

Consultation on the Judicial Mandatory Retirement Age

The Ministry of Justice has issued a consultation, which closes on 16 October, inviting views on proposals to raise the mandatory retirement age (MRA) for judicial office holders to either 72 or 75 years of age.

The consultation document is at <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/judicial-mandatory-retirement-age/>.

The retirement age for most judicial office holders is 70 and was last legislated for 27 years ago. The purpose of the Ministry of Justice's consultation is to consider if an MRA set at 70 continues to achieve the objective of balancing the requirement for sufficient judicial expertise to meet the demands on courts and tribunals whilst safeguarding improvement in judicial diversity and protecting the independence of and confidence in our judiciary.

The scope of the Ministry of Justice's consultation extends to those judicial offices whose MRA fall within the sole legislative competence of the UK Parliament. It does not include devolved judicial offices and it is for the governments in each of the devolved administrations to consult on proposals to raise the MRA for their respective devolved judicial office holders. In Wales those judicial offices are the President of Welsh Tribunals and the judicial members for each of the Welsh Tribunals.

Whilst you may already have seen and responded to the Ministry of Justice consultation, the Welsh Government would welcome your views on the proposals to raise the MRA and on the questions as set out in the Ministry of Justice's consultation document but specifically in relation to the devolved judicial offices: the President of Welsh Tribunals and the judicial members for each of the Welsh Tribunals.

Can you please provide your responses to CAUMailbox@gov.wales by 5.00pm on 30 November, 2020.

Your responses will inform the Welsh Government's engagement with the other governments of the UK as to how proposals to raise the MRA for judicial office holder will be taken forward.