

## **Parliamentary Questions Tabled by Bridget Phillipson MP on Sunderland Courts, 2010-2015**

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if the Minister for Courts and Legal Aid will visit Sunderland Court with the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South and Sunderland Central.

12 Oct 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 10255

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Answer of 24 February 2015 to Question 225118, what progress the court reform programme has made in the rebuilding of Sunderland Court.

02 Jun 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 299

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Topical Questions](#)

**Asked by:** Bridget Phillipson (Houghton and Sunderland South) (Lab)

In 2010, the Government put on hold plans to rebuild Sunderland's court complex, and answers to recent parliamentary questions reveal what we have always feared—that no decision was ever likely to be taken in this Parliament. What would the Minister say to people across Sunderland to explain his Government's complete failure to make any progress in the last five years?

**Answered by:** Mr Vara | **Department:** Justice

I would say to the people of Sunderland: look at the record of the Labour party in government—it did absolutely nothing. We have put in place a five-year reform programme that will bring our courts into the 21st century. Her Government did not do that, but we have, and in five years, we will have the best courts in the world.

17 Mar 2015 | Topical questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 594 c641

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2015 to Question 225118, what the stages of the court reform programme are; and when his Department plans to finalise the resource allocation for each such stage.

09 Mar 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 226123

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to his Answer of 13 January 2015 to Question 217622, what the resource requirements are for each planned stage of the court reform

programme; what the planned (a) start and (b) finish time is for each stage of the programme; and what the planned staff allocation is for each planned stage of the programme.

03 Mar 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 225118

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 25 November 2014 to Question 215339, how many staff of (a) his Department and (b) external contractors are working on the detailed planning of the court reform programme.

13 Jan 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 217622

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 25 November 2014 to Question 215302, whether he plans to commission external (a) consultants and (b) accountants to plan the five year investment.

18 Dec 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 218841

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 18 November 2014 to Question 214230, which courts he believes to be over 100 years old.

28 Nov 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 215767

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Andrew Selous | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many officials in his Department are assigned to the court reform programme.

25 Nov 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 215339

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2014 to Question 209524, on courts: buildings, what his Department plans to spend on the package of investment in each of the last five years from 2015-16.

25 Nov 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 215302

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 5 September 2014 to Question 207412, if he will place in the Library the plans, blueprints and all associated documents relating to the purchase of land and the construction of a new court for Sunderland.

25 Nov 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 215301

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 15 October 2014 to Question 209520, how many representations he has received on the court reform programme.

25 Nov 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 215300

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Repairs and Maintenance](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 14 October 2014 to Question 209523, when he plans to write to the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South with the information promised in that answer.

18 Nov 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 214230

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts Reform](#)

**Asked by:** Bridget Phillipson

I have lost count of the number of times I have raised with the Minister and his predecessors the wholly inadequate state of Sunderland's court buildings and the need for a decision. Plans to rebuild the court complex have been on hold since 2010. Will the Minister now acknowledge to staff, to magistrates and to victims that they should not expect a decision this side of the election?

**Answered by:** Mr Vara | **Department:** Justice

The hon. Lady is aware that I had a meeting with her, along with her colleague, the hon. Member for Sunderland Central (Julie Elliott), and she has corresponded with me. She talks about having said the same thing over and over again. I have to say to her, over and over again, that there is a courts reform programme and the proposals for the Farringdon road site that she mentions are part of the mix. As we speak, no firm decision has been taken.

11 Nov 2014 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 587 c1282

- [Courts Reform](#)

**Asked by:** Bridget Phillipson (Houghton and Sunderland South) (Lab)

What recent progress he has made on his courts reform programme.

**Answered by:** The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Shailesh Vara) | **Department:** Justice

Since the Secretary of State's written ministerial statement on 28 March this year, the programme team has been developing the detailed plans required to deliver the programme over the next five years, as well as working to identify the areas where we can make early progress.

11 Nov 2014 | Oral questions - Lead | Answered | House of Commons | 905985 | 587 cc1282-3

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the capital building budget is for the court reform programme.

20 Oct 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 209524

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether the court reform programme has considered the case for improvement work at Sunderland Court.

20 Oct 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 209521

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what criteria his Department's court reform programme uses to determine the case for court rebuilding works; and if he will make a statement.

15 Oct 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 209522

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Buildings](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what representations (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) officers in his Department received on the court reform programme.

15 Oct 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 209520

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Repairs and Maintenance](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much funding his Department has provided for the upkeep of and refurbishment of courts that are over 100 years old in the latest period for which figures are available.

14 Oct 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 209523

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts Rebuilding Programme](#)

**Asked by:** Bridget Phillipson

Last November, I and my hon. Friend the Member for Sunderland Central (Julie Elliott) met the Minister to press the case for the much-promised rebuilding of Sunderland's court complex, but unfortunately, since then, nothing has happened. Will he now join us, visit Sunderland and see the state of the existing buildings and the impact these new courts could have in the regeneration of the city centre?

**Answered by:** Mr Vara | **Department:** Justice

The hon. Lady is right to refer to our meeting about this matter and will be aware that in March we announced a court reform programme to ensure that the courts and tribunals of this country met the expectations of the public in the 21st century. Any decisions about the site in Farringdon row in Sunderland will be taken in the context of that reform programme. Currently, no decisions have been taken about the site.

09 Sep 2014 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 585 c752

- [Courts Rebuilding Programme](#)

**Asked by:** Bridget Phillipson (Houghton and Sunderland South) (Lab)

What progress his Department has made on its courts rebuilding programme.

**Answered by:** The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Shailesh Vara) | **Department:** Justice

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service continues to keep the use of its estate under review to ensure that it meets operational requirements.

09 Sep 2014 | Oral questions - Lead | Answered | House of Commons | 905244 | 585 cc752-3

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Answer of 10 October 2013, Official Report, column 377W, on courts: Sunderland, what progress has been made on plans to rebuild Sunderland court.

05 Sep 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 207412

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Mr Shailesh Vara | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Topical Questions](#)

**Asked by:** Bridget Phillipson (Houghton and Sunderland South) (Lab)

Sunderland's courts are in urgent need of rebuilding, as the Department has previously recognised, spending nearly £2 million in preparation. I am grateful for the meeting that took place with the Minister, but we have been in limbo on this since 2010. When will a decision be taken?

**Answered by:** Mr Vara | **Department:** Justice

As the hon. Lady acknowledges, we have had a meeting, and I can assure her that of the 500 buildings the court estate encompasses, the ones to which she refers are very much at the forefront. She will appreciate, however, that we have a large estate and we keep matters under review, and we will keep her and her colleagues informed as soon as we are able to do so.

04 Feb 2014 | Topical questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 575 c134

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Answer of 21 July 2010, Official Report, column 322W, on courts: Sunderland, what the cost was of (a) commissioning architects and (b) buying land for the redevelopment of Sunderland City Court.

10 Oct 2013 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 167225 | 568 c377W

**Asked by:** Bridget Phillipson | **Answered by:** Mr Vara | **Department:** Justice

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 9 February 2011, Official Report, column 241W, on courts: Sunderland, what progress has been made on the proposed rebuilding of court premises in Sunderland; and if he will make a statement.

[148557]

18 Mar 2013 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 148557 | 560 c555W

**Asked by:** Bridget Phillipson | **Answered by:** Mrs Grant | **Department:** Justice

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answers of 21 July 2010, Official Report, column 322W and 9 February 2011, Official Report, column 241W, on courts: Sunderland, what recent progress has been made on the proposed rebuilding of court premises in Sunderland; and if he will make a statement.

06 Sep 2011 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 69840 | 532 c380W

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Djanogly, Jonathan | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2010, Official Report, column 322W, on courts: Sunderland, what progress has been made on the proposed rebuilding of court premises in Sunderland; and if he will make a statement.

09 Feb 2011 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 38864 | 523 c241-2W

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Djanogly, Jonathan | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

- [Courts: Sunderland](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the status is of the proposed rebuilding of court premises in Sunderland; and if he will make a statement.

21 Jul 2010 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 9264 | 514 c322W

**Asked by:** Phillipson, Bridget | **Answered by:** Djanogly, Jonathan | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

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