Judicial Communications Office

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2pm 27 May 2025

27 May 2025

PRESS NOTICE

COMPETITION UNDERWAY FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COURT OF APPEAL

A recruitment process has been launched today by the Lady Chief Justice's Office to fill an anticipated vacancy in the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister has asked the Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Dame Siobhan Keegan, to convene a selection panel which will make a recommendation to him of a suitable candidate to be appointed by His Majesty the King as Lord or Lady Justice of Appeal for the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland.

The new appointment is due to be made in the autumn of 2025.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Under section 12 of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978, appointment as a Lord or Lady Justice of Appeal is made by His Majesty on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, after consulting the Lady Chief Justice and the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission.

2. There are currently three Lord Justices of Appeal in Northern Ireland. The appointment scheme is to fill a vacancy arising from the forthcoming retirement of Lord Justice Horner.

3. Under section 9 of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978, those eligible for appointment must be:

    (a)   a member of the Bar of Northern Ireland of at least ten years' standing; or
    (b)   a solicitor of the Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland of at least ten years' standing.

4. Information Packs for applicants and Application forms will be available from **2pm** on **27 May 2025** from the Senior Appointments Team, Lady Chief Justice's Office, email SeniorAppointments@judiciaryni.uk. Applications must be submitted electronically by **12 noon on 13 June 2025.**

ENDS

Judicial Communications Office

If you have any further enquiries about this or other court related matters please contact:

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