



Ministry
of Justice

Andy Slaughter MP
Chair of the Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0PW

The Right Honourable
Shabana Mahmood MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

MoJ ref: ADR125547

09 July 2025

Dear Andy,

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL COURTS: PART 1 REPORT

On 12 December 2024 I announced, with the agreement of the Lady Chief Justice, that I had commissioned Sir Brian Leveson to undertake a review of our criminal courts. I am writing to update you, and the members of the Justice Select Committee, that today Sir Brian has published Part 1 of the review's report. I would like also to set out the Government's next steps.

The independent review is split into two parts, as detailed in its Terms of Reference which can be accessed on GOV.UK. Part 1 considers longer-term options for criminal court reform, with the aim of reducing pressures on the Crown Court through structural reform. Part 2 will look at the efficiency and timeliness of processes, from charge through to conviction/acquittal. Copies of the Part 1 report have been placed in the Library of the House and I have laid before Parliament a written statement on the report's publication.

We welcome the bold and ambitious recommendations put forward in Sir Brian's Part 1 report. The Government will consider Sir Brian's proposals carefully before providing a full response, and plans for any subsequent legislation, in the autumn. We expect Sir Brian to publish his Part 2 report on efficiency in the autumn.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON SHABANA MAHMOOD MP

LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE

