



JUDICIAL OFFICE

JUDICIAL PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROJECTS GUIDANCE FOR RESEARCHERS

The aim of this guidance is to promote a consistent approach to requests for judicial assistance with research into the judicial process, or other aspects of court administration or procedure. This guidance supersedes an earlier set of guidance notes prepared by the Ministry of Justice.

Applications

Much as we would like to assist all-comers, in reality the judiciary are unable to help all applicants. For this reason, research applications will not be accepted from:

- Secondary school students;
- Undergraduates; or
- Those undertaking post-graduate Masters and other taught courses.

It is most unlikely that foreign research applications will be accepted.

Approval of judicial participation in research

Professional researchers who seek facilities for the conduct of research involving any member of the judiciary are required in the first instance to submit their proposals for projects to Jacqueline Leonard, Judicial Office (TM 11.08) at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL.

Each application should be supported by a formal business plan which shows clearly how the research will benefit the judiciary of England and Wales and/or HM Courts Service.

Approval for judicial support will only be granted by the relevant Head of Division. If approved, the research will comply with the following requirements:

- the proposed research is in the public interest;
- the nature of the proposed research makes judicial participation necessary;
- judicial discretion and independence would not be impaired by participation in the proposed research and members of the judiciary would not be drawn into areas of political controversy;
- participation will not impose an undue burden on members of the judiciary;
- members of the judiciary will not be identified in any reports; and
- the researcher undertakes to provide the members of the senior judiciary already mentioned, and the members of the judiciary involved in the research, with a final draft copy of any report in order to give them an opportunity to comment upon it – before a report is published

If a research project is approved, the judicial office-holders whose assistance the researcher is seeking will be informed of the project by the office of the relevant Head of Division.