

Review of Racial Bias and BAME representation in the Criminal Justice System

A review to consider the treatment of, and outcomes for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Individuals within the criminal justice system (CJS) in England and Wales

Contact: BAMEReview@justice.gsi.gov.uk

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2 March 2016

Dear Ian,

Thank you very much for your letter of 2 February 2016 following my appointment to lead a review of racial bias and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) representation in the Criminal Justice System. I am delighted to have been asked to lead this important work by the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Justice. With significant overrepresentation of BAME offenders, the review will consider their treatment and outcomes, with a view to identifying and tackling potential bias or prejudice. I intend to ask the difficult questions the Prime Minister drew attention to: whether the system treats people differently on the basis of race.

I am very keen to analyse the current evidence available and work with experts, practitioners and offenders to understand that. It is very important to me that I spend time meeting people from BAME communities, listening to their concerns and perceptions and understanding the issues faced by them. I am also very keen to meet front line staff and professionals, as well as the leaders and senior members of the system.

My intention is to produce a practical report which is action-orientated. It will identify areas for reform, highlight good practice from the UK and beyond, and ensure real changes are made throughout the system; with the aim of ultimately helping to reduce the over-representation of BAME individuals.

In the next few weeks, I will be setting up roundtable events and undertaking field visits. I intend to continue that process throughout the duration of the Review, which is due to report in spring of 2017. I will also shortly announce a call for evidence. My support team will ensure you are alerted to that and the timescales for responding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DL', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon David Lammy MP