

Christopher Maynard  
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21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Christopher

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 201221022**

Thank you for your request dated 21<sup>st</sup> December regarding FOI request 201221022 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

- 1) A copy of the advertisement for the post of Chair of the Criminal Legal Aid Review and details of where this advertisement was posted and over what timescale;
- 2) The number of applicants for this position;
- 3) The selection criteria used to select Sir Christopher Bellamy as the Chair of this Review;
- 4) Details of the numbers of applicants interviewed for this position.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

MOJ does not hold this information.

Sir Christopher Bellamy QC was directly appointed by the Lord Chancellor to chair the Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid. As has been the case under successive administrations, Ministers can directly appoint qualified individuals to provide advice, or to undertake urgent or short-term work. Ministers decided that for a review considering the Criminal Legal Aid market in its entirety, the Chair should possess a thorough knowledge of the justice system, competition, and regulatory and market issues. Sir Christopher is a former judge with a wealth of relevant legal experience.

**Appeal Rights**

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response.

data.access@justice.gov.uk

Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to

investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely

Benjamin Livingston  
Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid