I am writing to you following receipt of the government response to our report on Disclosure and following the publication of your own review.

We welcome many of the proposed changes in the review and the response to our report, particularly: changes to the Code for Crown Prosecutors and earlier consideration of disclosure; improvements to the data to enable yourself and the DPP to measure progress and understand failings; and updates to various pieces of guidance, particularly noting the advances in technology, and concerns around sensitive data.

There are two areas we would like to follow up with you:

1. We recommended that you take the opportunity of your appointment to clarify what was meant by "superintend". We stated that it should be clear that the Attorney General is accountable to Parliament for the performance of the CPS. The Government response states that "the Attorney General's Office had already begun work with the CPS to strengthen the superintendence and sponsorship relationship and the framework that underpins this."
   a. We would be very grateful if you could write to outline what you expect this strengthened superintendence to look like in practical terms.

2. We very much welcome oversight of disclosure from the Criminal Justice Board (the Board), noting that it brings together senior people from across the justice system (including yourself, the Lord Chancellor, Home Secretary, senior civil servants and senior judiciary). However, while our report recognises calls for a "system wide effort" to resolve issues (paragraph 26), it also states that Ministerial responsibility was not clear enough (paragraph 80).
   a. Can you write to us explaining the role of the Board, who is leading on disclosure and who, ultimately, is accountable?
   b. The Board has 15 very senior members and our witness table is not long enough to seat them all. Can you confirm that if my Committee return to the issue of disclosure you remain the Minister whom we should call to account for progress?
Thank you again for your assistance with this work. You are appearing before the Committee on January 23rd, so it would be very helpful if you could write before that date to clarify those two points.

Bob Neill MP
Chairman
Justice Committee