Dame Glenys Stacey  
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RE: Decision to chair a short-term review into farm inspection

Thank you for coming to give evidence to the Justice Select Committee earlier today.

It is clear from the evidence we heard from you today, and from other witnesses we have heard from in our inquiry, as well as HMI Probation’s helpful and insightful reports, that the issues facing the probation sector are multiple and pressing. The Public Accounts Committee also raised serious concerns in its recent report. HMI Probation has an important role in assisting Ministers, this Committee and many others in scrutinising the sector and highlighting where change is needed.

As you know we remain deeply concerned that you are now undertaking what was advertised and is remunerated as a full-time role as HM Chief Inspector of Probation on a part-time basis (3-4 days per a week), for the rest of this year, to “accommodate” you chairing a short-term review into farm inspection.

In evidence this morning you undertook to reflect on whether it was appropriate to continue to do both jobs. You also assured Ms Reeves that you would reflect on your wider comments on how you were able to manage your time to accommodate both roles. We would be grateful if you would write to us with the outcome of your reflections by Monday 23 April so that we can consider these at our meeting next Tuesday.

The need for a strong, independent Inspectorate and Chief Inspector is critical at this time, and we believe this is a full-time requirement. The Committee is keen to support you in discharging this role, in which we feel you are carrying out important work.

I will write to you in due course with any further follow-up questions on substantive policy issues discussed at this morning’s session.

Bob Neill MP  
Chairman  
Justice Committee