

**Complaints about the Conduct of Judicial Office Holders -
Code of Practice issued by the Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.
STATISTICAL RETURN FOR 2024**

Statutory responsibility for complaints against members of the judiciary as well as Presidents and members of the tribunals rests with the **Chief Justice who in 2006 published a Code of Practice setting out arrangements for investigating complaints identified in the Code.**

Court users and the public generally are entitled to expect holders of judicial office to maintain high standards of personal conduct. While the Chief Justice is confident that courts and tribunal judiciary have demonstrated such standards in the past and will continue to do so, the Code provides for comprehensive procedures to address any serious or substantive complaints received and to do so within timescales set out in the Code.

It is important to emphasise that the Code applies only to judicial conduct and not to judicial decisions, the process of reasoning underpinning such decisions and the exercise of judicial functions generally. Such matters may only be challenged through the legal processes available.

1. Table A below provides information by judicial tier of judicial complaints received by the Chief Justice for the 2024 reporting period together with 3 previous years for comparative purposes.

Table A

Judicial Tier	2024	2023	2022	2021
C/O from previous year	2	0	4	6
High Court	8	6	8	7
County Court	13	6	14	3
District Judge (Civil)	3	3	2	1
District Judge Magistrates' Courts	19	25	35	15
Statutory Officers and Others	20	2	7	10
Others	13	10	12	1
Total	78	52	82	43

Breakdown of complaints Received

2. Table B below summarises the final outcome of the 78 judicial complaints considered in 2024. Of the 78 complaints, 14 were investigated with (3 upheld in part, 11 not upheld) and 4 complaints were either withdrawn or did not proceed. Of the remaining 60 complaints, 58 were outside of the remit of the judicial Code of Practice. Two complaints were carried forward into 2025 but were dealt with by 2 January 2025, both were beyond the remit of the Code of Complaint).

Table B

Outcome	Total	(%)
Beyond remit	58	74
Withdrawn/did not proceed	4	5
Not upheld	11	14
Upheld in part	3	4
Upheld	-	-
C/Forward to 2025	2	3

3. Table C below provides comparable information regarding complaints received during 2024 about the conduct of members of Tribunals and determined by Tribunal Presidents on behalf of the Lady Chief Justice.

Complaints about Tribunal Judiciary

Tribunal	Carried Over from previous years	Number received	Number beyond remit	Number informally resolved	Number not upheld	Number upheld in part	Number upheld in full	Withdrawn	C/F
Office of the Social Security Commissioners.		-							
Review Tribunal		-							
Appeals Tribunal		11	8	-	1	-	1		1
Industrial Tribunal & Fair Employment Tribunal		8	6		1				1
Special Educational Needs & Disability Tribunal		1		1					
Traffic Penalty Tribunal		-							
Compensation Appeals Panel NI		-							
Northern Ireland Valuation Tribunal		1		1					