Dear Bob,

REFRESH OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR JUSTICE DEVOLUTION

I want to inform you, as Chair of the Justice Select Committee, that the Ministry of Justice has today agreed to a new Memorandum of Understanding for justice devolution with Greater Manchester Combined Authority. This builds on the commitments made in the first Memorandum of Understanding, signed by MoJ and GMCA in July 2016, and represents a re-invigoration around agreed priorities which we believe will improve outcomes and experiences for victims, witnesses, and offenders, as well as for the communities and neighbourhoods in which they live.

Justice devolution in Greater Manchester is an important element within a Greater Manchester model of public service delivery based upon the integration and coordination of services at a neighbourhood level. In partnership with GMCA, we are moving towards a model where greater local influence is seen over a number of key delivery areas, including future probation services, victims and witness services, increasing confidence in community sentences, innovative use of digital pathways and data sharing, and more effective services for young offenders and women in the criminal justice system.

The priorities identified in the MoU cover the following areas, defined as:

- Youth Justice Transformation - an integrated offer for Greater Manchester’s young people;
- Smarter Justice - taking a problem-solving approach and using family centred principles;
- Reforming Adult Offender Management - from conviction, to custody to resettlement and rehabilitation; and
- The Victim’s Journey - joining up the system to improve the quality of service and experience.

Within these areas there are commitments aligned with our policy priorities to reduce reoffending, to provide youth justice services fitting with the recently published Youth Justice Board (YJB) national standards, to ensure vulnerable cohorts within the criminal justice system are recognised and supported, and to support victims of crime. For more information the full MoU is available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/moj-gmca-memorandum-of-understanding-for-justice-devolution

This MoU refresh will be a further step in delivering a more locally responsive and effective system, and I would be keen for your support in ensuring we can effectively deliver this.

Yours ever,

RT HON DAVID GAUKE MP