

Dame Linda Dobbs Review

London, 7 September 2017. The Dame Linda Dobbs Review, the independent legal assessment into Lloyds Banking Group's handling of events at HBOS Reading, is inviting comment from people who are affected and who wish to contribute to the Review.

Information relevant to the inquiry should be submitted directly to the Review. Details about the Review's role, the scope of the Review and contact details are available at www.dobbsreview.com. The email address to contact is info@dobbsreview.com.

Dame Linda Dobbs, a retired High Court Judge, was appointed by Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) on 26 April 2017 as an independent legal expert to consider whether the issues relating to HBOS Reading were investigated and appropriately reported to authorities at the time by LBG, following its acquisition of HBOS.

Dame Linda's independent legal assessment will cover the period following HBOS's acquisition by LBG in January 2009, through to the conclusion of the criminal trial on 30 January 2017.

The Review covers an eight-year period and will involve the examination of numerous internal documents as well as interviews with witnesses.

Dame Linda said:

"We have a great deal of ground to cover as this complex inquiry covers the eight years since LBG acquired HBOS in 2009. We will have access to material from LBG and I am confident we will be able to get to the bottom of whether LBG handled this matter appropriately.

"Since my appointment, we have been gathering a significant volume of relevant material from LBG and third parties. We are still in the process of identifying and digesting this information.

"I welcome submissions from anyone involved or affected who can help with my inquiry."

Dame Linda was the first non-white judge appointed to the High Court in the UK. While at the Bar, she specialised in fraud cases, was a member of the General Council of the Bar, chaired the Professional Standards and Race Relations Committees and was a member of other Bar Council committees including Professional Conduct and International Relations. She is a former chair of the Ethics Policy Committee at the London School of Economics.

Separate to the Review, the FCA has already confirmed that its own investigation into the events surrounding the discovery of misconduct within the HBOS Reading Impaired Assets office has recommenced. Further information about the FCA's investigation can be found [here](#).

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Notes to Editors:

- 1) On 26 April 2017, Lloyds Banking Group announced the appointment of Dame Linda Dobbs to conduct an independent legal assessment into whether the issues relating to HBOS Reading were investigated and appropriately reported to the authorities at the time by Lloyds Banking Group. The Review covers the period from January 2009, when LBG completed the acquisition of HBOS, to the conclusion of the criminal trial on 30 January 2017. Once completed, the findings of Dame Linda's Review will be shared with the FCA.

Dame Linda Dobbs' Review follows the conviction in January 2017 of six individuals for criminal offences relating to events which occurred in the Impaired Assets Office in Reading, part of the Corporate division of HBOS, between approximately 2003 and 2007. Two of the individuals convicted were former senior managers of HBOS, Lynden Scourfield and Mark Dobson. The others were associated with a third-party turnaround consultancy firm, Quayside Corporate Services Limited, which had been instructed as consultants to a number of customers of IAR.

- 2) Dame Linda Dobbs Biography

Dame Linda Dobbs DBE, B.Sc., LL.M., Ph.D., is a retired High Court Judge. Whilst at the Bar, Dame Linda specialised in criminal law, and in particular fraud cases, acting for both prosecution and defence. She became a Queen's Counsel in 1998. She was consultant editor of the text: *Fraud, Law, Practice and Procedure* and is a

contributing editor to *Archbold Criminal Pleading, Evidence and Practice*. She was a member of the General Council of the Bar, chaired the Professional Standards and Race Relations Committees and was a member of other Bar Council committees including Professional Conduct and International Relations. In 2003, she became the Chair of the Criminal Bar Association and in 2004 she was appointed a judge of the High Court. In April 2013 she stepped down from the Bench to pursue other interests, including advisory and inquiry work and the training of judges and lawyers internationally. Dame Linda sits on a number of boards and advisory panels and is a former chair of the Ethics Policy Committee at the London School of Economics. She holds 6 honorary doctorates in law and is a Senior Fellow in the Law Department at SOAS and is Pro Chancellor at the University of Surrey.