

Request for Input - Delays to transport to Court

I am reaching out as a policy advisor in the scrutiny and intelligence team within the MOJ. We are investigating the impact of delays to transport to court to strengthen the evidence base for future performance, operational and policy decisions.

I would like to ask whether your barristers, clerks or anyone involved in the administration of justice, would want to have the opportunity to provide some thoughts, recommendations, observations, aspirations and frustrations of the seemingly controversial topic of prisoner escort operations under GeoAmey and Serco. I understand chambers are very busy and time is very valuable. To that end, if there is potential for engagement in this investigation, I have devised some open questions that might make this request less time consuming. On the other hand, if those willing to offer their thoughts would like free rein, which I can analyze and digest for our report, this is also most welcome.

The impetus for this investigation comes from the rising pressures around court back logs, the political and media attention delays in transport to court have received, and how the Leveson Review highlights the acute pressures facing the courts need to address system inefficiencies. If anyone with experience of delays to transport to court within their professional career would like to have the opportunity to offer their thoughts and how this can be improved for the betterment of the legal process, please let me know. From there I am happy to provide some data from PECs (Prisoner Escort and Custody Services), where it is reported that 99.8% of prisoners arrived at court on time for their hearing. This figure is inconsistent with insights from lay observers, media reporters, and operational experience.

I have attached a word document which can be filled out and returned, a link to a form which can be filled out and have listed the questions to be returned via email. Whatever is easiest for participants, I have no preference.

Please see a link to the form [Delays to transport to court - Scrutiny and Intelligence Team MOJ - Fill in form](#)

The questions listed below for ease:

1. What are your general observations of the GeoAmey and Serco contract under Prisoner Escort and Custody Service? Have you observed or believe the contract to be an effective service which helps to protect the public, helps to reduce re-offending and offers value for money?
2. Considering the recommendations of the Leveson review and the need to tackle acute pressures facing the courts and to address inefficiencies, do you see delays to transport to court as a priority within this? What else could or would you recommend?
3. What recommendations, from your experience, would you give to improve the transport of prisoners to court?
4. What recommendations from your experience, would you make to reduce the delays of prisoners to court?
5. Where applicable, do you believe delays to transport to court impacts a prisoners right to speak to their legal representatives before court proceedings? How does this impact a prisoners rights or the process of justice?
6. Please use this box to offer any more thoughts, observations or recommendations that you might have regarding transport to court, or the wider process.

I really appreciate you taking the time to read this email and action my request where possible.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Many thanks,

[Sam Waite](#)