



OJC 16/11

19 May 2011

## **JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS SYSTEM TO BE REVIEWED**

The Office for Judicial Complaints (OJC) is undertaking a review of the current rules and regulations governing the procedures for complaints against judicial office holders.

The Review is being carried out by the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice who have joint responsibility for the complaints system.

The recent review of arms length bodies conducted by the Ministry of Justice highlighted the fact that the current rules and regulations are complicated and would benefit from re-drafting. There is also inconsistency in the processes as between different judicial officers; the creation of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service means that the time is right to address this issue.

The aim of the review will be to deliver a judicial complaints process that:

- Properly reflects the constitutional settlement.
- Safeguards judicial independence.
- Establishes clear lines of accountability and the proper balance between executive, judicial and independent responsibilities.
- Delivers a high quality service which is fair, transparent, flexible, proportionate, swift, and gives value for money.
- Ensures public confidence.

An initial consultation inviting comment on the current procedures, and to seek proposals for improvements is currently being carried out with views sought preferably by 31 May 2011.

Details of the first phase consultation are available at:

[http://judicialcomplaints.judiciary.gov.uk/docs/Review\\_of\\_Rules\\_and\\_Regulations\\_Governing\\_Judicial\\_Complaints.pdf](http://judicialcomplaints.judiciary.gov.uk/docs/Review_of_Rules_and_Regulations_Governing_Judicial_Complaints.pdf)

Responses will be analysed by the OJC and used to inform recommendations for improvement to the current rules and regulations. Further consultation will then take place with a view to implementing new rules and regulations in April 2012.

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## **Notes for Editors**

Media queries in relation to the OJC should be made in the first instance to the Judicial Communications Office – telephone 020 7073 4852 or via e-mail – [press.enquiries@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press.enquiries@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk).

For more information about the Office, including details on how to make a complaint against a judicial office holder, you can visit the OJC website at: <http://www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk/>