



News Release

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OFFICE FOR JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS PUBLISHES 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

A total of 1,571 complaints against judicial holders were received last year (1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010) compared to 1,339 complaints in 2008/09, according to the Office for Judicial Complaints' annual report published today (22 July).

Almost three out of five of these complaints (59%) were about judicial decisions and therefore could not be considered under the regulations. One in five (27%) were complaints about behaviour or comments said to be inappropriate. One in 20 (5%) alleged discrimination.

Twenty eight judicial office holders were removed from office last year compared with 25 who were removed from office in 2008/09). Of these, 25 were magistrates, two were judges and one was a non-legal tribunal member.

The reasons for removal were:

- Not fulfilling their judicial duties – 12 removals;
- As a result of civil proceedings or criminal convictions – five removals;
- Inappropriate behaviour or comments - six removals;
- Professional misconduct – three removals;
- Motoring offences – one removal;
- Conflict of interest – one removal.

Eleven judicial office holders received a reprimand and a further 11 received formal advice/warning. There were 18 resignations during conduct investigations.

Sheridan Greenland, Head of the Office for Judicial Complaints, said:

“In the last year, to improve openness, we have made public statements in each case where someone has been removed from the judiciary. The introduction of an online complaints form is improving accessibility to the system and we have increased the number of complaints resolved within 90 days.”

ENDS

Notes for Editors

The full report can be found online at:

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

The names of office holders removed from the judiciary in the last year are available on the OJC website at:

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

Media queries in relation to the Office for Judicial Complaints 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/>