



News Release

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OFFICE FOR JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS PUBLISHES 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The Office for Judicial Complaints, which considers complaints about the conduct and behaviour of judicial office holders, has published its third annual report. The report covers complaints against magistrates, tribunal judges and members, coroners and the mainstream judiciary between April 2008 and March 2009. The information is broken down according to the judicial office held and the type of complaint made.

The new head of the OJC Sheridan Greenland said:

“This annual report is the third since the OJC was established in 2006 and the last under the tenure of my predecessor Dale Simon. It details the numbers and nature of complaints made about judicial office holders.

The Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice announced in April 2009 that in any case which resulted in removal of a judicial office holder, there would be a presumption that a public statement would be made. These statements can be viewed on the Office for Judicial Complaint’s website

www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk

For the first time this annual report includes the number of judicial office holders who resign during an investigation.

This increased openness should help the public to have confidence that all complaints about the conduct of judicial office holders are investigated thoroughly.”

Between April 2008 and March 2009 the OJC received 1,339 complaints a 7% reduction since last year. Of these complaints 799 related to complainants seeking to overturn judicial decisions. This is not an issue of judicial misconduct and cannot therefore be considered by the OJC.

Judicial Office Held	Number of complaints Received	Number of Judicial Office Holder Subject to Disciplinary Action
Mainstream	870	17
Coroners	18	2
Tribunal	18	12
Magistrate	62	58

In total 89 judicial office holders were subject to disciplinary or other action. This represents less than 0.22% of the 42,000 members of the judicial family. These cases are broken down according to judicial role and the type of disciplinary action imposed. The Annual Report is available via the link below.

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Notes for Editors

The full report can be found online at:

<http://www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm>.

Media queries in relation to the annual report and the OJC generally 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.

For more information about the Office for Judicial Complaints, 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/>