



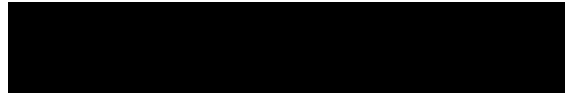
Judicial Conduct
Investigations Office

The Rt Hon Baroness Harriet Harmon KC
Chair of the Independent Review of Bullying
and Harassment at the Bar

Bhreview@barcouncil.org.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Simon Parsons
Head of Operations
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London WC2A 2LL



31 October 2024

Dear Baroness Harmon,

JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS PROCESS

I write in reply to your letter of 25 September, addressed to Amy Shaw, in which you request a meeting to discuss how the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (JCIO) investigates complaints about the judiciary. Ms Shaw has recently left the JCIO for a new role, hence my replying to your letter. Thank you for outlining the purpose of the review which you have been appointed to chair.

The JCIO is an independent statutory body which supports the Lord Chancellor and the Lady Chief Justice in their joint responsibility for judicial discipline. The JCIO considers complaints about misconduct on the part of judicial office-holders in accordance with statutory regulations and supporting rules. These can be found on our [website](#) along with a range of other information including examples of the [types of complaints we deal with](#), [disciplinary statements](#), and [annual reports](#). Our most recent annual report contains a description of how the judicial disciplinary system operates, from receipt of a complaint to final decision.

You might also be interested to know that, between 2020-2022, the judicial disciplinary system underwent a comprehensive senior judge-led review. I have enclosed copies of the resulting public consultation document and the formal response document, published on behalf of the then Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice. With the exception of the introduction of a new sanction for judicial misconduct (see pages 39-40 of the response document), which will require a suitable legislative vehicle, the decisions set out in the response document have since been implemented.

Regarding your request for a meeting, judicial disciplinary matters are confidential by virtue of s139 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. Additionally, the JCIO must be, and must be seen to be, independent and neutral in every aspect of its operation. These considerations necessarily place strict limits on the information we can share with third parties. While I acknowledge that the purpose of your review is not to examine individual cases, any information which the JCIO could provide to you in a meeting is limited to what is already publicly available. As such, I do not believe that a meeting is necessary.

If, having considered the information on our website and in the attached documents, you have any factual questions about the operation of the judicial disciplinary process, I will be happy to assist you with written responses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Parsons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Simon Parsons
Head of Operations
Judicial Conduct Investigations Office