



Lucy Slade <Islade@justiceinnovation.org>

Leveson review part II

1 message

Lucy Slade <Islade@justiceinnovation.org>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 7:20 AM

To: Vicki Mulligan <vmulligan@justiceinnovation.org>, Claire Ely <cely@justiceinnovation.org>, Suzanne Smith <ssmith@justiceinnovation.org>, Miranda Paris <mparis@justiceinnovation.org>, Stephen Whitehead <swhitehead@justiceinnovation.org>, Sophie Carter <scarter@justiceinnovation.org>

Hi all,

Here is a summary of Leveson part II, there is a lot of support for OOCRs, PSC and community options for women:

OOCRs

- Part I recommended the greater use and development of strategies for out of court resolutions.
- Although supportive of the recommendation, the police raised the issue of resources. Part II seeks to relieve the police of unnecessary and bureaucratic processes, to remove pressure and allow resources to be devoted to OOCRs.
- Expand the use by police of Out of Court Resolutions, applying standardised administration and integrated restorative justice for cases that simply do not need to go to court. The resolution may include a financial penalty notice or a rehabilitative programme.
- **Recommendation 178:** I recommend standard training for police officers to ensure better administration of Out of Court Resolutions for children. This should be delivered through the collaborative efforts of the College of Policing and the Law Society, underpinned by central administration through the Local Criminal Justice Boards
- **Recommendation 158:** I recommend that the Legal Aid Agency promotes the pre-charge engagement fee to duty solicitors and actively encourages its usage to facilitate more out of court resolutions.

Problem Solving Courts

- PSCs sitting at appropriate times can assist to fashion appropriate disposals in an effort to prevent reoffending (our evidence summary is referenced)
- "These efforts are a valuable part of the system if the time taken in investing in these individuals helps to reduce the risk of reoffending".
- **Recommendation 174:** I recommend that the government evaluates the case for problem-solving courts regionally, guided by a national framework to ensure consistency, enable impact measurement, and inform resource allocation

Women

- Diversionary measures remain critical; and they must be complemented by imaginative alternatives to custody that reflect the complex circumstances faced by women.
- The current lack of appropriate community provision for women severely limits the courts' ability to impose effective, rehabilitative sentences.
- **Recommendation 177:** I recommend that the Ministry of Justice expands funding for community-based facilities for women as an alternative to custody.

Tech

- Use AI for court listings
- Pilot AI interpreters (our research on language barriers at court is cited as evidence for needing this)
- Use technology in hearing processes e.g. preparation of pre-sentence reports.
- Customer support chatbot for people attending court (our research on language barriers at court is cited as evidence for needing this)

Remote hearings

- Extend remote participation for: First hearings in the magistrates' court, managed in police stations; Preliminary hearings in the Crown Court; Professional witnesses in trials (such as police officers, continuity and similar evidence); Sentencing hearings, (except when victim impact statements read); Legal representatives advising suspects in the police station

Keeping cases out of the crown court

- Create a new 'Bench Division' of the Crown Court in which a judge and two magistrates, without a jury, will try cases anticipating a sentence of three years' custody or less. This bench would have the same sentencing powers as Crown Court and can sit any courtroom. This is a change from part I recommendation for an intermediary court.
- Allow those charged with certain offences to be able to elect to be tried by a judge alone.
- Remove right to elect jury trial for low-level offences (with a maximum of less than two years' custody). (we called for this in our submission).
- Reclassify a number of offences as summary only, with the magistrates' court retaining the right to impose a sentence of up to 12 months' custody. (we called for this in our submission).

Additional measures

- Abolish release under investigation, with improved bail processes and a change to the police approach to decision-making
- Commission an inspection of the physical court estate
- Increase sitting days

Broader issues

- Many would benefit from much needed assistance with their mental health rather than being dealt with through the courts
- Produce a cross-government strategy on Liaison and Diversion services and its impact on criminal justice
- Expand Drug Partnership Boards include mental health provision

Lucy Slade

Policy Officer

Centre for Justice Innovation

lslade@justiceinnovation.org

+44 (0)7710006189

[Click here](#) to sign up to our bulletins, which provide regular updates on innovative practice in the sector.