

**PE1458/L**

**Letter from Petitioner Peter Cherbi re: Petition PE1458: Register of Interests for Judges Petition**

I would like to draw to the attention of members of the Public Petitions Committee, an example of a register of interests disclosure made by former Court of Session judge Lord Hardie, upon taking up his seat in the House of Lords: <http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-hardie/2647>

While Lord Hardie is one of many peers in House of Lords, as a member of the judiciary, he alone is responsible for decisions in court hence the clear requirement for a detailed register of judicial interests listing any potential for a conflict of interest, for example as identified in the case of Lord Hoffman who was required to recuse himself in the Pinochet case by Lord Irvine.

While Lord Hardie's declaration in the House of Lords is much narrower in scope than what the petition seeks, it has been recognised by members of the PPC in previous meetings as well as the Judicial Complaints Reviewer that any such register of judicial interests should also encompass non-financial interests such as memberships, unpaid trusteeships, and any relevant close family/friendship links that may be perceived as a potential conflict of interest.

Lord Hardie's declaration is at least a working example of a former and potentially serving judge's declaration of interest, due to the fact Lord Hardie clearly states on his declaration he may be called back to the bench and may receive payment for it.

I submit that this working example of a peer and potentially serving judge's interests, confirms that the creation of a statutory register of judicial interests does not and will not compromise the independence of the judiciary. Rather, it will enhance public trust in the judiciary & courts by bringing increased transparency as the Judicial Complaints Reviewer has also stated in her submission to the PPC.

I ask that the Committee consider writing to Lord Hardie to seek his views on his declaration of interests at the House of Lords. and his views on a register of interests for the judiciary.

I also ask that the Committee approach New Zealand Green Party member Dr Kennedy Graham MP of the New Zealand Parliament and seek his views on his Register of Pecuniary Interests of Judge's Bill which has been referred to in my petition and in previous PPC meetings.

Yours sincerely

Peter Cherbi