



Investigatory Powers
Commissioner's Office

PO Box 29105, London

SW1V 1ZU

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Press Release – Appointment of Judicial Commissioners

Today the Prime Minister and Lord Justice Fulford, the Investigatory Powers Commissioner (IPC), have announced the appointment of the following 13 Judicial Commissioners:

- Sir Nicholas Blake
- Lord Bonomy (Iain Bonomy)
- Lord Bracadale (Alastair Campbell)
- Dame Linda Dobbs
- Lord Gill (Brian Gill)
- Lord Justice John Gillen
- Sir Henry Globe
- Sir John Goldring
- Sir John Griffith-Williams
- Sir Kenneth Parker
- Sir John Saunders
- Sir Stephen Silber
- Sir Alan Wilkie

The 13 Judicial Commissioners will continue the approval work of the former Surveillance Commissioners, and in due course will consider whether they agree with Ministers' decisions to authorise intrusive investigatory powers before they can come into effect. They will also assist the IPC in overseeing the exercise of a range of investigatory powers by public authorities including the interception of communications, the acquisition and retention of communications data, equipment interference, intrusive surveillance, property interference, directed surveillance, covert human intelligence sources and bulk personal datasets.

Sir John Goldring will serve as Lord Justice Fulford's deputy.

Judicial Commissioners will act totally independently of government.

Lord Justice Fulford said:

'I am exceptionally pleased that the Prime Minister has appointed these 13 high calibre serving and former members of the senior judiciary following a joint recommendation from myself, the Lord Chancellor and the Heads of the Judiciary in England & Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. I look forward to working with them over the next three years in fulfilling the important functions the Investigatory Powers Act has vested in us.'

Biographies for the 13 Judicial Commissioners are given in an annex to this document.

Background:

- The Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office provides independent judicial oversight of public authorities' use of investigatory powers.
- Examples of the sorts of organisations IPCO oversees are: GCHQ, MI5, SIS, the National Crime Agency, all police forces, the Serious Fraud Office, HMRC, local authorities, prisons and Whitehall departments.
- Judicial Commissioners are appointed by the Prime Minister for a three year term following the joint recommendation of the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales, the Lord President of the Court of Session, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland and the IPC. Only those that have held high judicial office can be appointed Judicial Commissioners.
- Judicial Commissioners act independently of government and can only be removed from office by resolution of each House of Parliament and in limited circumstances by the Prime Minister e.g. bankruptcy, disqualification as a company director or conviction of an offence and receives a sentence of imprisonment. Full details of the terms and conditions of appointment are to be found in Part 8 of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016.
- The IPC and Judicial Commissioners are supported by a team of 50 official staff including inspectors, technical and legal advisers, led by a Chief Executive. A technology advisory panel (TAP), made up of scientific and technical experts, will advise the Judicial Commissioners on technically complex issues. Two further Judicial Commissioners are expected to join Lord Justice Fulford later in 2018.

Judicial Commissioner Biographies (Alphabetical Order)

Sir Nicholas Blake –

The Hon. Sir Nicholas Blake served as a judge of the High Court Queen's Bench Division 2007 to 2017 and sits as a Deputy High Court Judge. He is a former President of the Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber. He practised at the Bar of England and Wales from 1975; appointed QC in 1994 and Special Advocate in 1997 and conducted the Deepcut Review in 2006. He is a former chair of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association and in October 2017 returned to Matrix Chambers as a consultant.

Lord Bonomy -

The Rt Hon. Lord Bonomy (Iain Bonomy) served as a judge of the High Court and Court of Session, latterly in the Court of Appeal, between 1997 and 2012, interrupted between 2004 and 2009 by appointment as a Permanent Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He was a Surveillance Commissioner between 1998 and 2004 and then again between 2010 and the closure of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners in September 2017.

Lord Bracadale -

The Rt Hon. Lord Bracadale (Alastair Campbell) served as a judge in the Court of Session and the High Court of Justiciary in Scotland between 2003 and 2017, sitting in the Outer House until 2013 and thereafter in the Inner House. Between 2008 and 2011 he was the judicial member of the Parole Board for Scotland. He has acted as an administrative judge for both first instance and appellate criminal business. In 2016 Lord Bracadale was appointed as a Surveillance Commissioner. He is currently conducting an independent review of hate crime for the Scottish Government.

Dame Linda Dobbs –

The Hon. Dame Linda Dobbs DBE served as a High Court judge between 2004-2013, having practised at the Bar since 1981, and appointed a QC in 1998. Dame Linda was the first person from a minority ethnic background to be appointed to the senior judiciary and acted as the Senior Liaison Judge for Diversity for 7 years. During her career at the Bar she chaired a number of committees including the Professional Standards Committee and Criminal Bar Association. Dame Linda sits as a Deputy High Court Judge. She is also a Justice of Appeal for the Turks and Caicos Islands and approved to sit in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands. She completed a significant enquiry for the BBC into Stuart Hall. She regularly conducts judicial training in the UK, South Africa and other countries in Africa and the Caribbean. She holds 6 honorary doctorates and is Pro Chancellor of Surrey University.

Lord Gill -

Before retirement in 2015 the Rt Hon. Lord Gill (Brian Gill) was Lord President and Lord Justice General of Scotland, the head of the Scottish judiciary and of its civil and criminal systems. From 1996 to 2001 he was Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission. From 2001 to 2012 he was Lord Justice Clerk. In that capacity he was Chairman of the Scottish Civil Courts Review. The report of the Review was the basis of the recent reform of the Scottish civil courts system which he oversaw as Lord President. From 2015 to 2017 he was a member of the Supplementary Panel of the Supreme Court.

Lord Justice John Gillen –

The Rt Hon. Sir John Gillen is a serving Lord Justice of Appeal in Northern Ireland and a former Senior Queen's Bench Division Judge for Northern Ireland. In the last two years he led a Civil and Family Justice Review in that jurisdiction (the two Reviews having been published on 6 September 2017). Previously he served as a High Court Judge in the Family, Judicial Review and Queen's Bench Divisions.

Sir Henry Globe –

The Hon. Mr Justice Globe has been a serving High Court Judge of the Queen's Bench Division since 2011. He is due to retire from the Bench in November 2017. He is a former Presiding Judge of the North Eastern Circuit and an inaugural member of the Sentencing Council. Previously, he practised at the Bar of England and Wales from 1972, was appointed a QC in 1994 and was appointed to the Bench in 2003, serving as the Resident Judge and Honorary Recorder of Liverpool between 2003 and 2011 where he oversaw the judicial arrangements for hearing all special procedure applications. He has specialised in criminal law, has tried numerous cases involving murder and terrorism offences and is a former course director for the Judicial College's serious crime and serious fraud seminars.

Sir John Goldring (Deputy Investigatory Powers Commissioner) -

The Rt Hon. Sir John Goldring was formerly the Intelligence Services Commissioner and Senior Presiding Judge for England & Wales following a career as a High Court Judge of the Queen's Bench Division and Lord Justice of Appeal. Sir

John is currently the President of the Court of Appeal in the Cayman Islands and recently acted as Her Majesty's Assistant Coroner for the Hillsborough Inquests.

Sir John Griffith-Williams –

The Hon. Sir John Griffith Williams is now retired. He practiced at the Bar of England & Wales from 1969, was appointed silk in 1985 and a Deputy High Court judge in 1993. He was formerly Recorder of Cardiff until his appointment as a High Court judge of the Queen's Bench Division. He was a Presiding Judge on the Wales and Chester Circuit and is a judicial member of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission. He sits as a deputy High Court judge in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division and the Crown Court.

Sir Kenneth Parker –

The Hon. Sir Kenneth Parker was a Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford and University lecturer in law, followed a career at the bar, becoming a QC and head of Monckton Chambers, a member of the Information Tribunal for national security appeals, before joining the Law Commission with special responsibility for public law, and subsequently a High Court judge. He remains authorised to sit as a judge of the High Court and of the Court of Appeal.

Sir John Saunders -

The Hon. Sir John Saunders is a former High Court Judge. He was called to the Bar in 1972 and during his career has been the Recorder of Birmingham and Presiding Judge of the South Eastern Circuit, gaining significant experience trying terrorism cases. He has for the last 12 months served as a Surveillance Commissioner, a role which preceded the establishment of Judicial Commissioners. Sir John also serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Parole Board.

Sir Stephen Silber –

The Hon. Sir Stephen Silber was a High Court Judge (Queen's Bench Division) where he was involved in many cases concerning control orders and TIPIMs as well as disputes on extradition and rendition. He is a former Law Commissioner. Since his retirement in 2014, he has continued to sit as a Vice-President of the Security Vetting Appeals Panel and is also judicial member of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission as well sitting as a High Court Judge. He is authorized to sit in the Court of Appeal (Civil Division)

Sir Alan Wilkie -

The Hon. Sir Alan Wilkie was called to the Bar in 1974 and has during his career been a High Court Judge and Presiding Judge for the North East Circuit. Sir Alan has also been a Law Commissioner and recently served as a Judicial Appointments Commissioner. He has extensive experience in trying complex terrorism cases and conducting reviews of control orders and TPIMs.