



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Peter May
Accounting Officer
Department for Justice

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
BELFAST
BT4 3XX
Tel: (028) 9052 1208
Fax: (028) 9052 0366
Email:
Committee.publicaccounts@niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Peter

27 May 2021

**Public Accounts Committee – Request for follow-up information re
Evidence session on Speeding up Justice**

Thank you and your colleagues for providing evidence to the Committee on Thursday 20 May 2021 regarding our current inquiry.

Following on from the evidence session, there are a number of areas that the Committee require more detail as follows:

- To provide reasons, outside of COVID, why the number of cases going to Crown Court have risen by 50%;
- To provide list of reasons for the number of adjournments in the Crown Court systems, that are now averaging 9 per case, and how this compares to England and Wales?
- To provide a copy and details of the 'matrix' used by the Criminal Justice Board to help speed up justice and a copy of the full associated performance dashboard;
- To provide details of the number of court hearings per year; the cost of running the courts per year; the cost of holding a Crown Court hearing per hour; and to provide details of the number of hours lost per year due to adjournments.

Please respond by **10 June 2021** using the email address above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William J. Humphrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'H' and 'y'.

**William Humphrey MBE MLA
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee**