



HOUSE OF LORDS

Select Committee on the Constitution

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Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede
102 Petty France
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By email

Dear Lord Ponsonby,

Quarterly Crime Data

I write to thank you for your letter dated 24 September, in which you provided a helpful update on quarterly crime data.

The accuracy and quality of data in the courts system has long been a concern of the Constitution Committee. In our report *COVID-19 and the Courts* we said:

“Without adequate data, it is not possible for the Ministry of Justice or members of the public to know whether courts and tribunals are operating effectively. The collection and publication of data are therefore critical to building public trust in the justice system and ensuring court services are delivered in a way that secures access to justice. In order to review and, where necessary, improve our justice system, a robust strategy for data collection, analysis and publication must be in place.”¹

And:

“Justice policy and the operation of the courts should be based on detailed, high-quality data. Robust data collection, analysis and publication are essential for enabling HMCTS to plan its services and improving access to justice, transparency and public faith in the justice system.”²

We therefore look forward to receiving a further update when you have published accurate datasets and note your expectation that you will do so by the end of this year.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Drake CBE
Chair of the Constitution Committee

¹ Constitution Committee, [COVID-19 and the Courts](#) (22nd Report, Session 2019-21, HL Paper 257), para 241

² Constitution Committee, [COVID-19 and the Courts](#) (22nd Report, Session 2019-21, HL Paper 257), para 251