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Lord Kamall
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

9 May 2024

Dear Lord Kamall,

Thank you for your contributions to the Oral Question debate on 25 April 2024. The debate was timely, and I welcomed the productive cross-party discussion on this important issue. Disproportionality has long been recognised as an issue across the whole criminal justice system, and I am reassured by the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) commitment to an ongoing examination of its work to address these challenges and to ensure all suspects and defendants are treated fairly.

The debate highlighted several challenges within the system and some of the acute issues we face. However, I am writing to specifically address the point you raised about the potential risk of AI introducing further bias into the criminal justice system. The CPS is committed to ensuring technology is always used ethically, recognising the particular complexities of culpability and vulnerability, including the potential for bias.

The CPS is not using AI, or any form of machine learning, to make or aid charging decision-making and has no plans to do so. However, they can see the potential benefits of employing machine learning, generative AI, and AI more broadly, to complete manual tasks and assist with daily duties. Improving digital capability in this way will enable efficiencies and make sure that the CPS can commit more time to supporting victims, witnesses and defendants.

The CPS plays an active role in relevant cross-government fora to ensure that issues such as data ethics, sustainability, value for money, and public confidence are at the heart of their use of these technologies.

I hope the above response proves useful. I am copying this letter to all Peers who contributed to the debate and will place a copy in the House Library.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roborough'.

LORD ROBOROUGH