



Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

CC: HMICFRS

8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

### **The Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the criminal justice system – a progress report**

I am writing to you in response to the above Criminal Justice Joint Inspectorate (CJJI) inspection report published earlier this year.

This report provides updates on the progress of the various agencies since the first report that was published in January 2021. The CJJI conclude that none of the risks identified in the 2021 joint report have been mitigated in their entirety.

Whilst the report does not contain any specific recommendations it does highlight that some parts of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) are not responding quickly enough to reverse changes or restore performance to pre-pandemic levels. In addition, due to court backlogs, justice continues to be delayed, denied or disrupted in far too many instances.

I am concerned that any delays in court hearings could be justice denied. The performance prior to the pandemic wasn't at an acceptable level, and it certainly isn't now. We need to see the system continue to challenge itself to do better for victims.

I am committed to the needs of victims and witnesses in West Mercia. Any delay can represent further trauma to victims and witnesses, and they are likely to suffer avoidable stress and anxiety.

I will continue to press West Mercia Police to do everything it can to provide the best service it can to victims and witnesses caught up in delays and as Chair of West Mercia

Local Criminal Justice Board I will continue to monitor the impact on the remainder of the criminal justice system especially around the court backlog.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Campion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

John Campion  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
**West Mercia**