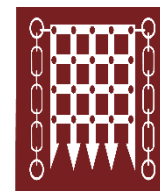


Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for tackling backlogs in the criminal courts system in England and Wales
Timing: Morning, Monday, 14th December 2026
*****Taking place online*****



**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**
Magdalena Domínguez, Senior Research Economist, Institute for Fiscal Studies
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
Riel Karmy-Jones KC, Barrister, Red Lion Chambers; and Chair, The Criminal Bar Association of England and Wales
Richard Miller, Head, Justice, The Law Society
Senior representative, advocacy
Senior representative, courts
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Criminal legal aid and court capacity - investment, representation and trial readiness**
Caroline Liggins, Partner and Head, Youth Team, Hodge Jones & Allen; and Member, Advisory Committee, LAPG
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**
Siwan Davies, Lay Commissioner, Judicial Appointments Commission
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
Penelope Gibbs, Director, Transform Justice
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, court users
Senior representative, tech provider
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