RE: Decision by HM Chief Inspector of Probation to chair a short-term review into farm inspection

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

There are multiple and pressing issues facing the probation sector. HMI Probation has an important role in assisting you, this Committee and many others in scrutinising the sector, how the sector is performing, and highlighting where change is needed. The need therefore for a strong, independent Inspectorate and Chief Inspector is crucial.

We raised today with HM Chief Inspector of Probation and yourself our concern about Dame Glenys 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 the year to “accommodate” her chairing a short-term review into farm inspection. We have also had prior written exchanges with Dame Glenys on this issue. A copy of those letters is available on our website.

In evidence this morning you undertook to reflect on whether it was appropriate for Dame Glenys to do both jobs. 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.

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