



Ministry
of Justice

Baroness Drake CBE
Chair of the Lords Constitution Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

The Right Honourable
Alex Chalk KC MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of
State for Justice

MoJ ref: 107246

13 July 2023

Dear Baroness Drake,

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE SSRB'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The Ministry of Justice submitted its written evidence to the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) for consideration of the 2023/24 judicial pay award in February and I gave evidence in person to the SSRB in May. The SSRB has now finalised its report, and a statement is due to be given in Parliament as part of a wider announcement on a range of public sector pay awards.

Pay award

The SSRB has recommended a pay award of 7%, to be applied to all members of the judiciary for 2023/24. This recommendation was made on the basis that there continue to be persistent recruitment shortfalls, in particular on the District and Circuit Benches, as well as the impact of inflation and wage comparison to the private sector.

I am accepting SSRB's recommendation and will implement a 7% pay award for all judicial office holders for whom I have responsibility. This award will be backdated from April 2023.

This award builds on the last year's ambitious judicial remuneration package including the Judicial Pension Scheme 2022, and sits alongside significant ongoing investment into the court reform and maintenance resulting in ongoing improvements to the working conditions of the judiciary, whilst delivering a world class public service.

Context

In this year's remit letter, my predecessor set out the role of the upcoming Major Review which will seek to address structural and non-remunerative issues. When recruitment concludes for a judicial lead and permanent chair of the SSRB, I expect to commission the Major Review at the earliest opportunity.

I share my predecessor's appreciation for the expert and independent judgement of the SSRB, to which I have given all due consideration this in reaching this decision. I hope that you will agree that this pay award demonstrates the value that I and the wider Government place on the judiciary.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON ALEX CHALK KC MP

LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE