STATEMENT FROM THE JUDICIAL CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

Senior Coroner Mary Hassell

A spokesperson for the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office said:

“Mary Hassell, Senior Coroner for Inner London North, was subject to a conduct investigation following an article published in the Mail on Sunday on 15 March 2015. The article referred to a letter sent from Coroner Hassell to the Local Authority voicing concerns of being bullied and intimidated by the Orthodox Jewish Community over the handling of deaths in religious communities. Following a detailed investigation the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice were satisfied that Coroner Hassell had not misrepresented or distorted the position in her letter as alleged and have dismissed this aspect of the complaint. However, the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice have found that Coroner Hassell’s decision to disclose the private letter to the media demonstrated a serious lack of judgement which amounts to misconduct. The Coroner has been issued with a reprimand.”

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Media queries in relation to the JCIO should be made in the first instance to the Judicial Press Office – telephone 020 7073 4852 or via e-mail – press.enquiries@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk.

For more information about the Office, including details on how to make a complaint against a judicial office holder, you can visit the JCIO website at: http://judicialconduct.judiciary.gov.uk