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Ministry of Justice  
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28<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Robert Levack,

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 201024008**

Thank you for your request dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

**“I write with reference to the recent controversy regarding the order from the Senior Presiding Judge that HHJ Raynor be debarred from hearing a custody time limit application in a case (P and Others) in the Crown Court at Woolwich. You will be aware that in that case the SPJ ordered that any CTL application be heard by a High Court Judge.**

**I write to invite disclosure of the policy which lead to this decision. How does the SPJ decide which judges should hear CTL applications. What are the criteria for deployment of members of the High Court bench to hear such applications in trials for which a member of the circuit bench is nominated trial judge?”**

Your request is being handled under the FOIA.

The MoJ is required under section 10(1) of the FOIA to provide you with a response within 20 working days. Therefore, we aim to provide you a response to your request by **20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**. However, in view of the current public health situation, and its possible effect on resources and priorities, we may not be able to reply to you by this date; if this will be the case we will write to you nearer the time with an update.

Yours sincerely

Knowledge and Information Liaison Officer  
London Regional Support Unit | HMCTS