

Commissioners

The members of the Commission come from a wide background and are drawn from the lay public, the legal professions, tribunals, the magistracy and the judiciary. The specific make up of the Commission means that it has a breadth of knowledge, expertise and independence.

12 commissioners, including the Chairmain are appointed through open competition with the other three selected by the Judges' Council.

The Chairman of the Commission must always be a lay member. Of the 14 other Commissioners:

- 5 must be judicial members
- 2 must be professional members (1 barrister and 1 solicitor)
- 5 must be lay members
- 1 must be a tribunal member
- 1 must be a lay justice member.

The Commissioners are appointed in their own right and are not representatives of the professions that they may come from. It is this diverse make up of the Commission which means that each member is able to bring knowledge, expertise and above all independence of mind.

The JAC Commissioners

Baroness Prashar CBE, Chairman



Usha Prashar was born in Kenya and educated at Wakefield Girls' High School and the Universities of Leeds and Glasgow. She was the First Civil Service Commissioner between 2000 and 2005 and Executive Chairman of the Parole Board for England and Wales from 1997 to 2000. Formerly she was Director of the Runnymede Trust, and served as a member of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. Since 1999 she has sat in the House of Lords as a cross-bencher, and is currently a member of the Iraq Inquiry.

Lady Justice Hallett DBE (judicial), Vice-Chairman



Heather Hallett was appointed Vice-Chairman of the JAC in October 2007. She was called to the Bar at Inner Temple in 1972 and began sitting as a part-time judge in 1985. She was Chairman of the General Council of the Bar in 1998, and has been a High Court Judge and Presiding Judge on the Western Circuit. In 2005 she was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Mrs Justice Black DBE (judicial)



Jill Black was educated at Penrhos College, Colwyn Bay and the University of Durham. She was called to the Bar at Inner Temple in 1976 and appointed a QC in 1994. In 1999 she was appointed a Recorder, and later that year a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Family Division. She served as Family Division Liaison Judge for the Northern Circuit from 2000 to 2004. Jill Black was Chairman of the Family Committee of the Judicial Studies Board from 2004 until she joined the JAC in 2008.

Dame Lorna Boreland-Kelly DBE JP FRSA (lay justice)

Lorna Boreland-Kelly is a presiding magistrate at the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court, where she has been a magistrate since 1991. She is employed by the London Borough of Croydon as the Strategic Advisor of the Social Work Academy, Children, Young People and Learners. She is also the Chair of Governors at Lambeth College.

Professor Dame Hazel Genn DBE (lay)

Hazel Genn is a Dean of the Faculty of Laws at University College London. She is a former member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Sir Geoffrey Inkin OBE (lay)

Geoffrey Inkin was Chairman of the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation from 1987 until 2000 and Chairman of the Land Authority for Wales from 1986 until 1998. He is a former member of Gwent County Council and Gwent Police Authority, and commanded The Royal Welsh Fusiliers from 1972 to 1974.

Judge Frances Kirkham (judicial)

Frances Kirkham started her career as a solicitor. She became a Senior Circuit Judge in October 2000 and is the designated Technology and Construction Court Judge in Birmingham. She founded the West Midlands Association of Women Solicitors and is a founder member of the United Kingdom Association of Women Judges.

Mr Edward Nally (professional - solicitor)

Edward Nally is a partner in Fieldings Porter Solicitors of Bolton and was President of the Law Society of England and Wales between 2004 and 2005. He is Governor of the College of Law and was Chair of Governors at Pendleton Sixth Form College, Salford between 2000 and 2007.

Ms Sara Nathan OBE (lay)

Sara Nathan is a journalist. She has held several public appointments and is currently Chair of the Animal Procedures Committee and an editorial adviser to the



BBC Trust. Previously she was editor of the morning programme on the BBC's Radio 5 Live and is a former editor of Channel 4 News.

District Judge Charles Newman (judicial)



Charles Newman was admitted as a solicitor in 1972 and appointed Registrar of the County Court in 1987. He has served as Chair of the District Judges IT Working Group. He is currently a member of the Judicial Advisory Group for IT and Chairman of the Northern Circuit Association of District Judges.

Judge David Pearl (tribunal)



David Pearl was called to the Bar in 1968 and lectured in law at Cambridge and the University of East Anglia. He has been the Chief Adjudicator, Immigration Appeals, the President of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal and the President of the Care Standards Tribunal. He is now Principal Judge, Care Standards and sits both in the Upper Tribunal and as a Deputy High Court Judge.

Mr Francis Plowden (lay)



Francis Plowden works as an independent adviser on public policy and management, is a non executive director of the Serious Organised Crime Agency and Chairman of the Greenwich Foundation for the old Royal Naval College. He was Chairman of the National Council for Palliative Care until 2008, and formerly a partner at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, where he was responsible for work for governments worldwide.

Ms Harriet Spicer (lay)



Harriet Spicer co-runs Working Edge coaching and mentoring groups, is a governor of the London School of Economics, was a member and Chair of the National Lottery Commission and Chair of the Friendly Almshouses, Brixton. She was a founder member and Chief Executive of Virago Press.

Mr Jonathan Sumption OBE QC (professional)

Jonathan Sumption is a barrister and joint head of Brick Court Chambers. He is a Judge of the Courts of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey and a Deputy High Court Judge. He is also a governor of the Royal Academy of Music.



Lord Justice Toulson (judicial)

Roger Toulson was appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal in January 2007. He was Chairman of the Law Commission from 2002 to 2006.

