraser (PRO0064)
Celtic Research LTD (PRO0090)

Publication of the Chief Coroner's Tenth Annual Report

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 3 May 2024

Statutory Instrument to make Tribunal Rules for Illegal Migration Act Suspensive Claim Appeals

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 2 May 2024

The Coroner Service – follow-up

Correspondence from Commander Stephen Clayman, Metropolitan police Service dated 3 May 2024

The Coroner Service: follow-up

Care Quality Commission (TCS0067)

The Coroners (Suspension of requirement for Jury at Inquest: Coronavirus) Regulations 2024

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 2 May 2024

The Regulation of the Legal Professions

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 1 May 2024

Work of the County Court

Dr Kate Leader (WCC0082)

4. Work of the County Court

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust and he is currently advising Ministers on Family Justice policy.

Bambos Charalambous declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a non-practising solicitor.

Dr Natalie Byrom, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Laws, UCL; Elizabeth Gallagher, Barrister, Temple Garden Chambers, Member, the Personal Injury Bar Association; Emily Giles, Housing Lawyer, The Hyde Group and Matthew Maxwell Scott, Executive Director, The Association of Consumer Support Organisations (ACSO) gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Monday 13 May 2024

The Chair, Tahir Ali, Rachel Hopkins and Edward Timpson visited the Serious Fraud Office, London in connection with the Committee's non-inquiry session on the Work of the Serious Fraud Office, in accordance with the Committee's decision on Tuesday 30 April 2024.

Tuesday 14 May 2024

Members present

Sir Robert Neill, in the Chair

Dr Kieran Mullan

Yasmin Quereshi

Edward Timpson

1. Declarations of interest

Yasmin Quereshi declared her interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 2002.

2. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Evidence reported for publication

Action plan in response to rise in Hate Crimes

Correspondence from the Director of Public Prosecutions, dated 7 May 2024

Enhanced support for Jurors test

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 8 May 2024

Magistrates' Court Fees (Amendments) Order 2024

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 13 May 2024

Planned Increase to the Fees that Qualified Legal Representatives (QLRs) can claim

Correspondence from Minister for Victims and Safeguarding, dated 9 May 2024

Probate

Martin Wood (PRO0005)

Lawson West Solicitors (PRO0071)

Newcastle Law Society Standing Committee (PRO0072)

Dr Margaret Clegg (PRO0075)

David Ninian (PRO0076)

Publication of Female Offender Strategy delivery plan 'One Year On Report'

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 8 May 2024

The use of pre-recorded cross -examination under Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

Rape Crisis England and Wales (PRE0039)

Urgent notification for HMP Wandsworth

Correspondence from HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, dated 9 May 2024

Urgent notification for HMP Wandsworth

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 9 May 2024

4. Work of the Serious Fraud Office

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm. The Chair also declared a non-pecuniary interest in the joint head of his old chambers is Briam Altman KC who carried out a review of the SFO.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust and he is currently advising Ministers on Family Justice policy.

Yasmin Quereshi declared a non pecuniary interest in that she was a non practising barrister and had a brother-in-law and sister-in-law who are practising barristers.

Nick Ephgrave QPM, Director, Serious Fraud Office gave oral evidence.

Tuesday 21 May 2024

Members present

Sir Bob Neill

Tahir Ali

Andy Carter

Bambos Charalambous

Dehenna Davison

Yasmin Qureshi

Edward Timpson

1. Declarations of interest

Andy Carter and Dehenna Davison declared their interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992.

2. Chair's announcements and future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Evidence reported for publication

Errors relating to online divorce applications

Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 20 May 2024

Launch of an Intensive Supervision Court Pilot at Bristol Crown Court

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 17 May 2024

New guidelines for bail applications to the Crown Court

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 21 May 2024

Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill

Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, President of the Board of Trade and Minister for Women and Equalities, dated 17 May 2024

Publishing a consultation on limitation law in child sexual abuse cases

Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 15 May 2024

Pre-appointment scrutiny of the Government's preferred candidate for the post of Standing Independent Public Advocate

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, dated 15 May 2024

Probate

Mr Vincent Trussell (PRO0020)
The Empty Homes Network (PRO0096)

The Coroners Service: follow-up

Dr Lisa Cameron MP (TCS0068)

4. Probate

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a non-practising barrister and a former consultant to a law firm.

Edward Timpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a former HM Solicitor General and a barrister with a current practising certificate (though not currently undertaking direct court work). He is a former Chair of CAFCAS, former Chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, his brother is the Chair of the Prison Reform Trust and he is currently advising Ministers on Family Justice policy.

Yasmin Quereshi declared a non pecuniary interest in that she was a non practising barrister, previously worked for the Criminal Prosecution Service and has two family members who are practising lawyers.

Bambos Charalambous declared he was a non-practising solicitor.

Andy Carter declared he was currently a member of the Merseyside Bench.

Mike Freer MP, Minister for Courts and Legal Service, Ministry of Justice and Helen Measures, National Services Director, HM Courts and Tribunals Service gave oral evidence.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned.

Friday 24 May 2024

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 17 March 2020.

Probate

Correspondence with the Minister for Courts and Legal Services, dated 23 May 2024

Publication of the IMB Annual Report 2023

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 23 May 2024

Removal of wet-shave razors from Prisons

Correspondence from the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 22 May 2024

The Constitutional relationship with the Crown Dependencies

Ministry of Justice (RCD0008)

The Coroner Service: follow-up

Correspondence with the Minister for Courts and Legal services, dated 23 May 2024

The Coroner Service: follow-up

NHS England (TCS0069)

Justice Select Committee (TCS0070)

The prison operational workforce

Correspondence with the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, dated 23 May 2024

Work of the Serious Fraud Office

Correspondence from the Director of the Serious Fraud Office, dated 22 May 2024

Appendix: Declaration of interest by members of the Committee

Tahir Ali

16 January 2024: Register of Members' Interest as at (8 January 2024):

4. Visits outside the UK

- Name of donor: Majlis Ash-Shura (Parliament)
Address of donor: AL-Yamamh Palace, Majlis Ash-Shura, 8006, Al-Hada, Unit: 3, Riyadh 12911 - 4021, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights, accommodation, internal travel and meals, value £11,750
Destination of visit: Mecca, Madinah and Riyadh
Dates of visit: 11-20 February 2023 Purpose of visit: APPG for Hajj and Umrah visit to meet with the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to discuss challenges specific to British Muslims, and the UK Mission in Riyadh, Ambassador and UK Consul General covering Mecca and Madinah. Plus meetings with the Deputy Minister for Madinah and holy sites stakeholders. (Registered 14 March 2023)
- Name of donor: Government of Pakistan, Speaker's Office
Address of donor: Constitution Avenue, G5/2 Islamabad, Pakistan
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights, accommodation, internal travel and meals, total value £1,800
Destination of visit: Islamabad Dates of visit: 6-13 May 2023
Purpose of visit: Pakistan 1973 Constitution Golden Jubilee Celebrations. (Registered 05 June 2023)
- Name of donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar
Address of donor: Almirqab Tower, West Bay, Doha, Qatar
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights, accommodation and food for me and a family member, total value £8,972
Destination of visit: Doha, Qatar Dates of visit: 18-23 September 2023
Purpose of visit: Qatar APPG visit to meet with ministers, the Shura Council, and senior local and international stakeholders in international development for the purpose of sharing knowledge and exploring ways of enhancing UK-Qatar cooperation on global development and aid. (Registered 24 October 2023)
- Name of donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan
Address of donor: Constitution Ave, G-5/1 G-5, Islamabad, Islamabad Capital Territory, Pakistan Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any

donation): Hotel accommodation and transport for me and a family member, total value £1,800

Destination of visit: Islamabad, Pakistan and Kashmir Dates of visit: 23 September - 1 October 2023

Purpose of visit: Visit to Kashmir and NGO's providing humanitarian aid. (Registered 24 October 2023)

6. Land and property portfolio: (i) value over £100,000 and/or (ii) giving rental income of over £10,000 a year

- House in Birmingham: (i). (Registered 09 January 2020)

8. Miscellaneous

Engineer, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Aston, Birmingham B6 4AA. On unpaid leave since 13 December 2019. (Registered 08 January 2020; updated 14 April 2020)

Rob Butler

3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources

- Name of donor: APPG for the Armed Forces
Address of donor: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Amount of donation, or nature and value if donation in kind: eight dinners value £45 each; total £360
Date received: 6 February 2023 to 4 December 2023
Date accepted: 6 February 2023 to 4 December 2023
Donor status: other (Registered 30 November 2023; updated 05 December 2023)

4. Visits outside the UK

- Name of donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan
Address of donor: Care of Taipei Representative Office in the UK, 50 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0EB
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights £3,820.91, accommodation £988, meals £330, rail fares £130 and other travel £147, total value £5,415.91
Destination of visit: Taiwan
Dates of visit: 18-24 March 2023 Purpose of visit: British-Taiwanese APPG visit to meet the President, ministers and officials for discussions on the current situation in Taiwan.
(Registered 04 April 2023)

- Name of donor: (1) Wael Al-Qadi (2) House of Representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Address of donor: (1) private (2) Abdali, King Hussein Street, Building No. 205, Amman, Jordan
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): (1) Flights, value £853 (2) Accommodation, transport and meals, value £583
Destination of visit: Jordan
Dates of visit: 22-26 September 2023
Purpose of visit: Fact finding visit to gain a deeper understanding of the strategic links between Jordan and the UK, and regional issues.
(Registered 11 October 2023)

6. Land and property portfolio: (i) value over £100,000 and/or (ii) giving rental income of over £10,000 a year

- Four houses in Oxfordshire: (i) and (ii). (Registered 11 January 2020)

Andy Carter

3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources

- Name of donor: ITV Plc
Address of donor: ITV White City, White City Place, 201 Wood Lane, London W12 7RU
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Three tickets to Soccer Aid for UNICEF, value £540
Date received: 11 June 2023
Date accepted: 11 June 2023
Donor status: company, registration 4976001 (Registered 4 July 2023)
- Name of donor: Sky UK
Address of donor: Grant Way, Isleworth TW7 5QD
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Ticket with hospitality at the Sky Box at Lord's Cricket Ground for Day 4 of 2nd Ashes Test, value £400
Date received: 1 July 2023
Date accepted: 1 July 2023
Donor status: company, registration 2906991 (Registered 12 July 2023)

6. Land and property portfolio with a value over £100,000 and where indicated, the portfolio provides a rental income of over £10,000 a year

Type of land/property: Residential property (house)

Number of properties: 1

Location: Bridgend County Borough (Registered 11 January 2020)

7. (i) Shareholdings: over 15% of issued share capital

- Name of company or organisation: Shoebridge Ltd
- Nature of business: Import agency
- Interest held: until 23 November 2023 (Registered 11 January 2020; updated 24 April 2024)

8. Miscellaneous

- Director of Shoebridge (2006) Ltd, an import agency. I received no salary for this role.
Date interest ended: 23 November 2023
(Registered 11 January 2020; updated 3 December 2020 and 24 April 2024)
- Magistrate (unremunerated) on the Merseyside Bench.
(Registered 11 January 2020)

Bambos Charalambous

9 May 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 29 April 2024):

4. Visits outside the UK

- Name of donor: UNISON
Address of donor: 130 Euston Road, London NW1 2AY
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights (£666.01) and hotel accommodation for three nights (£1,170), value £1,836.01
Destination of visit: Qatar (Doha)
Dates of visit: 21 April 2023 to 24 April 2023

Purpose of visit: To attend meetings with migrant workers representatives and fact-finding on workers' rights post World Cup 2022 in my capacity as Shadow Middle East & North Africa Minister. (Registered 22 May 2023)

- Name of donor: World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association
Address of donor: 22-24 Amalias Avenue, 105 57 Athens, Greece
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): £1,108.52 received on 19 July 2023 as reimbursement for flights (£708.41) plus hotel accommodation for three nights (£400.11)
Destination of visit: Greece (Athens)
Dates of visit: 19 July 2023 to 22 July 2023
Purpose of visit: To attend the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association Conference in Athens. (Registered 16 August 2023)
- Name of donor: House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus
Address of donor: 1102 Nicosia, Cyprus
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Hotel accommodation for three nights (£459), transport (£182.75) and meals (£106.25), value £748
Destination of visit: Cyprus (Nicosia)
Dates of visit: 13 February 2024 to 16 February 2024
Purpose of visit: APPG for Cyprus visit to meet the President, Speaker, Members of the Republic of Cyprus Parliament, NGOs and members from civil society to get an update on the current situation in Cyprus and prospects for peace talks. (Registered 23 February 2024)

Janet Daby

16 January 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 8 January 2024):

1. Employment and earnings

- Payments from Ipsos MORI, 3 Thomas More Square, London E1W 1YW, for surveys. Fees are paid direct to Lewisham East Labour Party. 23 December 2022, payment of £225. Hours: approx. 2 hrs. (Registered 13 January 2023)

James Daly

16 January 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 8 January 2024):

2. (a) Support linked to an MP but received by a local party organisation or indirectly via a central party organisation

- Name of donor: The Carlton Club Political Committee
Address of donor: 69 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1PJ
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000 Donor status: unincorporated association (Registered 06 February 2023)
- Name of donor: New Conservatives Ltd
Address of donor: First Floor, 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BE
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £2,195.79 paid to my party association to cover the costs of printing surveys and associated items such as envelopes Donor status: company, registration 14849463 (Registered 18 September 2023)

3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources

- Name of donor: Make Consulting Ltd
Address of donor: 18 St. Christophers Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8JY
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets with hospitality for England vs Scotland at Twickenham, total value £3,900
Date received: 4 February 2023
Date accepted: 4 February 2023
Donor status: company, registration 09656370 (Registered 06 February 2023)
- Name of donor: The Betting and Gaming Council
Address of donor: 1 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BU Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets and hospitality at the FA Cup Final, value £3,348
Date received: 3 June 2023
Date accepted: 3 June 2023
Donor status: company, registration 12213577 (Registered 12 June 2023)
- Name of donor: The Lord's Taverners
Address of donor: 90 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EU

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Ticket with hospitality for Men's Ashes Day 1 at Edgbaston, value £950

Date received: 16 June 2023

Date accepted: 16 June 2023

Donor status: other (charity, registration 306054)
(Registered 21 July 2023)

- Name of donor: England and Wales Cricket Board
Address of donor: Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QZ
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets for England vs Ireland at Lord's, value £140
Date received: 1 June 2023
Date accepted: 1 June 2023
Donor status: company, registration 03251364
(Registered 25 July 2023)
- Name of donor: England and Wales Cricket Board
Address of donor: Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QZ
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets to watch The Ashes at Headingley, value £220
Date received: 8 July 2023
Date accepted: 8 July 2023
Donor status: company, registration 03251364
(Registered 25 July 2023)
- Name of donor: England and Wales Cricket Board
Address of donor: Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QZ
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets to watch The Ashes at Old Trafford, value £194
Date received: 21 July 2023
Date accepted: 21 July 2023
Donor status: company, registration 03251364
(Registered 25 July 2023)
- Name of donor: R&A Championships Limited
Address of donor: Beach House, Golf Place, St Andrews KY16 9JA

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets with hospitality for the Open, value £900

Date received: 22 July 2023

Date accepted: 22 July 2023

Donor status: company, registration SC247047

(Registered 31 July 2023)

4. Visits outside the UK

- Name of donor: (1) Awan Marketing plc (2) Lords and Commons Cricket APPG

Address of donor: (1) Khyber Building Heaton Street, Hockley, Birmingham B18 5BB (2) House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): (1) Partial contribution towards flight and accommodation for me and my wife, value £740.76 (2) Partial 121 contribution towards flight and accommodation for me and my wife, value £731.48

Destination of visit: Corfu, Greece Dates of visit: 20-25 April 2023 Purpose of visit: Lords and Commons Cricket delegation to participate in tournament alongside the British Army, Lords Taverners charity, Brigade of Gurkhas and the Royal Household to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of cricket in Greece at the invitation of the Hellenic Cricket Association.

(Registered 03 May 2023)

- Name of donor: APPG for Cricket (using part sponsorship from Greene King Brewing & Retailing Ltd)

Address of donor: Westgate Brewery, Bury St Edmunds IP31 1QT

Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Travel by train, accommodation, and food, value £715.47

Destination of visit: Netherlands Dates of visit: 23-25 June 2023

Purpose of visit: Parliamentary cricket trip with All Party Parliamentary Cricket Group/Lords & Commons Cricket.

(Registered 28 June 2023)

- Name of donor: Coalition for Global Prosperity (CGP) (funded by the Eleanor Crook Foundation)

Address of donor: 1 Horse Guards Avenue, London SW1A 2HU

Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Airport transfers and other car services (£458,90); hotel accommodation, including breakfasts £1,575,60; economy flights (£2,227,90); and food (£441.80), total estimated value £4,704.20

Destination of visit: Washington DC, USA Dates of visit: 13-16 November 2023

Purpose of visit: Delegation of Conservative and Labour MPs convened by CGP's 1946 Caucus, including discussions with US policymakers, officials and policy professionals to consider joint UK-US foreign policy challenges. (Registered 29 November 2023)

8. Miscellaneous

I became a non-practising partner in Crompton Halliwell Solicitors on 13 December 2019, and started practising again (unpaid) from 10 December 2020. (Registered 8 January 2020; updated 05 January 2021) From 2 March 2020, Chair of Conservative Friends of Kashmir. (Registered 11 March 2020)

Dehenna Davison

1. Employment and earnings

- Role, work or services: Writing articles, giving interviews and presenting
Payer: News UK & Ireland Limited, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF
Payment: £250 for a television interview on Talk TV on 13 October 2023.
Received on: 23 November 2023. Hours: 1 hr.
(Registered 28 November 2023)

Payment: £550 for an article for the Times written on 22 September 2023 and published on 24 September 2023.
Received on: 23 November 2023. Hours: 1 hr.
(Registered 28 November 2023)

Payment: £100 for being a presenter.
Received on: 22 April 2024. Hours: 1 hr.
(Registered 3 May 2024)

Payment: £450 for being a presenter.
Received on: 26 April 2024. Hours: 1 hr.
(Registered 3 May 2024)

- Role, work or services: Contributing to a show
Payer: ITN, 200 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8XZ
Payment: £570 for being a contributor on the Jeremy Vine Show.
Received on: 15 December 2023. Hours: 4 hrs.
(Registered 15 December 2023; updated 10 May 2024)
- Role, work or services: Contributing to a show
Payer: Hat Trick Productions Ltd, 33 Oval Road, London NW1 7EA
Payment: £1,500 for being a contributor on Have I Got News for You.
Received on: 15 December 2023. Hours: 2 hrs.
(Registered 15 December 2023; updated 10 May 2024)

3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources

- Name of donor: English Football League
Address of donor: 55 Blandford Street, London W1U 7HW
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Three tickets with hospitality to the FA Cup final, value £2,685
Date received: 4 June 2023
Date accepted: 4 June 2023
Donor status: company, registration 00080612
(Registered 30 June 2023)
- Name of donor: Anschutz Sports Holdings Ltd
Address of donor: The O2, Peninsula Square, London SE10 0DX
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets (£165 each) for WWE Money in the Bank event, value £330
Date received: 1 July 2023
Date accepted: 1 July 2023
Donor status: company, registration 03469870
(Registered 17 July 2023)

- Name of donor: UK Music Ltd
Address of donor: Work. Life, 33 Foley Street, London W1W 7TL
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets with hospitality for a Bruce Springsteen concert, value £659.90
Date received: 8 July 2023
Date accepted: 8 July 2023
Donor status: company, registration 03245288
(Registered 18 July 2023)
- Name of donor: London Marathon Events Ltd
Address of donor: 190 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YB
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Full day hospitality for me (£350) and morning hospitality for a staff member (£200), value £550
Date received: 21 April 2024
Date accepted: 21 April 2024
Donor status: company, registration 01528489
(Registered 7 May 2024)

7. (i) Shareholdings: over 15% of issued share capital

- Name of company or organisation: DSD 22 Limited
Nature of business: Public relations and communications
Interest held: from 10 September 2020
(Registered 8 October 2020)

Rachel Hopkins

17 January 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 8 January 2024)

6. Land and property portfolio: (i) value over £100,000 and/or (ii) giving rental income of over £10,000 a year

- House in Luton, used also for my partner's business: (i). (Registered 11 January 2020)

8. Miscellaneous

- A governor and director (unremunerated) of Luton Sixth Form College. (Registered 11 January 2020)
- From 30 December 2020, unpaid Vice President of the LGA, which works with councils to support, promote and improve local government. (Registered 09 March 2021)

Paul Maynard

17 January 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 8 January 2024)

1. Employment and earnings

- From 9 November 2020, Consultant to LINK Scheme Ltd (ATM network) as part of LINK's independent Consumer Council.
Address: RSM Central Square, 5th Floor, 29 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4DL. Until the final payment for this role in April 2022, £6,250 a year was paid biannually and direct to charity. Hours: 32 hrs a year (min. 4 days a year). (Registered 16 November 2020; updated 22 August 2023)

2. (a) Support linked to an MP but received by a local party organisation or indirectly via a central party organisation

- Name of donor: John James
Address of donor: private
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000 Donor status: individual (Registered 26 July 2023)

8. Miscellaneous

- From 28 February 2020, a member of the Blackpool Town Board. This is an unpaid role. (Registered 28 February 2020)

Dr Kieran Mullan

17 January 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 8 January 2024)

8. Miscellaneous

- Trustee of ValueYou, a volunteer recognition scheme. (Registered 09 January 2020)

Sir Robert Neill

17 January 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 8 January 2024):

1. Employment and earnings

- Director of RJMN Ltd, 145-157 St John Street, London EC1V 4PW, a strategic consultancy business. (Registered 11 April 2014)
- The Hemming Group Ltd; a client of RJMN Ltd. Address: 32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SS. From 1 July 2018 until further notice, I receive £200 a month for a regular article in the Municipal Journal. Hours: 1.5 hrs per month. Any additional payments are listed below. (Registered 03 February 2015; updated 04 July 2018)
- From 4 January 2023, a Non-executive Director of Greenbank Capital Inc, a business transformation company specialising in start-up and early-stage companies based in Canada and the United Kingdom. Address: 100 King Street West, Suite 5700, Toronto, Ontario M5X 1C7, Canada. Until further notice, I receive £3,000 per month. Hours: 6 hrs a month. (Registered 31 January 2023; updated 21 April 2023)

4. Visits outside the UK

- Name of donor: HM Government of Gibraltar
Address of donor: 150 Strand, London WC1E 1JA
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Return flight (£907) and accommodation (£570), total value £1,477
Destination of visit: Gibraltar Dates of visit: 9-11 September 2023
Purpose of visit: Visit as part of the APPG for Gibraltar to celebrate Gibraltar National Day.
(Registered 13 September 2023)

6. Land and property portfolio: (i) value over £100,000 and/or (ii) giving rental income of over £10,000 a year

- I own a residential flat in London: (i) and (ii). 7. (i) Shareholdings: over 15% of issued share capital RJMN Ltd, a strategic consultancy business.

8. Miscellaneous

- Barrister – not currently practising.
- From 14 November 2022, Honorary Vice-President of the Local Government Association. This is an unpaid role. (Registered 01 December 2022)

Yasmin Qureshi

9 May 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 29 April 2024)

2. (b) Any other support not included in Category 2(a)

- Name of donor: Tristar Tech Solutions Ltd
Address of donor: Welltech Business Centre Ridgeway Welwyn Garden City AL7 2AA
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £3,500
Date received: 12 March 2024
Date accepted: 12 March 2024
Donor status: company, registration 04092696
(Registered 21 March 2024)
- Name of donor: Tristar Tech Solutions Ltd
Address of donor: Welltech Business Centre, Ridgeway, Welwyn Garden City AL7 2AA
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £3,500
Date received: 15 March 2024
Date accepted: 15 March 2024
Donor status: company, registration 04092696
(Registered 21 March 2024)
- Name of donor: Ivy Business Centre Ltd
Address of donor: Ivy Mill, Crown Street, Failsworth, Manchester M35 9BG
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000
Date received: 7 March 2024
Date accepted: 7 March 2024
Donor status: company, registration 08046145
(Registered 21 March 2024)

- Name of donor: Intro Developments Ltd
Address of donor: Universal Square, Building 2, 3rd Floor, Devonshire Street North, Manchester M12 6JH
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £3,000
Date received: 4 March 2024
Date accepted: 4 March 2024
Donor status: company, registration 09527278
(Registered 21 March 2024)

3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources

- Name of donor: England and Wales Cricket Board
Address of donor: Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QZ
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Three tickets for the Ashes, value £345
Date received: 29 July 2023
Date accepted: 29 July 2023
Donor status: company, registration 03251364
(Registered 4 August 2023)
- Name of donor: England and Wales Cricket Board
Address of donor: Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QZ
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets for the Ashes, value £186
Date received: 20 July 2023
Date accepted: 20 July 2023
Donor status: company, registration 03251364
(Registered 4 August 2023)

4. Visits outside the UK

- Name of donor: National Assembly of Pakistan
Address of donor: Parliament House, Islamabad, Pakistan
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights (£958.95), hotel and subsistence (£291.85), value £1,250.80
Destination of visit: Pakistan
Dates of visit: 5 May 2023 to 15 May 2023

Purpose of visit: Invited as Chair of the APPG on Pakistan to mark the jubilee anniversary of the constitution and to learn and participate in parliamentary seminars.

(Registered 5 June 2023; updated 11 July 2023)

- Name of donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar
Address of donor: Almirqab Tower, West Bay, Doha, Qatar
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights, accommodation and food, value £5,800
Destination of visit: Qatar (Doha)
Dates of visit: 25 November 2023 to 30 November 2023
Purpose of visit: Participate at the World Innovation Summit for Education 2023 focusing on the future of education in light of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and meet senior Qatari foreign policy and education officials.
(Registered 19 December 2023)

8. Miscellaneous

- Member of Bolton Town Board. This is an unpaid role.
Date interest arose: 27 January 2020
(Registered 8 June 2020)
- I was appointed as a member of the Board of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy for a three-year term. This is an unpaid role.
Date interest arose: 7 September 2022
(Registered 26 September 2022)

9. Family members employed and paid from parliamentary expenses

- Name: Nadeem Ashraf
Relationship: Spouse
Role: Senior Caseworker
Working pattern: Full time
(Registered 15 March 2016; updated 15 April 2024)

Chris Stephens

17 January 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 8 January 2024):

2. (b) Any other support not included in Category 2(a)

- Name of donor: Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS)
Address of donor: 160 Falcon Road, London SW11 2LN
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind:
Administration and coordination of the PCS Parliamentary Group, which I chair, by Solidarity Consulting Ltd, at a value of £32,723 from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023
Date received: 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023
Date accepted: 1 January 2023
Donor status: trade union (Registered 20 January 2023)

Edward Timpson

17 January 2024: Register of Members' Interest (as at 8 January 2024):

4. Visits outside the UK

Name of donor: (1) Care for Children (2) Government of the Republic of Armenia
Address of donor: (1) 3 The Close, Norwich NR1 4DH (2) Republic Square, Government House. 1 0010 Yerevan, Republic of Armenia
Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): (1) Flights for myself (£1,908), accommodation for myself (£360), accommodation for my spouse (£80) and meals (£94), total value £1,988 (2) meals and refreshments for myself and my wife, total value £120
Destination of visit: Armenia Dates of visit: 28 September 2023 - 2 October 2023
Purpose of visit: Attendance at South Caucasus and Middle East Family Placement Conference.
(Registered 16 November 2023)

8. Miscellaneous

- From 13 June 2020, a trustee of Uppingham School, a registered charity. This is an unpaid role. (Registered 15 June 2020)
- From 25 April 2022, a patron of the Difference Education Ltd, which aims to improve life outcomes for the most vulnerable children by raising the

status and expertise of those who educate them. This is an unpaid role. (Registered 12 May 2022)

- I am a qualified barrister holding a practising certificate. (Registered 16 December 2022)
- From 14 December 2022, Council Member, JUSTICE, a law reform and human rights charity, working to reform the UK justice system with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. This is an unpaid role. (Registered 09 January 2023)

Karl Turner

25 May 2022: Register of Members' Interest (as at 16 May 2022):

8. Miscellaneous

- From 30 November 2022, Trustee of Pelican Park Community Trust. This is an unpaid role. (Registered 02 December 2022)