



Ministry
of Justice

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

THE RT HON. THE LORD FOSTER OF BATH

Chair of the Justice and Home Affairs Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Ref: SUB132082

24 February 2026

Dear Lord Foster,

COURT MODERNISATION

On 4 February 2026, Sir Brian published Part 2 of his independent review of the criminal courts. 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 we can make a tangible difference to the efficiency of the criminal courts.

I am writing to update you that today, 24 February 2026, the Government is setting out an interim response to Part 2. This includes a commitment to support the Lady Chief Justice in publishing the first ever National Listing Framework and to pilot an AI Listing Assistant which, if successful, could materially ease the burden on judges and help to maximise court resources. We will expand case progression functions to every Crown Court, introducing staff with delegated judicial powers to focus exclusively on progressing cases. Already piloted in a small number of courts, these officers, known as Case Co-ordinators, have shown promising results.

Our response also includes a commitment to support an increase in use of 'Blitz Courts' by the judiciary, intensive scheduling exercises where similar cases are listed together over a short period of time, allowing courts to crack through outstanding cases in a focused way.

We also will support an increase in remote participation through investing in modernised video infrastructure and supporting work led by the judiciary to develop guidance on remote participation. We will also further work to expand a scheme already used in cities like Manchester, Bristol, and Nottingham which will mean more local authorities will allow prisoner vans to use bus lanes to deliver defendants to court. The Department will also work with Transport for London to reduce avoidable delays and keep the justice system moving. Finally, I will work with the Home Secretary and Attorney General to create a single, shared vision for partners across the criminal justice system.

We are carefully considering the remaining recommendations from parts 1 and 2 of Sir Brian's review and will set out a full response in the coming months.

OFFICIAL

We have today also announced additional measures to support Court Modernisation. This Government is clear that timely justice must also be fair justice. We are therefore working with the judiciary towards greater openness and transparency in the Courts.

Alongside changes to criminal justice, I want to confirm this Government continues to support the wider justice system and we will be investing significantly in digitising the Civil Courts, including over £50 million to progress digitalisation of the County Court, and more than £20 million for a new digital system in the High Court over the spending review period.

I look forward to continuing to engage with you and other members of the Justice and Home Affairs Committee as we take the action necessary to put our criminal courts onto a sustainable footing, building on this work alongside the record Concordat agreement I am announcing today and on which I wrote to you separately.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON DAVID LAMMY MP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', followed by a long horizontal flourish that ends in a small loop.

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

OFFICIAL