

Lammy Review launch interim findings report

David Lammy's review of the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) launched its interim findings with two statistical reports (download [here](#) and [here](#)) and an [open letter](#) to the Prime Minister. At this stage the review has made it clear that it is not putting forward recommendations to address ethnic disproportionality but is providing detailed analysis on the contrasting experiences of different ethnic groups in the CJS.



Findings

The report analyses management information data across Ministry of Justice (MoJ) agencies showing large BAME disproportionate contact occurring at the point of arrest with varying levels of BAME disproportionate contact emerging at subsequent stages in the CJS.

Areas within the CJS post-arrest where BAME disproportionality was found to be particularly acute included:

- Of those convicted at Magistrates' Court for sexual offences, 208 black men and 193 Asian men received custodial sentences for every 100 white men.
- BAME defendants are more likely than their white counterparts to be tried at Crown Court – with young black men

around 56% more likely than their white counterparts;

- BAME men were more than 16% more likely than white men to be remanded in custody;
- BAME men were 52% percent more likely than white men to plead 'not guilty' at crown court;
- In prisons, BAME males are almost five times more likely to be housed in high security for public order offences than white men;
- Mixed ethnic men and women were more likely than white men and women to have adjudications for breaching prison discipline brought against them – but less likely to have those adjudications proven when reviewed.
- 51% of the UK-born BAME population agree that 'the criminal justice system discriminates against particular groups', compared to 35% of the UK-born white population;
- 41% of youth prisoners are from minorities backgrounds, compared with 25% ten years ago, despite prisoner numbers falling by some 66% in that time;
- The number of Muslim prisoners has almost doubled in the last decade

Next steps

In his letter to the Theresa May, David Lammy has highlighted five themes that will be the focus of next stage of his review:

- The use and misuse of data
- Different models of overview and

scrutiny of decisions

- Building trust with BAME communities and the CJS
- Vulnerable groups (intersectional experiences of BAME people who are care leavers or have poor mental health)
- The contribution of those outside government/the state

The final report will be launched in the summer of 2017.

The role of the Young Review

We have been supporting David Lammy's Review organising a series of roundtables with former offenders, and supporting the Review Team's efforts in gaining a greater understanding of the rise in Muslims in the prison population. Further collaborations are planned in the areas of mental health and youth justice in the New Year.

Prison Reform White Paper



On 3 November the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) launched its [Prison Safety and Reform White Paper](#).

There has been much speculation as to whether Liz Truss MP, the Secretary of State for Justice, would provide a continuation of the reform process her predecessor Michael Gove MP instigated. The White Paper progresses the Gove agenda with prison autonomy, a stronger role for the inspectorate and OFSTED style league tables for prisons. However the White Paper priority is that of prison safety and addressing what has emerged over recent months as a crisis in our prisons system.

Key action points

- Recruitment of 2500 frontline prisons staff. The White paper highlights a three pronged approach targeting former armed forces personnel, a graduate recruitment scheme and utilising the apprenticeship programme (there was no mention of the need to recruit a diverse workforce.)
- The issue of drugs and the use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) has been linked to the rise of violent and disorder in prisons. Responses within the White Paper include: drug tests on reception and release for all prisoners; New standards to get prisoners off drugs and into work: 300 new sniffer dogs trained to detect NPS; and no fly zones over prisons to stop drugs being dropped into prisons by drones.
- Making the Secretary of State accountable, in law, for prison performance
- Establishing four quality standards for prisons and the Government to be judged against: Public protection; Safety and order; Reform (targets for health, substance misuse; work; education and contact with families); and preparing for life after prison
- £1.3 billion refurbishment scheme to close older prisons and build new ones
- Giving Prison Governors much more autonomy

Conclusions

The issues of improving outcomes for groups over represented in the system, does not get any attention in the White Paper. However, other areas such as youth justice, prison education, and reform of the DBS system are also not mentioned in any great detail.