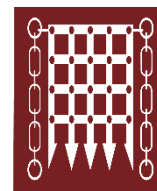


**Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:  
Next steps for tackling backlogs in the criminal courts system in England and Wales**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026

\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*



**WESTMINSTER  
LEGAL POLICY  
FORUM**

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Carlile of Berriew**
- 9.05 **Developments in criminal courts reform - considerations for implementation and policy going forward**  
**Magdalena Domínguez**, Senior Research Economist, Institute for Fiscal Studies  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Court backlog and criminal justice reform - system pressures, resourcing and access to justice**  
**Richard Miller**, Head, Justice, The Law Society
- 9.40 **Assessing proposed criminal courts reform - jury trial, case allocation and court capacity**  
*implementation of the Courts and Tribunals Bill | case allocation, judge-only trials and Swift Courts | shifting case types between Crown Court and magistrates' courts | jury trial, fairness and perceived legitimacy | defendant rights, victim experience and vulnerable witnesses | impact of Leveson Review recommendations | court capacity, delay and case progression | public confidence and trust in the legal system | legal, constitutional and operational risks of proposed changes*  
**Riel Karmy-Jones KC**, Barrister, Red Lion Chambers; and Chair, the Criminal Bar Association of England and Wales  
**Penelope Gibbs**, Director, Transform Justice  
**Leyya Kitmitto**, Criminal Policy Lawyer, JUSTICE  
Senior representative, legal aid  
Senior representative, courts
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Supporting victims in the courts system - service pressures, protection and access to justice**  
Senior representative, advocacy  
Senior representative, specialist services  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Lord Carlile of Berriew**
- 11.10 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Goudie**
- 11.25 **Courts reform in practice - case progression, judicial capacity and implementation**  
**Siwan Davies**, Lay Commissioner, Judicial Appointments Commission
- 11.35 **Key considerations for delivering reform - transition, capacity and operational pressures**  
*alignment of reform with existing court processes and operational capacity | administrative challenges in the transition | readiness of legal professionals and support services | technology, digital case management and remote hearings | assessing court performance, case progression and wider reform outcomes | case allocation changes, sentencing powers and routes of appeal | victim support, vulnerable witnesses and case progression | recruitment and retention across the courts system | training, development and workforce resilience | efficient, secure video hearing systems and remote trial options | digital exclusion, transparency and quality of outcomes*  
**Geoffrey Robertson**, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers  
**Oliver Bruff**, Researcher, Ada Lovelace Institute  
**Duncan Woodhead**, National Officer, FDA  
Senior representative, probation services
- 12.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **'Operational priorities for tackling the court backlog going forward'**  
**Daniel Flury**, Operations Director, HM Courts and Tribunals Service  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Baroness Goudie**  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster Legal Policy Forum