



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,

Magistrates' court sentencing powers and the criminal justice system

I write to thank you for your letter dated 17 October, in which you informed us of the Lord Chancellor's decision to increase magistrates' court sentencing powers from 6 months to 12 months' maximum imprisonment for a single triable either-way offence. You state in your letter that this will help manage pressure on the record high remand population and help reduce the Crown Court outstanding caseload.

The Constitution Committee would be grateful for further explanation as to what effect this decision will have on the backlog of cases in the Crown Court.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Drake CBE
Chair of the Constitution Committee