

## Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:

### Next steps for AI use in the justice system and courts modernisation in England and Wales

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd**, President, Qatar International Court; and Chair, Commission on Justice in Wales
- 9.05 **Key findings and next steps following the Independent Review of the Criminal Courts**  
**Sir Brian Leveson**, Chair, Independent Review of the Criminal Courts; and Investigatory Powers Commissioner  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for courts modernisation - technology integration, user-centred delivery, and achieving improved efficiency**  
*integrating digitalisation alongside legacy systems | digital tools and reshaping the physical infrastructure of courts and tribunals | investment and priorities for improving the condition of the court estate | funding allocation in the 2025 Spending Review | evaluation frameworks for efficiency and timely case progression | responding to Government's proposals on modernising criminal courts and the Independent Review of the Criminal Courts: Part 2 recommendations | improving HMCTS case management and IT resilience | safeguarding procedural integrity as new technologies interface with the justice system*  
**Tana Adkin**, Barrister, 15 New Bridge Street  
**Dr Sarah Stephens**, Associate Professor, Legal Innovation, University of Sussex  
Senior representative, judiciary  
Senior representative, technology  
Senior representative, infrastructure  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **The future of digital transformation and AI integration in the Courts and Tribunals Service**  
**John Laverick**, Chief Digital and Information Officer, HM Courts and Tribunals Service  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd**, President, Qatar International Court; and Chair, Commission on Justice in Wales
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 **Approaches to ensuring safe and fair use of AI across legal services**  
**Richard Orpin**, Interim CEO, Legal Services Board  
Senior representative, consumers  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Supporting access to justice - implications of AI for legal advice and unrepresented litigants**  
**Sophia Adams Bhatti**, Chair of JUSTICE report, 'AI in our justice system'
- 11.40 **Key considerations for introduction of AI in courtrooms and across the justice system**  
*implementation of the AI Action Plan for Justice | priorities for ethical, transparent and fair AI across judicial and administrative processes | safeguarding procedural integrity and the rights of victims and defendants | tackling algorithmic bias and ensuring open justice | addressing misuse of AI in legal drafting and case law citations | practical deployment in case management, document analysis and predictive modelling | workforce training and adapting professional standards | citizen-facing applications, accessibility and inclusion through the AI for All initiative | coordination and oversight via the Justice AI Unit and HMCTS AI Adoption Plan | evaluating performance and benefits across services, including offender management and rehabilitation*  
**Sophie Mitchell**, Barrister, St Pauls Chambers  
**Kirsten Maslen**, Senior Director, Growth and Commercial Strategy, Thomson Reuters  
**Khayam Khan**, Director, IT, The Forward Trust  
Senior representative, workforce  
Senior representative, civil society
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for digital transformation in the UK justice system**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster Legal Policy Forum