

# Justice highlights from Spending Review 2025

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## Health and public services (page 3)

To support the justice system and keep the country safe, this SR provides £7 billion from 2024-25 to 2029-30 to build 14,000 new prison places, alongside up to £700 million per year by 2028-29, compared with 2025-26, to transform the probation system. The government is therefore providing the funding necessary to deliver transformative reforms to sentencing, based on the recommendations set out in the recent Sentencing Review.

Police spending power will increase by an average 2.3% per year in real terms over the SR period. This will support frontline policing levels across England and Wales and help restore public confidence in policing. This reflects the government’s Plan for Change commitment to put an additional 13,000 police officers, police community support officers and special constables into neighbourhood policing roles over this Parliament and help keep communities safe.

Investment must go hand in hand with reform. This SR therefore sets out plans to reform key public services, including improving productivity and reducing bureaucracy in the NHS, promoting earlier intervention in children’s social care, and delivering transformative reforms to sentencing in order to ensure stronger, more effective punishment.

**Table 1.1: Departmental Administration Budgets (page 13)**

						Cumulative real growth	
£ billion (current prices)	Plans 2025-26	Plans 2026-27	Plans 2027-28	Plans 2028-29	Plans 2029-30	2025-26 to 2028-29	2025-26 to 2029-30
Justice	554	554	554	527	507	-10%	-15%
Law Officers’ Departments	67	70	66	63	61	-11%	-15%

## An NHS fit for the future, opportunity for all and safer streets (page 21)

3.4 By focusing on these missions, the government will increase public confidence in the criminal justice system, give every child the opportunity to succeed and build a high-performing healthcare system which ensures people can live life to the fullest.

## Safer streets (page 26)

3.23 The government is committed to ensuring that people feel safe and secure in their neighbourhoods. In recent years, confidence in policing has declined. On average, across the SR (from 2023-24 to 2028-29), police spending power will increase by 2.3% a year in real terms.

This will support frontline policing levels across England and Wales and help restore public confidence in policing, reflecting the government’s Plan for Change commitment to put an additional

13,000 police officers, police community support officers and special constables into neighbourhood policing roles over this Parliament, boosting visible policing and helping to keep communities safe.

3.24 Alongside this investment, the government will deliver a programme of police reform, raising standards, harnessing technology, increasing efficiency, and improving accountability as part of the forthcoming Police Reform white paper.

**Justice**

3.25 In summer 2024, prisons were operating at over 99% capacity and emergency measures were required to avoid running out of prison places. The government is rebuilding confidence in the justice system by providing an average real terms increase in total funding of 3.1% per year from 2023-24 to 2028-29. This investment will expand prison, probation and court capacity to record levels and reform sentencing based on the Independent Sentencing Review, putting the justice system back on a sustainable footing.

3.26 The government will ensure there are enough prison places to punish offenders and protect the public. Only 500 additional prison places were created between 2010 and 2024.<sup>6</sup> The government is providing £7 billion between 2024-25 and 2029-30 to deliver the commitment to build 14,000 new prison places by 2031.

3.27 The government will make greater use of punishment outside of prison and encourage offenders to turn their backs on a life of crime. The probation service will receive up to £700 million additional funding per year by 2028-29, compared to 2025-26, to deliver transformative reforms to sentencing based on the recommendations of the Independent Sentencing Review.

3.28 The settlement provides up to £450 million additional investment per year for the courts system by 2028-29, compared to 2025-26, increasing Crown Court sitting days to record levels. This will help tackle court backlogs and improve court productivity. There will be increased capacity every year to process asylum appeals, to help reduce illegal and irregular migration and bear down on asylum costs

**Table 5.1: Total Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) (page 44)**

							Average Annual Real Growth	
£ billion (current prices)	Outturn 2023 - 24	Plans 2024-25	Plans 2025-26	Plans 2026-27	Plans 2027-28	Plans 2028-29	2025-26 to 2028-29	2023-2024 to 2028-2029
Justice	11.9	12.9	13.9	14.9	15.3	15.6	2.0%	3.1%
Law Officers' Departments	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	5.3%	6.2%

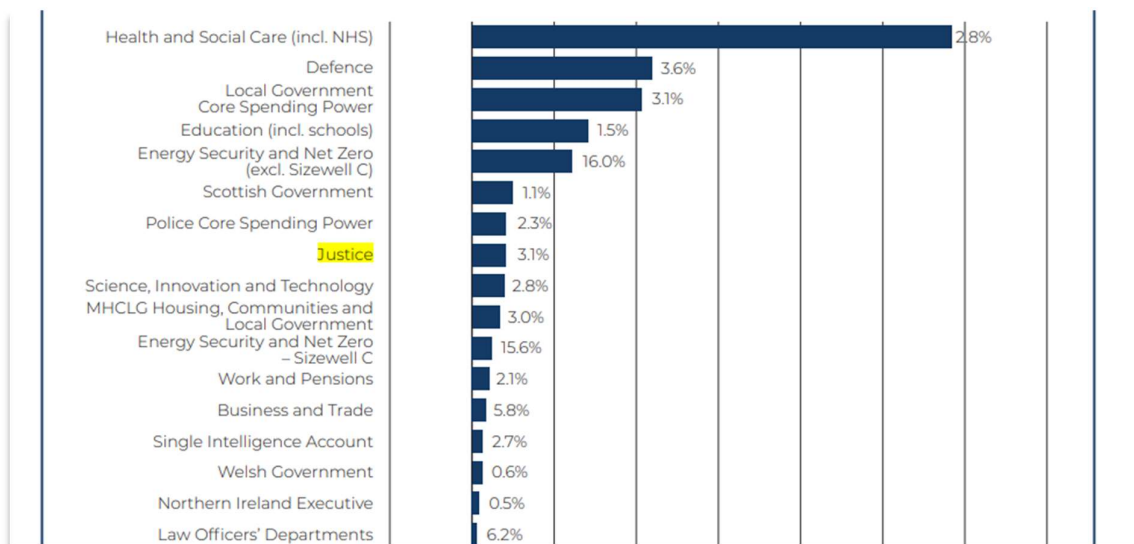
**Table 5.3: Resource Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) excluding depreciation (page 48)**

							Average Annual Real Growth	
£ billion (current prices)	Outturn 2023 - 24	Plans 2024-25	Plans 2025-26	Plans 2026-27	Plans 2027-28	Plans 2028-29	2025-26 to 2028-29	2023-2024 to 2028-2029
Justice	10.4	11.2	11.9	12.6	12.9	13.2	1.8%	2.4%
Law Officers' Departments	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4%	3.5%

**Table 5.4: Capital Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) (page 51)**

								Average Annual Real Growth	
£ billion (current prices)	Outturn 2023 - 24	Plans 2024-25	Plans 2025-26	Plans 2026-27	Plans 2027-28	Plans 2028-29	Plans 2029-30	2025-26 to 2028-29	2023-2024 to 2028-2029
Justice	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.0	-2.1%	3.0%
Law Officers' Departments	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	-14%	-1.7%

**Chart 5.5: Real terms increase in total DEL between 2023-24 and 2028-29 (£ million, 2024-25 prices) and average annual real growth rate (%) (page 55)**



## Ministry of Justice (page 65)

Table 5.9:

£ billion (current prices)	Outturn 2023-24	Plans <sup>1</sup> 2024-25	Plans <sup>2</sup> 2025-26	Plans 2026-27	Plans 2027-28	Plans 2028-29	Plans 2029-30 <sup>3</sup>	Average annual real growth <sup>4</sup>	
								Phase 2 Period <sup>5</sup>	SR 2025 Period <sup>6</sup>
Resource DEL	10.4	11.2	11.9	12.6	12.9	13.2	–	1.8%	2.4%
Capital DEL	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.0	-2.1%	3.0%
of which: Financial Transactions	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total DEL</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures for 2024-25 represent departments' final plans as of Supplementary Estimates 2024-25. Official outturn figures will be published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2025 later this year.

<sup>2</sup> Figures include Spring Statement 2025 plans, plus Machinery of Government changes.

<sup>3</sup> Resource DEL plans have been set for all departments for years up to 2028-29, and Capital DEL plans for years up to 2029-30.

<sup>4</sup> The RDEL average annual growth rates have been adjusted to account for employer NICs changes, Machinery of Government changes, increased pension contributions (SCAPE), and budget cover transfers in 2023-24.

<sup>5</sup> This refers to the period starting in 2025-26, and ending in 2028-29 for Resource DEL and Total DEL, and 2029-30 for Capital DEL.

<sup>6</sup> This refers to the period starting in 2023-24, and ending in 2028-29 for Resource DEL and Total DEL, and 2029-30 for Capital DEL.

5.38 The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) settlement provides total DEL funding of £15.6 billion in 2028-29. This is equivalent to an annual average real terms growth rate of 3.1% from 2023-24 to 2028-29.

5.39 In summer 2024, prisons were operating at over 99% capacity, and emergency measures were required to prevent capacity breaching. Through the Phase 2 settlement, MoJ will expand prison, probation and courts capacity to record levels alongside long-term reform to deliver a sustainable and effective justice system.

5.40 There must be enough prison places to punish offenders and protect the public. The government is providing £7 billion between 2024-25 and 2029-30 to deliver the commitment to build 14,000 new prison places by 2031.

5.41 Through the Phase 2 settlement, the probation service will receive up to £700 million additional funding per year by 2028-29 compared with 2025-26, to deliver the transformative reforms recommended through the Independent Sentencing Review.

5.42 The Phase 2 settlement provides up to £450 million additional investment per year for the courts system by 2028-29 compared with 2025-26, increasing Crown Court sitting days to record levels and helping to implement the recommendations from the Independent Review of Criminal Courts. This will help tackle court backlogs and improve court productivity. There will be increased capacity every year to process asylum appeals, to help reduce illegal and irregular migration and bear down on asylum costs.

5.43 MoJ has committed to delivering at least 5% savings and efficiencies over Phase 2 of the SR period, including savings identified through the ZBR. These include reductions to back-office headcount and using AI to reduce administrative 66 Spending Review 2025 burdens, helping focus

resources towards frontline services that reduce reoffending and keep the public safe. MoJ has also worked with the OVFM to identify £360 million of technical efficiencies by 2028-29.

#### Law Officers' Departments (LODs) (page 67)

£ billion (current prices)	Outturn 2023-24	Plans <sup>1</sup> 2024-25	Plans <sup>2</sup> 2025-26	Plans 2026-27	Plans 2027-28	Plans 2028-29	Plans 2029-30 <sup>3</sup>	Average annual real growth <sup>4</sup>	
								Phase 2 Period <sup>5</sup>	SR 2025 Period <sup>6</sup>
Resource DEL	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	–	1.4%	3.5%
Capital DEL	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	-14.0%	-1.7%
of which: Financial Transactions	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total DEL<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures for 2024-25 represent departments' final plans as of Supplementary Estimates 2024-25. Official outturn figures will be published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2025 later this year.

<sup>2</sup> Figures include Spring Statement 2025 plans, plus Machinery of Government changes.

<sup>3</sup> Resource DEL plans have been set for all departments for years up to 2028-29, and Capital DEL plans for years up to 2029-30.

<sup>4</sup> The RDEL average annual growth rates have been adjusted to account for employer NICs changes, Machinery of Government changes, increased pension contributions (SCAPE), and budget cover transfers in 2023-24.

<sup>5</sup> This refers to the period starting in 2025-26, and ending in 2028-29 for Resource DEL and Total DEL, and 2029-30 for Capital DEL.

<sup>6</sup> This refers to the period starting in 2023-24, and ending in 2028-29 for Resource DEL and Total DEL, and 2029-30 for Capital DEL.

<sup>7</sup> Total DEL growth rates are driven by time-limited non-fiscal IFRS leases in 2028-29.

5.44 The Law Officers' Departments (LODs) settlement provides total DEL funding of £1.3 billion in 2028-29. This is equivalent to an annual average real terms growth rate of 6.2% over SR25. Day-to-day spending will increase by £160 million in real terms from 2023-24 to 2028-29.

5.45 The settlement demonstrates the government's commitment to protecting the public through independent and fair prosecutions. It will provide record investment into the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to bring criminals to justice, with total funding of £1 billion in 2028-29.

The CPS will recruit more Crown Advocates and frontline staff to prosecute cases, build workforce capacity and capability, and improve the quality and efficiency of prosecutions. The settlement will help tackle court backlogs and contribute to efforts to improve timeliness in the criminal justice system. The CPS will enhance the victim and witness experience of the prosecution process, with £5 million of further funding each year.

5.46 The Serious Fraud Office will receive £98 million per year by 2028-29 to enable it to defend and support economic growth, using proactive intelligence to bring more criminals to justice. The Government Legal Department will provide legal services and deliver the government's legislative agenda, and the work of the Attorney General to strengthen the rule of law will continue.

5.47 The LODs have committed to delivering at least 5% savings and efficiencies over Phase 2 of the SR period, aimed at lowering costs and improving performance. This includes savings identified in the ZBR from reducing the costs of human translation and transcription services by utilising digital tools

instead. The LODs have also worked with the OVfM to identify 3% of technical efficiencies by 2028-29.

Digital technology will support productivity and efficiency improvements, including the development of AI tools that will enable the CPS to respond to the growing volume and complexity of criminal cases.