



SENIOR PRESIDENT
OF TRIBUNALS

ASKING FOR JUDICIAL HELP WITH RESEARCH

We treat all requests for judicial assistance with research into the judicial process, or other aspects of tribunal administration or procedure consistently in line with this guidance.

Not all tribunals are within the Senior President's remit. If research proposals are received which relate to other tribunals this tribunals Judicial Office will pass them on to the relevant Tribunal President.

Applications

We would like to help with research as much as we can but our resources are limited. For example, we cannot normally help with research requests from:

- Secondary school students;
- Undergraduates; or
- Those undertaking post-graduate Masters and other taught courses.

Similarly, we would not normally accept foreign research applications, unless there is some special reasons for wishing to encourage comparative study in the particular subject.

However there is a great deal of general information about judges and the judicial process on the Judicial Website <http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/>

and in relation to tribunals themselves on

<http://www.tribunals.gov.uk/>.

Information about the development of the tribunals in recent years can be found at

<http://www.tribunals.gov.uk/Tribunals/About/president.htm>

Approval of judicial participation in research

Professional researchers who want to conduct research involving any member of the tribunals judiciary must submit a formal business plan which shows clearly how the research will benefit the tribunals judiciary and/or the administration of tribunals. The business plan must clearly set out the aims and objectives of the research and the proposed methodology, including the sample size.

The business plan will be considered by the Senior President who will ask the Tribunals Service administration and the Ministry of Justice research team for their views. He will take those views into account when making his decision.

Approval for judicial support will only be granted by the Senior President if in his view :

- the proposed research is in the public interest;
- the nature of the proposed research makes judicial participation necessary;
- judicial discretion and independence would not be impaired by participation in the proposed research and members of the judiciary would not be drawn into areas of political controversy;
- participation will not impose an undue burden on members of the judiciary or the administration of the tribunals
- members of the judiciary will not be identified in any reports; and
- the researcher undertakes to provide the members of the senior judiciary already mentioned, and the members of the judiciary involved in the research, with a final draft copy of any report in order to give them an opportunity to comment upon it – before a report is published

If a research project is approved, the judicial office-holders concerned will be informed of the project by the Senior President.

Please submit requests to

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