

Judicial Review and Courts Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

After Clause 14

BARONESS CHAKRABARTI

Insert the following new Clause—

“Judicial inquiry into the treatment of women and girls in criminal proceedings

- (1) The Secretary of State must cause an inquiry to be held under the Inquiries Act 2005 on the adequacy of the criminal courts in discharging their various duties with regard to women and girls.
- (2) The inquiry must be chaired by a serving or retired senior judge.
- (3) The terms of reference of the inquiry must include—
 - (a) examination of the professional culture, funding, vetting and training of those working in the criminal court system;
 - (b) systems of management, governance, accountability and external scrutiny within the criminal court system; and
 - (c) conduct in proceedings on misogynistic crimes.
- (4) The inquiry must involve a panel of members, to include at least one member with experience in the area of violence against women.
- (5) The inquiry must be established within one month of the commencement of the first provision of this Act to be commenced.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment establishes a judicial inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005 into the adequacy of criminal courts in their treatment of, and service to, women and girls.

After Clause 42

LORD THOMAS OF GRESFORD

Insert the following new Clause—

“Right of address

- (1) Rule 27 of the Coroners (Inquests) Rules 2013 is repealed.

After Clause 42 - continued

- (2) Before a verdict is reached, a coroner may allow a person or a person's representative to address the coroner or jury as to the facts of who the deceased was and how, when and where the deceased came by his or her death unless it is in the interests of justice not to do so."

Member's explanatory statement

The current coroners rules prevent bereaved families or their representatives from addressing an inquest. This amendment repeals that provision and replaces it with a positive intention to permit such an address.

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10 February 2022
