

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.

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to J. Vanech

HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

Judiciary - In Confidence

Prime Minister

Prime Minister

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rus 11/11

Judicial Salaries

As you asked, I have replied to the Lord Chief Justice, who had sent both of us copies of the submission by the Heads of Divisions to the Review Body on Top Salaries. I have been careful to avoid offering more than sympathy; but it is my own view that the Heads of Divisions have a strong case, even if rather over-stated. While we could not possibly set the salary for the High Court Bench at a level which matched the highest earning at the Bar, there is no doubt that the present salary of £35,000 is so far below the earnings of those we want to attract that, unless there is a significant increase in 1982, we shall find it difficult to get the best Silks to accept appointment.

Clearly, we can do nothing until we have the next report by T.S.R.B.: but whatever we then do for the other groups concerned, we shall run serious risks if we hold the Judiciary to the very low increases for which we shall be hoping elsewhere.

I am copying this to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

H: of Sr: M.

10th November, 1981



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

9 November 1981

Confidential

Dear Geoffrey :

Thank you for your letter of 9th October, attaching a copy of the memorandum submitted by the Heads of Divisions to T.S.R.B. The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you also for the copy which you sent to her.

I quite understand your concern about the present level of judicial salaries. None of my colleagues would doubt that it is of the first importance to maintain the quality and status of the Judiciary and, while I am not convinced that it is necessary to pay the very highest salaries to do this, there has never been any question of trying to get judges on the cheap. The Review Body has said that it intends to submit a full report by the beginning of April 1982, which will contain full recommendations on the salary levels appropriate at that date, and I have no doubt that, in framing their report, they will take very full account of your memorandum. They have asked me to give evidence next month, and I expect your points will be put to me by them. Meanwhile, you will understand that no decision on judicial salaries can be taken until Ministers have seen T.S.R.B.'s report.

yrs :

The Right Honourable
The Lord Chief Justice of England.



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Geo
pat
B/C J Vereker

16 November, 1981

Judicial Salaries

The Prime Minister has seen and carefully noted the Lord Chancellor's letter of 9 November to the Lord Chief Justice on judicial salaries.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury) and Jim Buckley (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office).

M H Collon, Esq
Lord Chancellor's Office

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