Thank you for inviting me to appear before the Committee on 23rd January to give evidence. I was very grateful for the opportunity and I found our discussions interesting and helpful.

I do however want to take the opportunity to clarify one answer I gave to the Committee relating to the current 28 day time limit for referring sentences to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient. In my answer I referred to a pilot that is currently running in relation to sentences passed in the handful of cases every year that are subject to reporting restrictions.

As you know, these restrictions have, in the past, sometimes meant that the public is unaware of a particular sentence until after the deadline for a referral has passed. Under the pilot, the CPS provides a detailed report to my office in all such cases that fall within the scheme within 28 days of sentence. This enables me, or the Solicitor General, to safeguard the wider public interest by reviewing the sentence and deciding whether to refer the case to the Court of Appeal within the statutory deadline.