

## **Complaints about the Conduct of Judicial Office Holders - Code of Practice issued by the Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.**

### **STATISTICAL RETURN FOR 2022**

Statutory responsibility for complaints against members of the judiciary as well as Presidents and members of the tribunals rests with the **Lord Chief Justice who in 2006 published a Code of Practice setting out arrangements for investigating complaints identified in the Code.**

Court users and the public generally are entitled to expect holders of judicial office to maintain high standards of personal conduct. While the Chief Justice is confident that courts and tribunal judiciary have demonstrated such standards in the past and will continue to do so, the Code provides for comprehensive procedures to address any serious or substantive complaints received and to do so within timescales set out in the Code.

It is important to emphasise that the Code applies only to judicial conduct and not to judicial decisions, the process of reasoning underpinning such decisions and the exercise of judicial functions generally. Such matters may only be challenged through the legal processes available.

1. Table A below provides information by judicial tier of judicial complaints received by the Chief Justice for the 2022 reporting period together with 3 previous years for comparative purposes.

**Table A**

<b>Judicial Tier</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
C/O from previous year	4	6	-	-
High Court	8	7	9	22
County Court	14	3	5	5
District Judge (Civil)	2	1	3	2
District Judge (Magistrates' Courts)	35	15	15	21
Statutory Officers and Others	7	10	2	8
Others	12	1	6	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>59</b>

## Breakdown of Complaints Received

2. Table B below summarises the final outcome of the 82 judicial complaints considered in 2022 (4 brought forward from 2021). Of the 82 complaints, 20 were investigated with (1 upheld in part, 3 upheld and 16 not upheld. 5 complaints were either withdrawn or did not proceed. The remaining 57 complaints were outside of the remit of the judicial Code of Practice.)

**Table B**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(%)</b>
Beyond remit	57	70
Withdrawn/did not proceed	5	6
Not upheld	16	19
Upheld in part	1	1
Upheld	3	4
<b>C/Forward to 2023</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Complaints about Tribunal Judiciary

3. Table C below provides comparable information regarding complaints received during 2022 about the conduct of members of Tribunals and determined by Tribunal Presidents on behalf of the Lady Chief Justice.

**Table C**

<b>Tribunal</b>	<b>Carried Over from previous years</b>	<b>Number received</b>	<b>Number beyond remit</b>	<b>Number informally resolved</b>	<b>Number not upheld</b>	<b>Number upheld in part</b>	<b>Number upheld in full</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>	<b>C/F</b>
<b>Appeals Tribunal</b>	-	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	-	<b>3</b>	-	-	-	<b>2</b>
<b>Industrial Tribunal &amp; Fair Employment Tribunal</b>	-	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	-		-	-	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Special Educational Needs &amp; Disability Tribunal</b>		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Traffic Penalty Tribunal</b>		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Compensation Appeals Panel NI</b>				-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Northern Ireland Valuation Tribunal</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	-	-	

**LADY CHIEF JUSTICE'S OFFICE**

**January 2023**