

Judicial Communications Office

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2.00pm Friday 26 March 2021

26 MARCH 2021

PRESS NOTICE

COMPETITION UNDERWAY FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF LORD CHIEF JUSTICE

A recruitment process has been launched today by the Office of the Lord Chief Justice to fill a forthcoming vacancy in the post of Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister has asked the current Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Sir Declan Morgan, to convene a selection panel which will make a recommendation to him of a suitable candidate to be appointed by Her Majesty the Queen as Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.

It is anticipated that the new appointment will take up the post on 6 September 2021.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Under section 12 of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978, appointment to the office of Lord Chief Justice is made by Her Majesty on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, after consulting the Lord Chief Justice and the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission.
2. The Interpretation Act 1978 section 6 makes provision for gender words interpretation. Consequently where Lord Chief Justice is referred to it also encompasses the feminine, Lady Chief Justice.
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 Friday 26 March 2021 from the Senior Appointments Team, Office of the Lord Chief Justice, email SeniorAppointments@judiciaryni.uk. Applications must be submitted electronically by 2pm on Friday 16 April 2021.

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ENDS

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

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