



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
Robert Buckland QC MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of
State for Justice

The Baroness Hamwee
Chair, Lord's Justice and Home Affairs
Committee
House of Lords
Westminster
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MoJ ref: 89231

22 July 2021

Dear Sally,

JUDICIAL PAY REVIEW 2021/22

You will recall that I wrote to you in December, to notify you that I had written to the SSRB but would not be setting out a remit for an annual review of judicial pay for 2021/22. This was as a result of the Government's decision of a pay freeze for public sector workers due to the significant and unprecedented pressure on the economy brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the absence of a remit, the SSRB were keen to continue monitoring the issues first identified in the Major Review, and have included a chapter providing observations on recruitment, retention and pay of the judiciary in the 2021/22 annual report. I am now writing to let you know that the SSRB have published their annual report, containing a number of observations on the judiciary, which I will be considering.

I am pleased that the SSRB believe the proposed pension reforms are already having some effect on judicial recruitment and recognise the improvements that will come from them. I note the view of the SSRB that we need to communicate the impact of these reforms widely to all levels of the judiciary and I welcome the support the senior judiciary are already providing on this.

In addition, I note the concerns that continue to be raised in respect of recruitment, most notably at the District Bench. We will continue to monitor recruitment outcomes and I would be grateful to continue discussing with you, as appropriate, how the other issues identified in the SSRB's report might be addressed.

Yours ever

RT HON ROBERT BUCKLAND QC MP