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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP

Chair of Public Accounts Committee
Houses of Parliament
SW1A 0AA

By email

Date: 04 February 2026

Dear Chair,

Public Accounts Committee hearing: Accountability in small government bodies

Further to my oral evidence provided to the Committee on 26 01 2026, I committed to write on how many people from MoJ are involved in providing functional support to the small bodies highlighted in the NAO's report, and the cost associated with this.

The Ministry of Justice sponsors 36 arm's length bodies, of which 7 meet the NAO's definition of small bodies. For these bodies, MoJ does not operate a single uniform model for providing functional support. Support is delivered through a combination of shared services, direct departmental functional delivery and proportionate business partnering, depending on the size, complexity, risk profile and statutory independence of each body.

MoJ also operates a central sponsorship and assurance function, in line with the Cabinet Office Sponsorship Code, which provides oversight, relationship management and manages the Department's public appointments process.

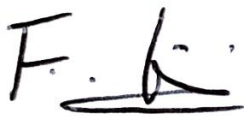
For the small bodies in scope of the NAO's report that use MoJ Shared Services, transactional finance, HR and commercial activity is delivered centrally. This is the case for the:

- Independent Monitoring Authority
- Judicial Appointments Commission
- Parole Board
- Youth Justice Board

The total cost of shared services, together with the corporate recharge covering the functional services provided by the Ministry of Justice to these bodies,¹ as reported in their 2024/25 Annual Report and Accounts, is approximately £3.5m.

With regards to wider functional support, MoJ does not routinely capture separate FTE or cost data for functional support to individual ALBs, and the number of staff working on these ALBs is routinely scaled up or down based on the organisation's needs. This approach is designed to minimise duplication and residual corporate staffing in ALBs while maintaining appropriate assurance and value for money.

Yours sincerely



Farhad Chikhalia

¹ The Criminal Cases Review Commission, Legal Services Board, and the Office for Legal Complaints are also within scope of the definition of small bodies used in the NAO's report, however, they currently operate outside of the government shared services platform.
