

9 March 2021

His Honour Judge Andrew Hatton
Director of Training for Courts, the Judicial College
9th floor, Thomas More Building
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London
WC2A 2LL

Dear Andrew,

In May 2020 you kindly provided me with an update on the plans of the Judicial College to include modules/materials relating to modern slavery in magistrates and legal adviser training by autumn 2020. In addition to my request for an update on the below recommendation, I would be interested to hear what progress has been made.

On 8 October 2020, I published my review [The Modern Slavery Act 2015 statutory defence: A call for evidence](#) which examined the use of, and the challenges associated with, the defence created by s.45 of the Modern Slavery Act. The report made ten recommendations, one of which relates to the judiciary:

2. Training in the statutory defence needs to be prioritised by the police, CPS, defence lawyers, magistrates and judiciary.

I would therefore be grateful to receive an update on any training that has been completed on the Modern Slavery Act Statutory Defence. You will remember we discussed this when we met over one year ago and it continues to be the subject of significant legal challenge.

I look forward to receiving your response. In the interests of transparency, I request that you respond in a way that enables me to publish your letter on my website.

Yours sincerely,



Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner



JUDICIAL
COLLEGE

His Honour Judge Jeremy Richards
Director of Training for Courts, the Judicial College
9th Floor, Thomas More Building
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7 May 2021

Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM
Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
5th Floor, Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
London, SW1V 1PN

By email to: shelley.perera@iasc.independent.gov.uk

Dear Dame Sara,

Thank you for your letter of 9 March to HHJ Andrew Hatton which asked for an update on plans to include modules/materials relating to modern slavery in magistrates and legal adviser training by autumn 2020 and an update on any training that has been completed on the statutory defence created by s.45 of the Modern Slavery Act.

From mid-March 2020 the Judicial College's training programme and approach required urgent revision to mitigate the impact of Covid-19. This required a swift shift to a digital learning platform and a reprioritised programme to support recovery. We ran a revised training programme that was delivered digitally, with a focus on induction and some priority continuation training, including in preparation for the end of the transition period following the UK's departure from the EU.

The College is committed to regularly updating training and reference materials to ensure judicial training reflects the latest developments across its full programme, including for magistrates and the legal advisers who support them in court, to make sure training is up to date and reflects the latest developments in this area. Section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act has already been incorporated into judicial training and is a priority for magistrates and legal adviser training as we return to a full programme. A new edition of the Equal Treatment Bench Book was launched on 24 February (see <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Equal-Treatment-Bench-Book-February-2021-1.pdf>). This useful resource aims to increase judicial awareness and understanding of the different circumstances of people appearing in courts. It contains a chapter on Modern Slavery at chapter 7, with specific reference to the s.45 defence at paragraph 8.

The College takes training on modern slavery seriously and is committed to supporting the judiciary in understanding this complex field.

Yours sincerely

HHJ Jeremy Richards
Director of Training for Courts, Judicial College