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27 January 2022

Dear Mr Burns,

Thank you for your letter dated 6 January 2022 and enclosures addressed to the Lord President of the Privy Council, which have been passed to me to reply.

The matters you raise in your letter are not for the Lord President or the Privy Council. The Lord President does not have any jurisdiction over the independent judiciary or over decisions made by any of the Secretary of States heading government departments. Only certain functions fall to Ministers as Privy Counsellors, either because they arise under the Royal Prerogative or because an Act has been drafted in such a way as to provide that delegated legislation is to be made by Order in Council. The Privy Council has no jurisdiction to investigate the matters you raise and, if it were to seek to investigate your grievance, it would be acting beyond its powers.

Your concerns need to be directed to the Department for Works and Pensions, which has policy responsibility for this matter.

I am sorry to send you what I can appreciate will be a disappointing reply.

Yours sincerely,

*M Newell*

Margaret Newell