



Ministry  
of Justice

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

**Dr Martin Read**

Chair, Senior Salaries Review Body  
Fleetbank House  
2-6 Salisbury Square  
London  
EC4Y 8JX

**MoJ ref: 84028**

11 December 2020

Dear Martin,

### **JUDICIAL PAY REVIEW 2021/22**

First, I would like to thank the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) for its annual review for judicial pay in 2020/21. The Government has accepted all of the SSRB's recommendations, and I am particularly glad to have been able to introduce leadership allowances earlier than had been planned. I can assure you that the robust and independent advice given by the SSRB to the Government is highly valued and that I attach considerable importance to the expert and independent judgement of the SSRB.

This year, I am writing to you to advise that I have decided not to issue a remit letter for an annual review of judicial pay for the 2021/22 year. You will have seen that the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Spending Review that pay rises in the public sector will be restrained and targeted in 2021/22. As the Chancellor set out, Covid-19 is significantly impacting the economy, labour market and the fiscal position and has suppressed earnings growth and increased redundancies in the private sector.

Therefore, it is right to temporarily pause pay awards for the majority of the public sector, including the judiciary, as we assess the impact Covid-19 has had on the wider economy and labour market. This approach will also allow us to protect public sector jobs and investment in public services as Covid-19 continues to have an impact.

We will be able to reassess this position ahead of pay round 2022/23 however in light of the above I do not believe that it is appropriate to ask you to conduct a review when we know we will be unable to implement any recommendations.

In the meantime, we remain focused on progressing the ambitious pension reforms on which we consulted over the summer. We are working with HM Treasury to confirm the timetable for bringing forward the necessary legislation as early as possible next year with the aim of implementing the new scheme in April 2022. As you are well aware, these reforms are a priority for the judiciary and will play a vital role in resolving the serious recruitment and retention issues highlighted in the SSRB's major review.

Yours ever

**RT HON ROBERT BUCKLAND QC MP**