

# Judicial Communications Office

31 August 2021

## CODE OF PRACTICE ON JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS

The Lord Chief Justice, Sir Declan Morgan, has published a revised Code of Practice on Complaints against Judicial Office Holders. The Code was revised following a detailed review and targeted consultation process in 2020.

Sir Declan said:

“As Chief Justice, the importance of an effective Statement of Ethics and Code of Practice for judges has always been of great importance to me. Taken together, they encourage in the judiciary best practice in ethical conduct, deter unethical behaviour, and deal robustly with behaviour which falls short of expectations. My judicial colleagues and I serve the public. Public trust and confidence in our work is key and therefore maintaining high standards of judicial conduct is vital. Having a complaints regime that will ensure due process, dealing fairly with both those who complain and those who are subject to complaint, is essential in my view.

It is my hope that this readily accessible Code will assist those who come into contact with the judiciary and judges themselves, in contributing to ensure that the highest standards of probity and integrity are maintained in the exercise of the judicial function.”

The Code applies to complaints about the conduct of those judicial office holders who are listed in [Schedule 1 to the Justice \(Northern Ireland\) Act 2002](#). **It does not apply to complaints about a judicial decision in a case or its final outcome because such complaints can only be challenged through legal means such as the statutory appeal or review mechanisms.** Anyone wishing to challenge a judicial decision should seek independent legal advice. It is not the purpose of the Code to re-open a complainant’s case.

### NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Code can be found on the Judiciary NI website (<https://judiciaryni.uk>) under the heading “You and the Judiciary”.

ENDS

If you have any further enquiries about this or other court related matters please contact:

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