

Results of Survey of QCs on Barriers to Seeking Judicial Appointment

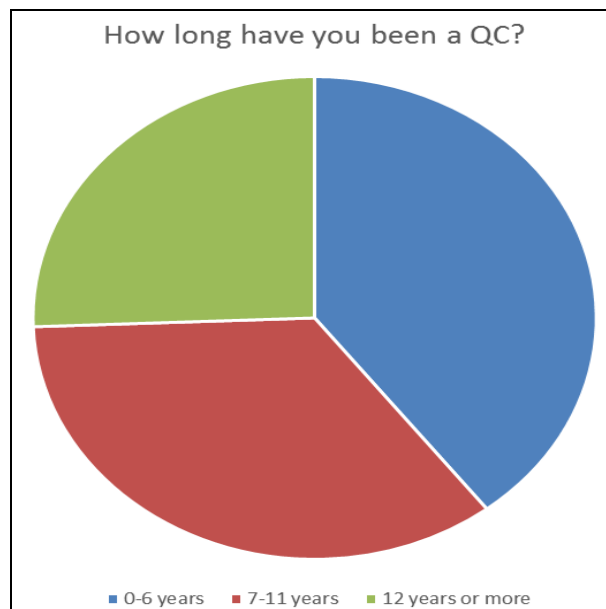
This survey was commissioned by the Lord Chief Justice in order to explore what concerns QCs may have about applying for the office of High Court Judge, and the reasons for seeking, or not seeking, appointment.

The survey was issued to 89 practising QCs through the Chairman of the Bar Council and **43 responses** were received. The response rate is therefore 48%. It was issued on Monday 9 April 2018 and remained open to responses until 30 April 2018.

The results are set out below.

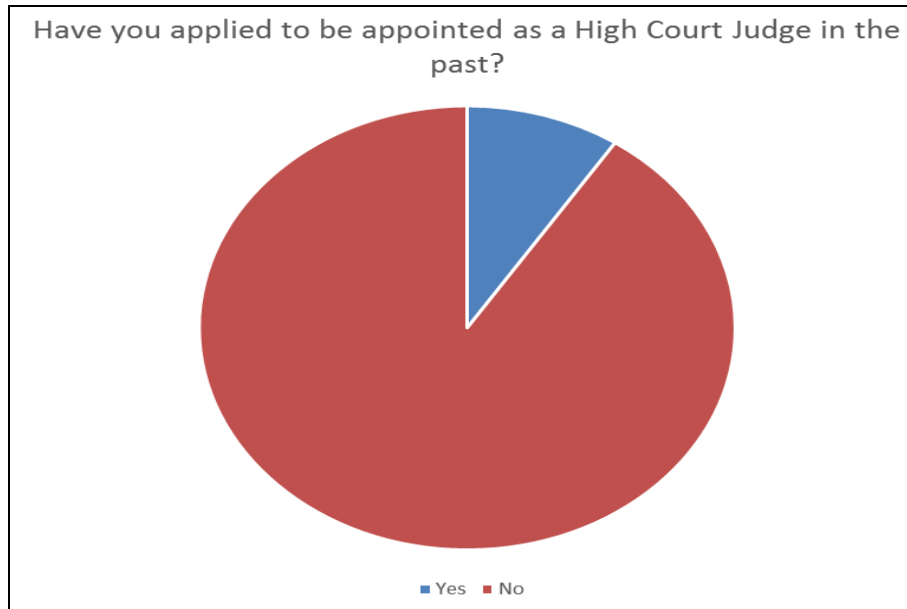
Q1: How long have you been a QC?

How long have you been a QC?	
0-6 years	17
7-11 years	15
12 years or more	11



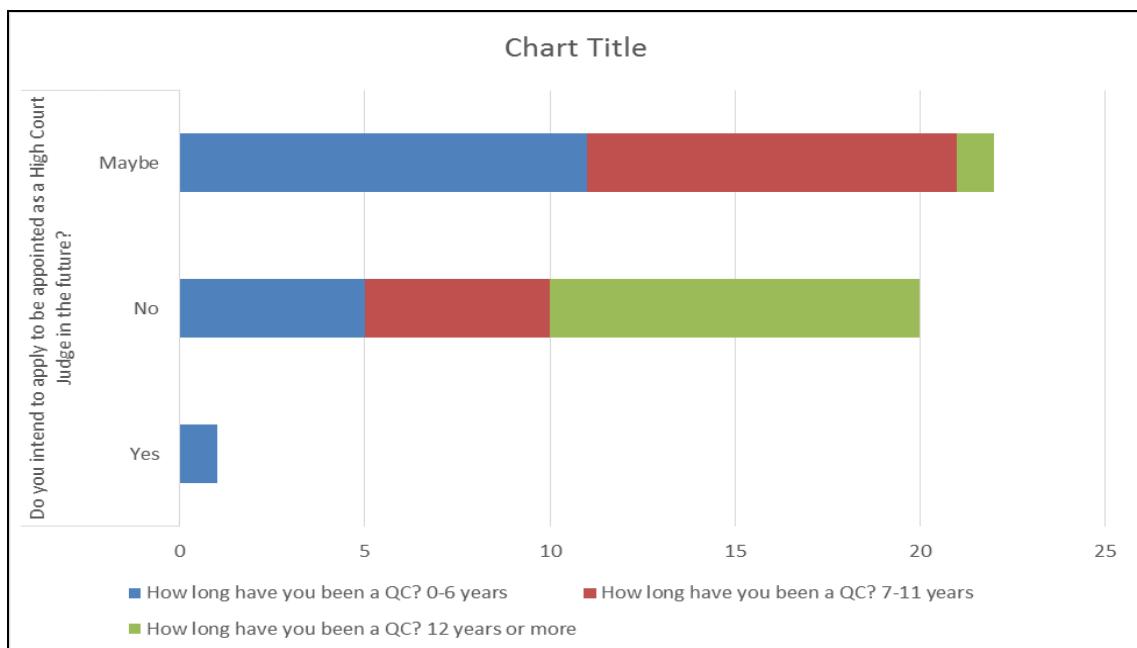
Q2: Have you applied to be appointed as a High Court Judge in the past?

Yes	4
No	39



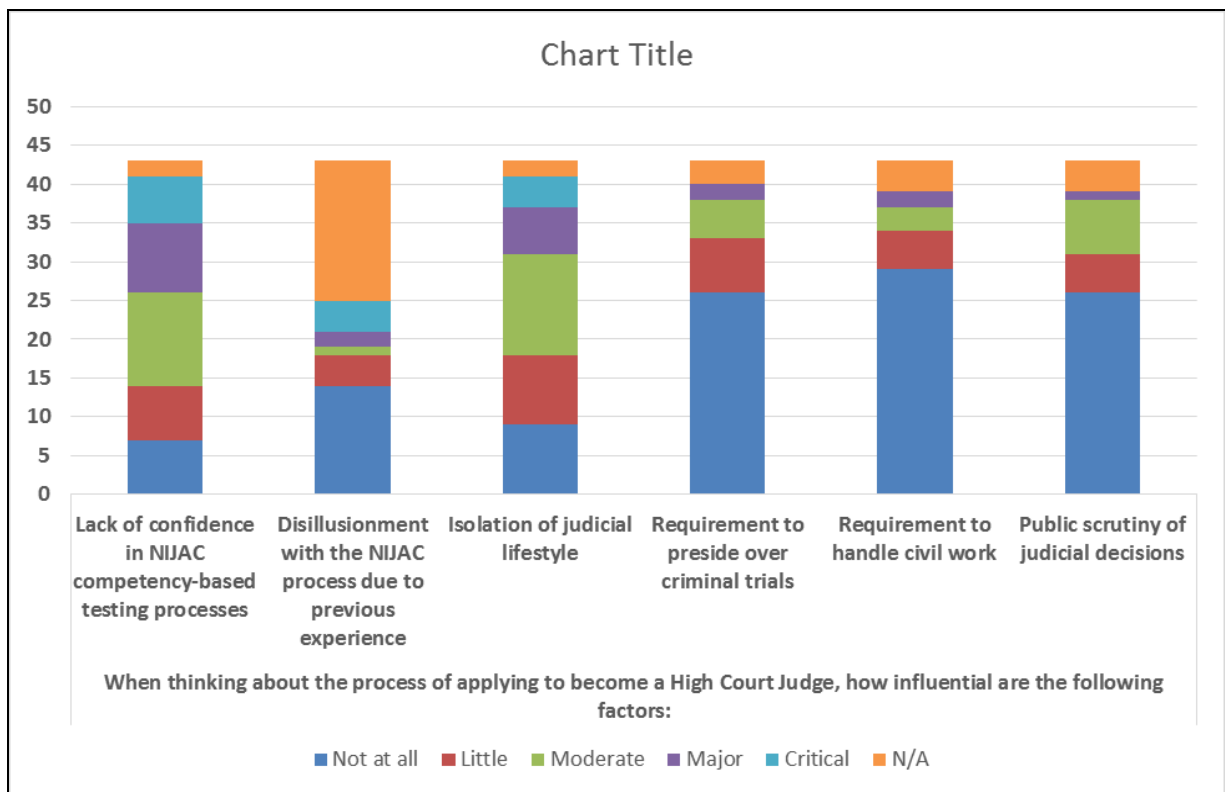
Q3: Do you intend to apply to be appointed as a High Court Judge in the future?

Yes	1
No	20
Maybe	22



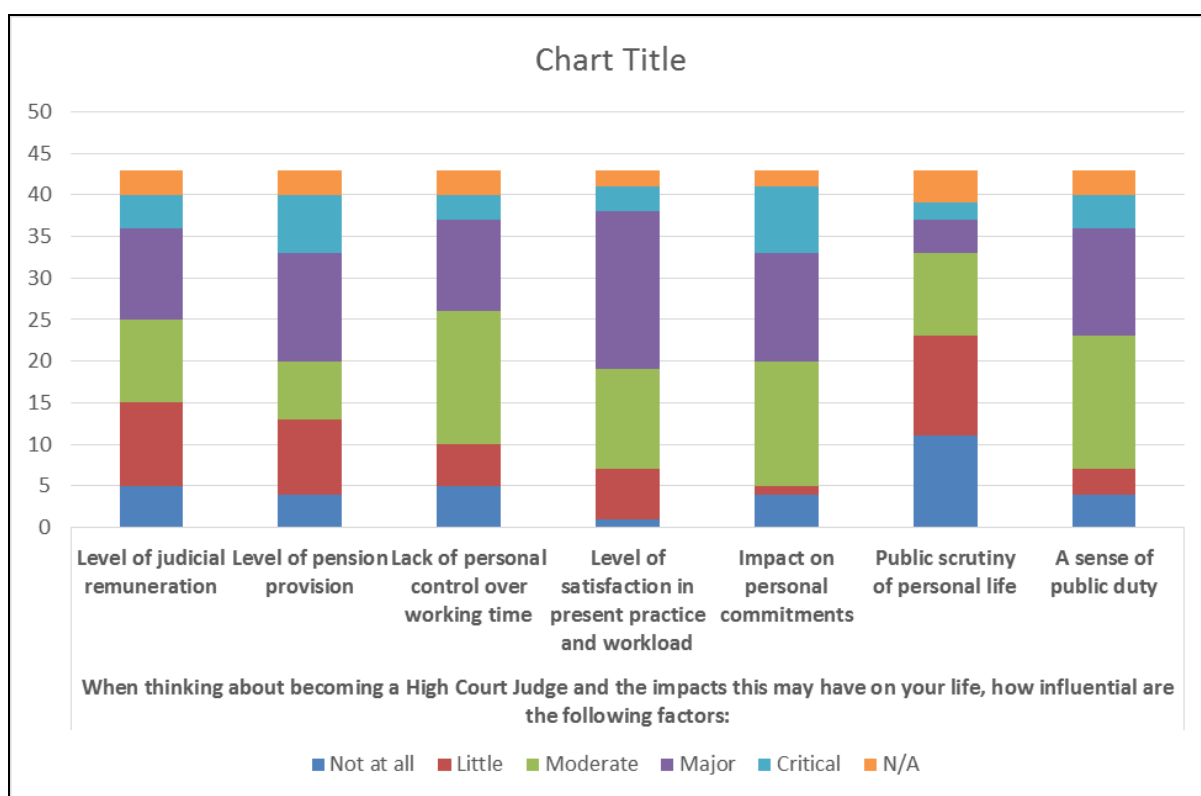
Q4: When thinking about the process of applying to become a High Court Judge, how influential are the following factors?

	Not at all	Little	Moderate	Major	Critical	n/a
Lack of confidence in NIJAC competency based testing process	7	7	12	9	6	2
Disillusionment with the NIJAC process due to previous experience	14	4	1	2	4	18
Isolation of judicial lifestyle	9	9	13	6	4	2
Requirement to preside over criminal trials	26	7	5	2	0	3
Requirement to handle civil work	29	5	3	2	0	4
Public scrutiny of judicial decisions	26	5	7	1	0	4



Q5: When thinking about becoming a High Court Judge and the impacts this may have on your life, how influential are the following factors?

	Not at all	Little	Moderate	Major	Critical	n/a
Level of judicial remuneration	5	10	10	11	4	3
Level of pension provision	4	9	7	13	7	3
Lack of personal control over working time	5	5	16	11	3	3
Level of satisfaction in present practice and workload	1	6	12	19	3	2
Impact on personal commitments	4	1	15	13	8	2
Public scrutiny of personal life	11	12	10	4	2	4
A sense of public duty	4	3	16	13	4	3

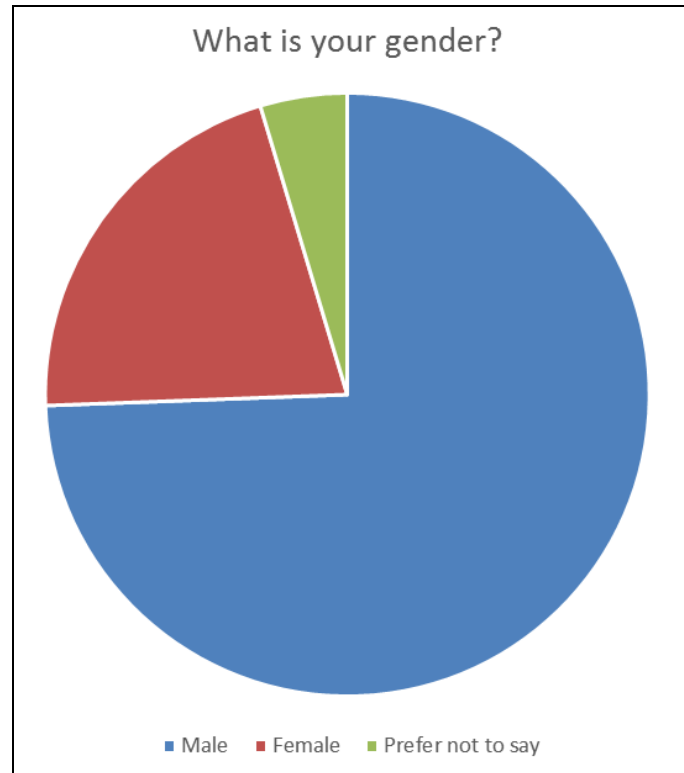


Q6: Are there any other concerns you have about becoming a High Court Judge that have not been discussed?

There was a significant focus on security issues and also the potential impact of appointment on personal and family life. A moderate number of respondents also expressed concern about the selection process and the past rejection of candidates who appeared to have been suitably qualified. Workload and associated pressure was also of concern to a moderate number of respondents.

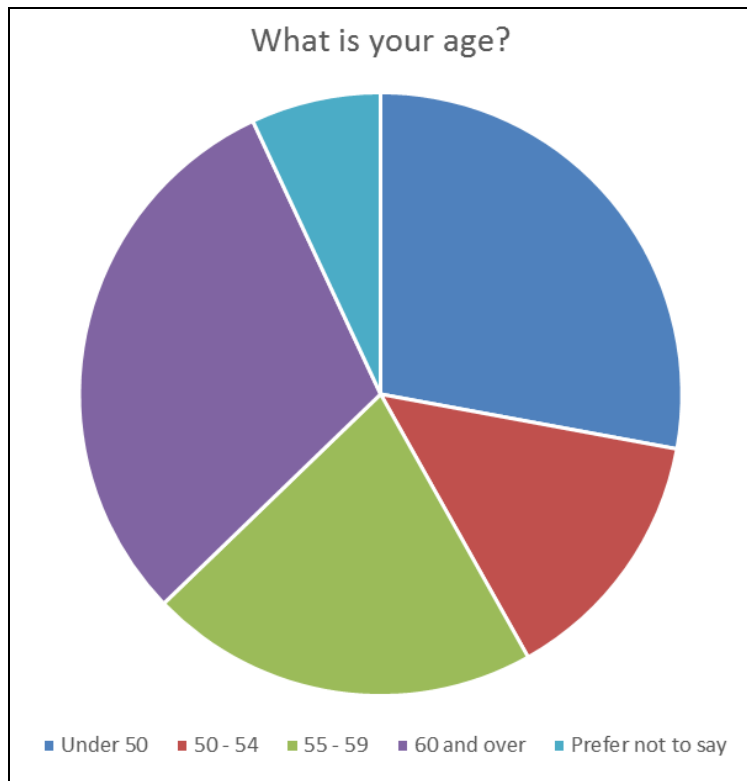
Q7: What is your gender?

Male	32
Female	9
Prefer not to say	2



Q8: What is your age?

Under 50	12
50-54	6
55-59	9
60 and over	13
Prefer not to say	3



Lord Chief Justice's Office
May 2018