



Justice Committee

Sarah Sackman KC MP
Minister of State for Courts and Legal Services
By email only

Wednesday, 11 February 2026

Dear Sarah,

Courtsdesk

Following the update provided to the House yesterday on the situation with Courtsdesk, I wanted to ask a number of questions.

As I am sure you are aware, the Justice Committee has a longstanding interest in the principle of open justice. The Committee's 2022 report [Open justice: court reporting in the digital age](#) recommended the creation of a single digital portal that consolidates court information (including lists, results, reporting restrictions and court documents) in one location. That report also noted that the Ministry of Justice had found that the piloting of enhanced magistrates' court listing and registers with Courtsdesk had been successful. Would the department be able to share any reports on the pilot with Courtsdesk?

In the House, you explained that the department has instructed Courtsdesk to remove the data which had been shared by HMCTS from its digital platform. The Committee is concerned that the deletion of the Courtsdesk archive will make the relevant information inaccessible. Will the data held by Courtsdesk be transferred to the alternative platform which the Government is proposing?

Given the urgency of the situation, we would be grateful for reassurance that the data held by Courtsdesk will remain accessible in the same, or at least a similar, format as before under the proposed new alternative platform. We would welcome reassurance on this specific point as soon as possible.

More broadly, the Committee would ask that the Government shares more information on the proposed alternative platform. In particular, the Committee would like to know whether it will match the services which were provided by Courtsdesk. As the Committee's 2022 report noted, it is very difficult to report on what is going on in the courts without access to a digital tool which brings together all the necessary information, such as lists, results, reporting restrictions and court documents.

I look forward to hearing your responses on this matter.



Justice Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Slaughter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Andy Slaughter MP
Chair, Justice Committee