



Ministry of
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JUDICIAL REVIEW: PROPOSALS FOR REFORM CONSULTATION

Thank you for your letter of 18 January about the recent engagement exercise, *Judicial Review: proposals for reform*.

You were specifically concerned at the short consultation period for the proposals on Judicial Review, and that this was not in line with the principles of the Compact. You will be aware that in July last year the Cabinet Office published its new consultation principles. This set out a more targeted approach to consultation, so that the type and scale of engagement is proportional to the potential impacts of the proposal.

The Judicial Review consultation was a short engagement exercise, which set out a small number of simple, straightforward procedural reforms to make the judicial reforms process function better. For this reason, I am satisfied that the six week engagement period provided sufficient time for consultees to consider proposals and provide a meaningful response.

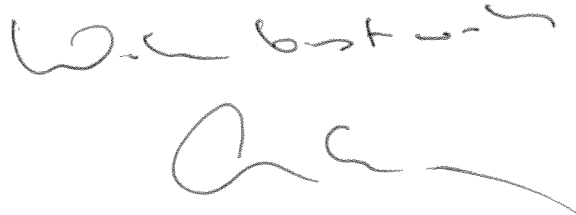
You also expressed concern about the lack of comprehensive information about court users. The engagement exercise recognised that we had only limited information available to assess the impact the proposals might have generally, and specifically on those with protected characteristics. This was why we sought views on whether particular groups might be affected and invited respondents to submit any evidence they might have in support of those views.

I do, however, recognise that we need to develop a better understanding of court users. Officials in my department are currently working with colleagues in HMCTS on the feasibility of undertaking a survey of civil and family court users.

My department is fully committed to working to the principles contained in the Compact and to strengthening its engagement with Civil Society organisations. We regard this work as valuable and are taking action to increase awareness of the Compact and ensure compliance across the department. The Compact features in

the MoJ business plan and senior leadership is in place to oversee Compact implementation where relevant.

I hope this helps to reassure you how seriously this Government views the issues you have raised. My officials would be pleased to meet you if you would like to consider the proposals for reform of Judicial Review further. Please get in touch with [REDACTED] if you would like to discuss this further.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Grayling', written in a cursive style.

CHRIS GRAYLING