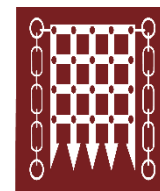


**Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for tackling backlogs in the criminal courts system in England and Wales**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 14th December 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 policy implementation**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Criminal courts and the backlog - case allocation, jury entitlement and court capacity**
impact of the Practice Direction on Listing in the Criminal Courts and National Listing Framework | Courts and Tribunals Bill and implications for implementation and transition | future policy on jury trials and implications for case allocation | shifting case types between Crown Court and magistrates' courts | priorities for taking forward, adapting or reconsidering recommendations from the Leveson Review, including in light of the judicial response | factors driving delay including ineffective trials, case complexity, listing and court capacity | defendant rights, support and participation for victims and vulnerable witnesses | case allocation changes, sentencing powers and routes of appeal | implications for serious cases, such as rape and sexual offences, including floating trials, over-listing and prioritisation | public confidence and trust in the legal system | legal, constitutional and operational implications of reform
Senior representative, barristers
Senior commentator
Senior representative, advocacy
Senior representative, legal profession
Senior representative, courts
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Criminal legal aid and court capacity - investment, representation and trial readiness**
Senior representative, legal aid
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Carlile of Berriew
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Goudie
- 11.05 **Courts reform in practice - case progression, judicial capacity and implementation**
Senior representative, judiciary
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Technology and AI in the criminal courts - case progression, administration and implementation**
Senior representative, technology
- 11.40 **Operational delivery of criminal courts reform - technology, workforce and system capacity**
alignment of reform with existing court processes and operational capacity | AI-enabled justice and Crown Court pilots including legal assistants, listing and identification of trial-ready cases | digital case management, remote hearings and AI-assisted transcription | safeguards and governance including issues with accuracy, bias, data quality, transparency and digital exclusion | procurement, legacy systems and integration with the National Listing Framework | workforce readiness, recruitment and retention | case preparation and progression, including courts, police and CPS coordination and links with probation, prisons and victim-support services | sitting days and longer-term delivery
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, court users
Senior representative, tech provider
Senior representative, advocacy
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