

Mishcon de Reya

Our Ref: 64155.1

Your Ref:

FOR THE ATTENTION OF KEVIN SADLER
HM Court and Tribunals Service
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11 December 2020

BY EMAIL ONLY (KEVIN.SADLER@HMCTS.GSI.GOV.UK)

Dear Sirs

Our client: the Criminal Bar Association

We act for the Criminal Bar Association (the **CBA**).

We have today written to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (the **Commission**) to set out our client's serious and urgent concerns regarding HMCTS's proposed introduction of the "Covid Operating Hours" scheme (the **Scheme**). On behalf of our client, we have urged the Commission to use its statutory powers to conduct an assessment into HMCTS's compliance with its public sector equality duties. A copy of our letter to the Commission is enclosed for your reference.

Given the concerns highlighted, both in our client's response to the consultation and in the enclosed referral to the Commission, it would be premature and potentially unlawful for HMCTS to proceed with the Scheme in the manner proposed. Please therefore confirm by return that the consultation will be suspended and no further steps will be taken to implement the Scheme until HMCTS has undertaken the steps identified in the enclosed correspondence.

Yours faithfully

Mishcon de Reya

Mishcon de Reya LLP

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Encs: Letter to ECHR dated 10 December 2020

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