JUDICIAL PAY

I am writing to inform you of the Government's response to the Senior Salaries Review Body’s (SSRB) recommendations for judicial pay increases in 2018/19, which I will announce tomorrow in a written statement to the House.

In reaching our final position for the 2018/19 pay award, the Government has had to balance the need for affordability for the tax payer and future sustainability of public services whilst ensuring that pay awards are fair and consistent across the public sector. Therefore, the Government has not accepted in full the SSRB’s recommended increase of 2.5%. However, I am pleased to confirm that members of the judiciary will receive an increase of 2% in 2018/19, which is the biggest pay rise for judges in nearly 10 years. We will implement the award in November, backdated to April 2018.

As you will be aware, in 2016, the then Lord Chancellor commissioned the SSRB to undertake a major review of the judicial salary structure. This report was submitted to the Government in September 2018. This report (Supplement to the 40th Annual Report on Senior Salaries 2018) was published today alongside the SSRB’s covering letter detailing the recommended award for 2018/19.

The SSRB’s report explores in depth the wider range of issues set out in the Terms of Reference for the major review. The SSRB has made a number of recommendations about how judicial pay should be structured and at what levels it should be set in future, as well as broader recommendations on issues such as how to reward and incentivise judicial leadership. The Government takes very seriously the risk that being unable to fill key judicial posts threatens the proper functioning of the justice system and the UK’s wider prosperity.

The Government is seriously considering all the issues and recommendations in the report as a matter of priority including what changes might be made to the judicial remuneration package to address the particular issues highlighted by the SSRB’s major review. I will set out how we plan to respond to the issues highlighted in the SSRB’s report as soon as possible.

RT HON DAVID GAUKE MP