



Ministry
of Justice

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

Andy Slaughter MP, Chair
Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Ref: 131523

04 February 2026

Dear Andy,

THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL COURTS: PART TWO REPORT

Thank you for your engagement with the Independent Review of the Criminal Courts, and the Government's action so far.

The Government inherited a justice system in crisis with a record and rising open caseload of nearly 80,000 criminal cases currently waiting to be heard in the Crown Court. Behind those case numbers are victims, many of whom are waiting years for justice.

That is why the Government commissioned Sir Brian Leveson, one of the country's most esteemed former judges, to undertake an independent review and make recommendations for how to reform our criminal courts.

Sir Brian conducted his review in two parts, with the first part published on 9 July 2025. That set down a blueprint for structural reform in our criminal courts. I am writing to update you, and the members of the Justice Select Committee that today, 4 February 2026, Sir Brian has published Part 2 of his review. I am extremely grateful to Sir Brian and his panel of expert advisers for their work. I will place copies of Sir Brian's Part 2 report in the Library of the House and have laid before Parliament a written statement on the report's publication.

Sir Brian's second report makes 135 recommendations to improve the efficiency of the criminal courts. The report is thorough and I welcome his ambition to see real improvements to the system. The report highlights many areas where existing process can be improved and where we can do more to deliver faster and fairer justice for all. It makes recommendations about new technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, and sets out clear steps to help modernise the system. The Government will urgently consider the proposals set out today, alongside Sir Brian's remaining recommendations from Part 1, and respond to them in the coming months.

As Sir Brian makes clear in his report, *"more money and efficiency measures alone will not be sufficient to allow the system to operate as it should."* Efficiency can only be one part of our plan to deliver faster and fairer justice. On 2 December 2025, I set out why structural reform is necessary, alongside investment and modernisation. The Government will bring forward legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows.

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I look forward to continuing to engage with you and other members of the Justice Select Committee as we take the action necessary to put our criminal courts onto a sustainable footing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', followed by a long horizontal stroke and a small loop at the end.

RT HON DAVID LAMMY MP

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

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