

## **‘Loss of respect for senior judges**

It is outrageous that candidates for the office of Lord Chief Justice should have to jump through the hoops you describe (report, May 15). Moreover, it is unconstitutional. Our unwritten constitution has at its base the separation of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. The independence of the judiciary is at the heart of the rule of law.

A candidate for the office of Lord Chief Justice is required to produce a reference from a senior civil servant (a member of the executive). The final decision is taken by the Secretary of State for Justice (another member of the executive) and the Lord Chancellor. The same person (Chris Grayling) holds both offices. Before appointment he had no legal experience.<sup>1</sup>

What has become of judicial independence?<sup>2</sup>

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*Note:* For the background to the above letter see

<http://www.francisbennion.com/2013/015.htm>

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*The Times* Letters 16 May 2013

Any footnotes are shown at the bottom of each page

For full version of abbreviations click ‘Abbreviations’ on FB’s website

## **References:**

None

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<sup>1</sup> Section 2(1) (Lord Chancellor to be qualified by experience) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 says: ‘A person may not be recommended for appointment as Lord Chancellor unless he appears to the Prime Minister to be qualified by experience’. For my letters in *The Times* objecting to his appointment on this ground see [www.francisbennion.com/2012/017.htm](http://www.francisbennion.com/2012/017.htm) and [www.francisbennion.com/2012/018.htm](http://www.francisbennion.com/2012/018.htm).

<sup>2</sup> *The Times* Letters 16 May 2013.