



Office of Manpower Economics

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The Right Honourable Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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28 September 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

JUDICIAL PAY 2018-19

I have today sent you, under separate cover, the Senior Salaries Review Body's Report on its Major Review of the Judicial Salary Structure.

This Major Review was commissioned in the autumn of 2016. The then-Lord Chancellor assured the SSRB that the government would engage seriously with the recommendations, and would do so in a timely fashion. We are pleased that this undertaking has been repeated by successive Lord Chancellors.

MoJ officials have told us that, given other urgent priorities, the government may need some time to assess our recommendations and to take the consequential decisions. For this reason, they asked us for a recommendation on a judicial annual pay increase for 2018-19 that could, if necessary, be announced and implemented in advance of the government response to the full report.

We should stress that our preferred option is for the government to make a full response in October to the Major Review. The judiciary would then know the full story about their pay. In the evidence that was supplied to us, we regularly heard that the situation requires urgent action.

We have proposed that all our pay recommendations run with effect from April 2018. We would certainly not want to see the judiciary being disadvantaged by further delays to their receipt of any 2018-19 annual pay increase. Therefore, if the government considers it unrealistic to make a full announcement responding to the Major Review during October, we recommend that, as an interim measure, all members of the judiciary should receive a 2.5 per cent basic pay increase backdated to April 2018. This would be without prejudice to the full recommendations of the Major Review.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Yours
Martin Read

Dr Martin Read CBE
Chair
Senior Salaries Review Body