



Department of  
**Justice**  
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Máinnystrie O tha Laa  
[www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk)

**Department of Justice**  
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5th October 2021

**REFERENCE: FOI\21\49**

Dear Sir

Thank you for your request for information dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 and detailed below:

*I am writing to request under the Freedom of Information Act examples of the Letters Patent appointing the following judges, viz.*

- 1) the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland;*
- 2) a puisne Judge of the High Court of Northern Ireland; and*
- 3) a Lord Justice of Appeal.*

*In addition I would also like to request an example of the instrument (or similar) appointing one of the Masters of the High Court (e.g. the Queen's Bench Division Master).*

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you two rights of access when you write to us asking for information. You have the right to know whether we hold recorded information falling in scope of your request, and you have the right to receive this recorded information subject to cost limit or exemption.

Having considered your request in line with these obligations, I can advise that the Department does not hold the information you have requested. However, and outwith the Freedom of Information regime, I can provide some explanation. Warrants relating to Crown appointments (Lord/Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Lord/Lady Justices



of Appeal and High Court Judge) are provided personally to the judge on appointment. Declaration of appointments made by the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission are held by that body. Contact details for NIJAC are provided below:

Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission  
Headline Building  
10 - 14 Victoria Street  
Belfast  
BT1 3GG  
Email: [judicialappointments@nijac.gov.uk](mailto:judicialappointments@nijac.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy at the way in which your request has been handled you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask the Commissioner to investigate whether the DOJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner can be found at:  
[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**DoJ Records & Information Manager**

