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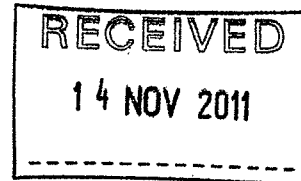


**Ministry of
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Chair
Joint Committee on Human Rights
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House of Commons
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08 November 2011

Dear Hywel

**EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS: ELECTION OF UNITED
KINGDOM JUDGE**

I am writing to confirm the selection process to find three candidates for the office of the United Kingdom Judge at the European Court of Human Rights will begin at the start of November. The term of office of our current judge, Sir Nicholas Bratza, expires on 31 October 2012.

The Judges of the Strasbourg Court are elected from a list of three names, submitted by State Parties to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The selection process will be conducted by a five person panel:

- Chair: The Right Hon The Lord Mance, Justice of the Supreme Court
- The Right Hon Lord Reed, Senator of the College of Justice
- Professor Nichola Rooney, Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission
- Iain MacLeod, Legal Adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Rosemary Davies, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Justice

The list of three candidates will be agreed jointly by the Foreign Secretary and by me before being forwarded to the Council of Europe for its consideration and the eventual election of the successful candidate in June next year. The costs of the selection process will be borne equally by our two departments.

I attach a copy of the advertisement for the post, which will be placed in The Times on Thursday 3 November, and then in the Belfast Telegraph, Scotland on Sunday and in The Sunday Life. The advert will also appear on The Sunday Times jobs website as well as in the Law Society's Gazette and will also be placed on a number of different websites to ensure the widest possible exposure.

I have attached a copy of the information pack for applicants, which contains further details on the terms and conditions of the post as well as details of the selection process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Clarke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

KENNETH CLARKE