



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
David Lammy MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

THE (RT HON. THE) LORD STRATHCLYDE CH

Chair of the Constitution Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

MoJ Ref: SUB134336

21 May 2026

Dear Lord Strathclyde,

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE SSRB ANNUAL REPORT 2026/27

The Ministry of Justice submitted its written evidence to the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) for consideration of the 2026/27 judicial pay award in October and the oral evidence session with the SSRB was held in November. 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 3.8%, to be applied to all members of the judiciary for 2026/27. This recommendation was made due to concerns over the ongoing recruitment and retention issues affecting parts of the judiciary.

As I set out to Parliament, I value the SSRB's expertise and independent advice in recommending a pay award which reflects the important role that the judiciary play across the justice system. When making my decision, I have carefully considered the SSRB's advice alongside the financial implications for my department.

I have decided to reject the SSRB's recommendation and instead implement a 3.5% judicial pay award. I have not taken this decision lightly. As I set out in my evidence, an award of 2% was affordable to my department. I have prioritised funding to increase that figure by 1.5% to 3.5%. This award will be applied equally to all judicial office holders for whom I have responsibility, and will be backdated to April 2026.

I share the SSRB's concern over the persistent recruitment and retention issues affecting parts of the judiciary. The Major Review of the Judicial Salary Structure commissioned by my predecessor, is the right place to address these issues, giving us an opportunity to examine options for targeted reform that presents better value than the flat rate pay uplift of the annual pay review. I published my written evidence on 26 February and look forward to receiving the SSRB's report later this year.

OFFICIAL

I hope this increase goes some way to demonstrate the value that I and the Government place on our independent judiciary and their unwavering commitment to the delivery of justice and the rule of law.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON DAVID LAMMY MP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**

OFFICIAL