



Judicial Conduct
Investigations Office

STATEMENT

JCIO 03/20

Date: 27 January 2020

STATEMENT FROM THE JUDICIAL CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

Mr Howard Tate JP

A spokesperson for the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office said:

“Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb DBE, on behalf of the Lord Chief Justice, and the Lord Chancellor have issued Mr Howard Tate JP, a magistrate assigned to the West Yorkshire Bench, with a formal warning. Whilst hearing a case in open court, Mr Tate had used his personal phone to speak twice to a defendant who had not attended the hearing. He also made comments about his actions to colleagues which were not appropriate in tone. Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb DBE and the Lord Chancellor felt the action had potentially affected the fairness of the proceedings in open court, but took into account Mr Tate’s lengthy service as a magistrate without any conduct issues and his acceptance of the errors made.”

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Media queries in relation to the JCIO should be made in the first instance to the Judicial Press Office – telephone 020 7073 4852 or via e-mail – press.enquiries@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk.

For more information about the Office, including details on how to make a complaint against a judicial office holder, you can visit the JCIO website at: <http://judicialconduct.judiciary.gov.uk>