



**The Lady Chief Justice
of England & Wales**

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE BARONESS CARR OF WALTON-ON-THE-HILL

Ms Harriet Harman
The Bar Council
289-293 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7HZ

25 June 2024

Dear Harriet,

Thank you for your recent email and your kind good wishes. It is hard to believe that I have almost completed a full legal year in office – the time has flown. I have enjoyed every minute of it so far, despite some challenges along the way.

I am pleased to see the setting up of an independent review of bullying and harassment at the Bar (the Review). It is an important piece of work in an important area.

As you know, I (and the senior judiciary) are fully committed to addressing (separately) issues surrounding judicial conduct. Amongst other things, we have a clear Statement of Expected Behaviour that sets out the standards of behaviour expected from all judges, in and outside the courtroom, when interacting with litigants, court staff, the public and each other. The Statement builds on the Guide to Judicial Conduct.

We have a lead judge on diversity, inclusion and leadership, Whipple LJ, who has recently taken over from Simler LJ (now Lady Simler). She has been the point of contact with the Bar Council on the Review to date, and I suggest that she should be your judicial point of contact from here on. I have asked Philippa to contact you.

You will understand that, in advance of any meeting with the judiciary, I must emphasise that the judiciary is not a stakeholder in the Review. It is self-evidently not for the Bar Council/ Review to investigate, let alone make findings, recommendations or give guidance on judicial behaviour. I would anticipate that, in response to a call for evidence, we would be able to set out in more detail the work that we do on judicial conduct, as outlined above.

I hope that this is helpful and wish you the best of luck with the Review.

Kind regards,

THE RT HON. THE BARONESS CARR OF WALTON-ON-THE-HILL

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