



STATEMENT

OJC 16/10

29 June 2010

STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE FOR JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS

MR PAUL FORREST

A spokesperson for the Office for Judicial Complaints said:

"Following allegations regarding a number of financial and mismanagement issues the Lord Chief Justice and Lord Chancellor decided in March 2009 that Mr Paul Forrest, HM Coroner for the District of Avon and a fee-paid Immigration Judge, should be suspended pending the outcome of a conduct investigation. That investigation concluded that Mr Forrest should be removed from office because of, amongst other things, his refusal and failure to engage with Bristol City Council on what should have been matters of mutual interest, the total breakdown and failure to repair relationships with a number of people and the intemperance shown in his response to the failure of a bid for a new mortuary.

"Mr Forrest made representations against his removal and as a result the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice established an independent Review Body to reconsider his case before a final decision was made. After hearing additional evidence including oral evidence from Mr Forrest and his legal representatives, the Review Body concluded that Mr Forrest should be removed from his position as Coroner. The Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice have considered their report and agreed."

ENDS

Notes for Editors

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