

Cabinet Secretary for Justice

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Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convener
Justice Committee
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear Margaret,

JURY RESEARCH

As you may recall, I wrote to you and the Committee in November 2016 to inform you that the procurement process for jury research had commenced.

I am pleased to confirm that a team, headed up by Ipsos Mori working in collaboration with Professors James Chalmers and Fiona Leverick (University of Glasgow) and Professor Vanessa Munro (University of Warwick), has been appointed to carry out the study.

This research will consider jury size, decision making processes, majorities needed and the three verdict system, and will gather evidence to inform future reform of the criminal justice system in Scotland.

This important research is a direct result of Lord Bonomy's post-corroboration safeguards review in which he recommended that jury research should be carried out to ensure that any changes to our jury system are made only on a fully informed basis, including the impact having a three verdict system has on decision making. The research is expected to take two years to complete.

The Ipsos Mori team will work in collaboration with three respected academics and will use case simulations rather than real jurors and their findings will help inform any future decisions that may be taken in relation to potential reforms of our criminal justice system.

I hope you have found this update helpful.

With Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Matheson". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping tail.

MICHAEL MATHESON