JUSTICE 1 COMMITTEE

AGENDA

9th Meeting, 2004 (Session 2)

Wednesday 10 March 2004

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 2.

1. Justice (Northern Ireland) Bill – UK legislation: The Committee will take evidence from—
   Hugh Henry, Deputy Minister for Justice, and Ruth Sutherland, Head of Prisoner and Operational Administration, and Stephen Sadler, Head of Legal Policy, Scottish Prison Service.

2. Criminal Procedure (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill: The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 1).

3. Inquiry into the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes in prisons: The Committee will consider its approach to the inquiry.

Alison Walker
Clerk to the Committee
Tel: 0131 348 5195
The following papers are attached for this meeting—

**Agenda item 1**
Note by the Clerk J1/S2/04/9/1
Note by the Clerk (PRIVATE PAPER) J1/S2/04/9/2

**Agenda item 2**
Members should bring with them copies of the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, available from the Document Supply Centre or on the Scottish Parliament website: http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/bills/index.htm

Members should also bring with them copies of the marshalled list, available from the Document Supply Centre on the morning of Tuesday 9 March 2004, and the groupings of amendments, available from the Document Supply Centre on the morning of Wednesday 10 March 2004. Copies of these documents will also be emailed to members as soon as they are available.

**Agenda item 3**
Note by the Clerk J1/S2/04/9/3

**Papers for information circulated for the 9th meeting, 2004 (session 2)—**

Criminal Procedure (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill—
Correspondence from the Deputy Minister for Justice regarding amendments to the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill J1/S2/04/9/4

Correspondence from the Minister for Justice regarding the Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Bill and the Victims and Witnesses Unit J1/S2/04/9/5

Scottish Executive, *re:duce, re:habilitate, re:form – A Consultation on Reducing Reoffending in Scotland* (members only; further copies available from the Scottish Executive or online at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/justice/rrrc-00.asp) J1/S2/04/9/6

**Document not circulated**

A copy of the following has been provided to the Clerk:


A copy of this document is available for consultation in room 3.11 CC. It may also be obtainable on request from the Document Supply Centre. Scottish Executive documents are available on the Executive’s website (www.scotland.gov.uk).

**Forthcoming business—**
Tuesday 16 March 2004 – joint meeting with the Justice 2 Committee, Committee Room 3;
Wednesday 17 March 2004 – Justice 1 Committee, Committee Room 3;
Wednesday 24 March 2004 – Justice 1 Committee, Committee Room 3*
Wednesday 31 March 2004 – Justice 1 Committee, Chamber.

* denotes a change from forthcoming business previously indicated.
SEWEL MEMORANDUM

JUSTICE (NORTHERN IRELAND) BILL

Motion

1. “That the Parliament agrees that an amendment should be made to the Justice (Northern Ireland) Bill to provide for the compulsory transfer of prisoners from Northern Ireland to Scotland and that this should be considered by the UK Parliament”.

Background


3. The Justice (Northern Ireland) Bill makes provision for the compulsory transfer of disruptive prisoners to prisons in England and Wales. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has sought the agreement of Scottish Ministers to extend that provision to Scotland. He proposes to amend clause 12 of the Bill so that it would read as set out at Appendix 1 to this Memorandum (the text in bold highlight the proposed amendments to the Bill).

4. Schedule 1 to the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 governs the transfer of prisoners between the 3 UK jurisdictions. It contains provisions to enable prisoners to be compulsorily transferred for trial or for other judicial purposes. The proposed power would also permit, for Northern Ireland prisoners only, compulsory transfer in the interests of maintaining the security or good order of prisons in Northern Ireland.

Consideration

5. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has indicated that this would be a reserve power, which would only be used sparingly, in the event that it was required to maintain security and good order. The Secretary of State considers the availability of this power to be important to the peace process. If the power were ever used, it would only result in a very small number of prisoners being held in Scotland at any time. In terms of the draft Memorandum of Understanding described below, any such transfers would only take place with the consent of Scottish Ministers. The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) is confident that it would be able to manage such prisoners and is discussing the proposed compulsory transfer provision with the SPS Trade Union Side.

6. A draft Memorandum of Understanding, setting out the arrangements under which prisoners may be compulsorily transferred from a prison in Northern Ireland and the safeguards available around the use of the compulsory transfer power, has been agreed between the three jurisdictions and is attached as Annex 2. The stability of prisons in the receiving jurisdiction and the safety of staff and prisoners in them will be taken into account in any decision on a transfer.
7. The Executive supports the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland’s proposal that Westminster should legislate for Scotland in respect of the compulsory transfer provision. This route will enable the changes to be introduced in the three jurisdictions at the same time and thus maintain operational and policy coherence.

Financial Effects

8. None. Any transferred prisoners would be managed within SPS’s existing budgets.

Conclusion

9. The Executive invites the Parliament to support this motion.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
February 2004
Transfer of prisoners

(1) Schedule 1 to the Crime Sentences Act 1997 (c. 43) (transfer of prisoners within the British Islands) is amended as follows.

(2) In paragraph 1 (transfer of prisoners: general) after sub-paragraph (2) insert—

“(2A) If it appears to the Secretary of State that—

(a) a person remanded in custody in Northern Ireland in connection with an offence, or

(b) a person serving a sentence of imprisonment in Northern Ireland;

should be transferred to another part of the United Kingdom in the interests of maintaining security or good order in any prison in Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State may make an order for his transfer to that other part, there to be remanded in custody pending his trial or, as the case may be, to serve the whole or any part of the remainder of his sentence, and for his removal to an appropriate institution there.”

(3) In paragraph 5(1) (conditions of transfer) after “this Part” insert “(other than a transfer under paragraph 1(2A))”.

(4) After paragraph 5 insert—

“Conditions of transfer under paragraph 1(2A)

“5A.—(1) A transfer under paragraph 1(2A) shall have effect subject to—

(a) such a condition as is mentioned in paragraph 6(1)(a); and

(b) such other conditions (if any) as the Secretary of State may think fit to impose.

(2) Such a condition as is mentioned in paragraph 6(1)(a) shall not be varied or removed.

(3) A condition imposed under sub-paragraph (1)(b) may be varied or removed at any time.”

(5) In paragraph 6—

(a) in sub-paragraph (2)(a) after “1(1)(a) or (2)(a)” insert “or (2A)(a)”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (2)(b) after “1(1)(b) or (2)(b)” insert “or (2A)(b)”.

(6) In paragraph 12—

(a) in sub-paragraph (1) after “1(1)(a)” insert “or (2A)(a)”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (2) after “1(1)(b)” insert “or (2A)(b)”.

(7) In paragraph 13—

(a) in sub-paragraph (1) after “1(1)(a)” insert “or (2A)(a)”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (2) after “1(1)(b)” insert “or (2A)(b)”.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING GOVERNING THE COMPULSORY TRANSFER OF PRISONERS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND TO OTHER UK JURISDICTIONS

1. This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Scottish Ministers. It provides details of the arrangements under which prisoners may be compulsorily transferred from a prison in Northern Ireland to a prison in Great Britain under the provisions set out in Schedule 1 to the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997, as amended by the Justice (Northern Ireland) [Act] [2004] (“the power to transfer”). Accordingly, the Memorandum of Understanding is intended to record how the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Scottish Ministers, together with their officials and relevant Executive agencies (in particular, the Northern Ireland Prison Service, Her Majesty’s Prison Service, and the Scottish Prison Service) agree that the power to transfer will be used. In this Memorandum, any reference to “the receiving Minister” is a reference to the Secretary of State for the Home Department as regards a prisoner transferred to England and Wales, and to the Scottish Ministers as regards a prisoner transferred to Scotland.

2. The exercise of the power to transfer, resulting in the compulsory transfer from Northern Ireland to England and Wales and to Scotland, is intended to safeguard the security or good order of prisons within Northern Ireland. The power to transfer is to be used sparingly and only after all other appropriate options available to the Northern Ireland Prison Service have been considered.

3. The Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Scottish Ministers agree to hold and detain a small number of prisoners under the power to transfer. The number held at any one time will be subject to agreement between the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Scottish Ministers. In deciding whether or not to accept additional prisoners, account will be taken of the stability of prisons in the receiving jurisdiction and the safety of all those who live and work in them. This will include an assessment of any transfers already made under the power to transfer.

4. The compulsory transfer of a prisoner will require the consent of the receiving Minister. A prisoner may not be transferred from Northern Ireland if the receiving Minister refuses to grant consent. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, may submit an application for transfer directly to the receiving Minister. Subject to immediate operational requirements, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will give adequate notice of the wish to transfer a prisoner. The receiving Minister will notify the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland as soon as a decision has been made.

5. Each application will be accompanied by the usual personal and sentencing details, a detailed history of the prisoner’s non-compliance with the regime in Northern Ireland and details of the actions and interventions taken by the Northern Ireland authorities to modify the prisoner’s disruptive behaviour. The receiving Minister may request additional information if required.

6. Transfers will take place on a restricted basis. A transfer will last only for as long as is necessary in the interests of security or good order in prisons in Northern Ireland. The need for the transfer will be reviewed regularly and as soon as it is assessed that it is no
longer necessary the prisoner will be returned to Northern Ireland. Ministers will be involved in reviewing the case of each transferred prisoner at least every three months.

7. Under the terms of a restricted transfer, the prisoner will remain for the duration of his transfer subject to the laws governing his continued detention in Northern Ireland. For all other purposes including allocation, categorisation and discipline, the prisoner will be subject to the laws, rules and regulations governing prisons in the receiving jurisdiction. In the normal course of events, a compulsory transferred prisoner will always be returned to Northern Ireland, at least immediately prior to his release date.

8. The transferred prisoner will be entitled to the same number and length of visits as he would be entitled to had he remained in Northern Ireland. A sentenced prisoner will, subject to any reduction made following a finding of guilt for a prison disciplinary offence, be allowed at least one visit per week of up to one hour’s duration. A remand prisoner will, subject to any reduction made following prison disciplinary proceedings, be allowed at least two visits per week each of a least one hour’s duration.

9. The receiving Minister may require the return of a prisoner to Northern Ireland at any time. If so required, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will issue an order for return. Arrangements for the transfer shall be made as soon as practicable.
Justice 1 Committee

Inquiry into rehabilitation in prisons

Note by the Clerk

Fact-finding visits

1. At its meeting on 25 February, the Committee discussed its approach to its inquiry into rehabilitation in prisons and agreed to go on the following fact-finding visits:

- Edinburgh Throughcare Centre;
- Possil Drugs Project; and
- 218 The Alternative (Time Out Centre).

2. The Committee also agreed that it would be useful to visit prisons to meet staff involved in delivering rehabilitation programmes.

3. It is suggested that it would be of value to the Committee to visit the following institutions:

- HMP Cornton Vale (to examine rehabilitation opportunities for women prisoners);
- HMP Barlinnie (to examine rehabilitation opportunities in a prison which is currently overcrowded and holds a variety of types of prisoners including remand and short term prisoners);
- HMP Glenochil (to examine rehabilitation opportunities in a prison with a wide a range of categories of prisoners, including a number of long term prisoners).

4. The Committee is invited to consider whether to visit these prisons.

Scottish Executive consultation on reducing reoffending

5. On 2 March, the Executive launched a consultation on reducing reoffending in Scotland. The key questions asked in relation to the consultation are attached for information.

6. Members will observe that there is some overlap between the Committee’s inquiry and the Executive’s consultation. The Convener has written to the Minister for Justice seeking to ensure that the Committee’s conclusions are taken into account in the Executive’s development of this policy area and that no policy decisions will be made by the Executive before it has had the opportunity to consider the outcomes of the Committee’s inquiry.
Executive consultation on reducing reoffending

Key questions

Issue 1: Reducing reoffending – Roles and responsibilities

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current system providing offender services?
- How could those services be improved?
- How could the organisation and structure of these services be improved?
- How can the organisations involved better focus on shared objectives? What should these objectives be?
- Is it possible to improve accountability for reducing reoffending rates? If so, how do we go about this?

Issue 2: The purpose of prison

- What can be done to improve the rehabilitation of short term prisoners?
- Individuals can end up in prison because of persistence rather than seriousness. How can the issue of persistence be effectively addressed?
- How can an institution which isolates individuals from communities also effectively reintegrate individuals back into society?
- What are the most effective and appropriate ways of managing sentences for long and short-term prisoners to reduce reoffending?

Issue 3: Addressing reoffending

- What kind of interventions are most successful in tackling reoffending behaviour?
- How can we ensure that community and prison based programmes are complementary to each other and ensure maintenance of the progress an individual has made?
- What needs to be done to ensure that measures to reduce reoffending are improved?

Issue 4: Reducing reoffending – An integrated approach

- What are the barriers in the current arrangements to achieving a seamless management of sentenced offenders?
- What can be done to improve service delivery across all the agencies involved so that we challenge offenders to stop offending?
- How can information best be shared between agencies to reduce reoffending?
• What are the barriers to communication and how can these be overcome?
• What are the key agencies that community based criminal justice services and the Prison Service need to work closely with? What organisational structures would provide an effective solution? Would the establishment of a single agency to deliver custodial and non-custodial sentences provide the most effective solution?
• How might the strengthening of the adult justice system improve the way work is undertaken with the children’s hearing system?

Timescale for consultation

Closing date Tuesday 25 May.
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) (SCOTLAND) BILL

I am writing to let you know formally that we shall be tabling a number of technical Executive amendments during the course of Stage 2. Officials have already been in touch with the Committee clerks about these and how they might be grouped. I now attach a list of the areas of the Bill that the amendments will cover.

The amendments flagged here do not reflect changes in policy (except for the already advertised amendment to S67 to enable the Crown to lodge late evidence): they are about tightening up provisions so that they will work better in practice. We intend to table the amendments in batches at least 5 working days before each Stage 2 Committee session. I shall explain the purpose and effect of all the amendments as they are reached.

I shall, of course, let you know in advance if we plan to table any other amendments, and in particular any that do reflect changes in policy.

HUGH HENRY
EXECUTIVE AMENDMENTS

PART 1

Section 1
Section 72B(8)(a) (Section 1 of Bill)– change “with respect of” to “with respect to”.

Section 66(4) (Section 1 of Bill)– reference to list of witnesses “to be adduced by prosecution” to be amended.

Section 72(4) (Sections 1 &13 of the Bill)– clarification of interaction with 72D (provisions that accused must state how he pleads at the preliminary hearing and that preliminary hearing may proceed in absence of accused)

Section 72(6)(c) (Section 1 of Bill) - court to ascertain which witnesses are required by prosecution and defence. No duty to cite witnesses on list who are no longer required by prosecution.

Section 72(9) (Section 1 of Bill) - clarification that court can hold over matters from preliminary hearing to be dealt with at a further diet or at trial diet. Clarification that further diet appointed under section 72(9) may proceed in absence of accused.

Section 72A(3) (Section 1 of Bill) – clarification of the effect of desertion simpliciter at the preliminary hearing.

Section 72B(9) (Section 1 of Bill) – to bring position in respect of witnesses where preliminary hearing is dispensed with into line with general position in relation to the hearing.

Section 72D(3) (Section 1 of Bill) to apply where preliminary matter held over to the trial

Section 2
Section 72E Solicitor to notify court not Crown Agent that he is working for the accused.

Section 4
Section 74 Update to reflect amendments to S83A

Section 5
Section 79 (Section 5 of Bill)– issues of admissibility – ensure any issue of admissibility can be dealt with at the preliminary hearing and ensure can be dealt with by trial judge prior to jury being empanelled.

Section 72F(Section 5 of Bill) - Solicitor notifies Court and prosecution that he is/is no longer working for the accused
Section 6
Section 79(7)(a) (Section 6 of the Bill) change “with respect of” to “with respect to”

Section 7
Clarification of *simpliciter*

Section 8
Section 83A (Section 8 of the Bill) – presumption of a fixed trial diet rather than a floating trial diet

Section 10
Section 66(4)(b) (Section 10 of Bill) – amendment allowing the notice to be served by affixing to the door of the accused’s proper domicile of citation

PART 2

Section 11
Section 70(5) (Section 11 of the Bill) – amendment to bring provisions in relation to trials in absence for bodies corporate into line with the provisions applicable to individuals.

Section 12
Section 90B (section 12 of Bill) – amendment to deal with complexity issue raised by SLC and to ensure that section 245A(13) and (14) is attracted.

After Section 12
Allow service of documents on the accused through their solicitor.

Section 13
Section 27(4A) (Section 13 and schedule to Bill) – references to challenge under section 71(2) or 72(6)(b)(i) in respect of preliminary objection under section 255.

Section 87A Ensure preliminary issues can be held over to be dealt with at the trial

After Section 13
Section 75A (Sections 1, 5 & 13 of the Bill) Acceleration of all diets to be possible not just preliminary hearings and trials

Section 71 & 79A – objections to the admissibility of evidence

Section 258 – allow judge to decide whether evidence is uncontroversial

PART 3

Section 14
Section 24A (section 14 of Bill) – amendment to deal with issue of complexity raised by SLC and to correct a drafting error.

Section 24A (section 14 of Bill) – ensure that bail applications under section 24A do not have to be considered within 24 hours.
Section 24A(5) (section 14 of Bill) – Allow the court to reject a bail application without obtaining a report

Section 24A (section 14 of Bill) – Ensure that the Crown have the right to appeal a decision to release an accused on bail with remote monitoring conditions.

**Section 15**

Section 15 of Bill - Amendment to provide for appeal against the grant or refusal of bail on breach of 80, 110 & 140 day time limit

Section 31 (section 15(4) of the Bill) – amendment to ensure that the prosecutor’s right to bail review under section 31 applies in the case of persons granted bail under section 200 or 201.

Section 30 (section 15 of Bill) – Crown to have a right to be heard at a bail review at any stage in the proceedings and to have right of appeal against the grant of bail at any stage

**PART 4**

**Section 19**

Section 260 (After Section 19 of Bill) - Statements previously intimated to defence not excluded from being referred to by not being on Crown’s list of productions

**SCHEDULE**

Section 81A (Schedule to Bill)– amendment to remedy position that case may not be transferred from High Court to Sheriff Court

Paragraph 16 of schedule to the Bill – reference to section 78(4)(b)(ii) should be to 78(4)(a)(ii)

Section 87(1)(b)  (Schedule of the Bill) – non-availability of judge – Substitution of reference to “the same day” for “that sitting”.

Section 83(1) (Schedule of the Bill) removal of references to court appointed under section 66(1).

Section 83(1) (Schedule of the Bill) removal of references to court appointed under section 66(1).

Section 81(1A) (paragraph 18 of schedule to Bill) - restriction so that the same indictment may only be used to cite to the sheriff court.

Section 78(4)(a)(ii) (paragraph 16 of schedule to Bill) – substitution of preliminary hearing for preliminary diet

Section 76(3) (Schedule to the Bill) – addition of reference to postponement of preliminary hearing where accused pleads not guilty at section 76 diet.
Section 75 (Schedule to the Bill)– should include a reference to section 72C(3).

Section 68(4) (Schedule to the Bill)– Removal of citing to trial diet as will be cited to preliminary hearing

Section 67(5) (Schedule to the Bill)– allow the Crown to lodge evidence after 7 day deadline in special circumstances.

Section 66(6A)(3) (Schedule of Bill) – change reference to “a” to “the” preliminary hearing

Section 54(1) (Schedule to Bill)– insanity in bar of trial – addition of reference to court discharging the preliminary hearing before ordering examination of facts

Section 56(1) (Schedule to Bill) – provision that where examination of the facts is ordered at the preliminary hearing, it may be held immediately after the making of the order

Section 56(2) (Schedule to Bill) – repeal of provision due to amendment of section 66(1)
THE VULNERABLE WITNESSES BILL AND THE VICTIMS AND WITNESSES UNIT

I thought you would find it helpful to have an update on organisational developments in the Justice Department of the Scottish Executive that have implications for the effective implementation of the Vulnerable Witnesses Bill. I recognise that the Bill has yet to complete its passage, but I wanted to give you a firm reassurance that we are putting the machinery in place that will enable us to give practical effect to this important piece of legislation.

The Justice Department has now established a Victims and Witnesses Unit bringing together the Executive’s work on support for victims and witnesses. More specifically it will oversee the continued implementation and ongoing review of the Scottish Strategy for Victims. It will take on the sponsorship of Victim Support Scotland (VSS), including the Witness Service, provided by VSS, and it will manage the implementation of the remaining recommendations of the Lord Advocate’s Working Group on Child Witness Support. As part of this work the Unit will be consulting on the piloting of vulnerable witnesses officers, to take on the role envisaged in the Lord Advocate’s report for child witness officers, but extending this role to all vulnerable witnesses.

The Unit will therefore build on the valuable work done to date and give practical effect to the Executive’s commitment to place victims and witnesses at the heart of Scotland’s justice system. The Unit will provide a single point of contact for all those public and voluntary organisations that support the needs of victims and witnesses. It will strengthen and coordinate the working partnerships among these organisations and the Executive, and will continue the improvement of services to people made vulnerable through their experience of crime and court proceedings.
It is against this background that the Unit plans to take forward the implementation of the Vulnerable Witnesses Bill. Detailed implementation will only start once the Bill has been passed by the Parliament and received Royal Assent.

However, it is clear that implementation of the legislation will require a carefully planned and phased programme of work over a period of at least 18-24 months after the Bill has completed its passage. This will require close collaboration with all those who have a stake in ensuring its success. Subordinate legislation will be required, including the need for Rules of Court setting out procedures and forms. Guidance will be requested on a range of issues, such as the use of supporters and the provision of special measures. The Unit will consult widely in the process of drafting, publishing and circulating these materials.

A key priority for the Victims and Witnesses Unit will be supporting awareness raising and training. I noted that many of those giving evidence during Stage 1 of the Bill emphasised the need for proper training. I will be keen to ensure that all professionals and volunteers involved in supporting vulnerable witnesses are given opportunities to improve and enhance their skills in identifying the needs of witnesses, in giving proper consideration to witnesses, and in providing witnesses with the right help to enable them to give their best evidence. There is already a great deal of expertise, knowledge and good will across Scotland. The Unit will be looking to bring this together, to share best practice, and to make sure that every organisation involved is training their staff. We will aim to ensure that there are clear training guidelines and that the relevant organisations are engaged in developing them.

I appreciate that the issue of identifying vulnerability has been one of the main concerns of the Justice 2 Committee, and many of the interested organisations. As I said at Stage 2, we all want vulnerable witnesses to be identified at the earliest possible stage. I am determined to make sure that the whole justice service, and importantly the support organisations, are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to make this happen. This will involve the Unit, in partnership with others, raising awareness amongst a wide range of organisations, and targeting and building on local networks. It will also mean developing mechanisms and protocols among agencies such as the Police, the Crown Office, Social Work departments and voluntary organisations, to ensure that information about a witness’s vulnerability is passed on to the appropriate authority and is acted upon.

Another important matter raised on a number of occasions has been the need for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the legislation. I recognise the importance of ensuring that the performance of the Bill should be kept under review. The Victims and Witnesses Unit will be well placed to oversee the process.

To do this properly the Unit will be gathering a range of information, from data on the numbers of vulnerable witnesses, to research on the experiences of witnesses. This will help inform the phased implementation, enable the measuring over time of the impact of the policy, and establish if it is really improving the experiences of vulnerable witnesses. Again, this will be an ideal area for collaboration. A number of different organisations already collect data relevant to the support of child and vulnerable witnesses. It will be important to pull this information together, identify the gaps and seek a degree of consistency in what is collected. In addition to progressing work in this area, the Unit will also examine how we can improve on sharing and reporting information.
I hope this letter is helpful in introducing you to the work of the Victims and Witnesses Unit and explaining the role that the new Unit will play in implementing the Vulnerable Witnesses Bill. If you would like more information, Paul Smart, the head of the Unit, would be happy to brief you.

HUGH HENRY