



HOUSE OF LORDS

Select Committee on the Constitution

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Lord Chancellor
102 Petty France
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10 March 2023

Dear Lord Chancellor,

Follow up on oral evidence session with the Lord Chancellor on 1 March 2023

I write to thank you for making your annual appearance before the Constitution Committee on 1 March.

You kindly offered to provide further information on a number of points raised during the session, which I have detailed below. We note that the issue surrounding whether the Judicial Pensions (Fee-Paid Judges) Regulations 2017 will automatically be repealed by the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill appears to have been resolved.¹

The Committee would be very grateful to receive anything further you are able to provide on the following matters:

- you told us that the Legal Aid Means Test Review expanded the scope of legal aid “significantly” and offered to write to us with the exact figures. We would be grateful if you could supply us with this information (Q 14);
- you agreed to write with information on the money your department is spending to ensure the 45% of private law family cases that are not safeguarding or domestic abuse cases are diverted away from the courts into a mediated or alternative dispute resolution (Q 14);
- you agreed to write detailing the investment going into Guardianship Orders (Q 14);
- you agreed to write with the number of regulations the Ministry of Justice is concerned with in relation to the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill (Q 23).

Finally, I said I would send our final question - which we were unable to put to you during the evidence session - in writing.

- Do you agree with the assessment of the Lord Chief Justice and the President of the Supreme Court that to achieve greater judicial diversity it is necessary to diversify the pool of potential recruits in the wider legal profession?
 - If so, what action is being taken to address this?

¹ House of Commons Justice Committee, [Letter from Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, dated 3 March 2023, on the Retained EU Law \(Revocation and Reform\) Bill](#)

- How is your department identifying and measuring progress on diversity within the legal profession from students choosing to study law to uptake of traineeships and pupillages to the make up of individual chambers?

Your responses to the above would be welcomed by the Committee.

Thank you once again for making your annual appearance before the Committee - we found your contributions informative and your comments gave us much to consider.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Drake'.

Baroness Drake
Chair of the Constitution Committee