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DC 08/07
IMM 05/07

Dear Chair

IMBS AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

I thought it might be helpful if I wrote to you about our transfer to the Ministry of Justice on the 9th May.

On the 29th March 2007 the Prime Minister announced important changes to the responsibilities of the Home Office and the creation of a Ministry of Justice.

The new Ministry of Justice will come into being on the 9th May, providing a stronger focus on the criminal justice system and on reducing reoffending. The new Ministry will take over the current staff and responsibilities of the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), including the prison and probation services and lead responsibility for the criminal law and sentencing. The Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) will remain a tripartite office, as now, but will operate from the new Ministry rather than from the Home Office.

As the IMB Secretariat is part of NOMS we will also be transferring from the Home Office to the new Ministry of Justice on the 9th May. Although many of the practical details of the transfer are still being decided I don't anticipate any significant implications for Boards or for the support provided by the Secretariat. This applies equally to IMBs in IRCs even though responsibility for immigration will remain with the Home Office.

For the time being then it is "business as usual" but if and when there is something to report I will of course write to you again.

Norman McLean
Head of the IMB Secretariat