



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
David Lammy MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

Rt Hon the Lord Strathclyde CH, Chair
Lords Constitution Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

MoJ ref: SUB 127709

30 September 2025

Dear Lord Strathclyde,

CROWN COURT SITTING DAY UPLIFT FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR (2025-2026)

I am writing to update the Lords Constitution Committee on the allocation of Crown Court sitting days.

I am keen to take decisive action to tackle the Crown Court backlog. Having reviewed both the operational viability across the system of sitting further days this year, and the affordability of doing so, tomorrow I will be announcing my decision to allocate **1,250 additional sitting days in the Crown Court this financial year (2025-2026)**.

We cannot resolve the backlog solely through increasing sitting days, and I welcome the judiciary's ongoing efforts to improve efficiency and work with partners to raise productivity across the system. However, I am pleased that this additional allocation - on top of the record high allocation already made this financial year - will enable us to help more victims while we progress wider reforms through the Independent Review of the Criminal Courts.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON DAVID LAMMY MP

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**