

DOCUMENT 3 OF 4

**FORMAL COMPLAINT — EQUALITY, RACE AND RELIGION SAFEGUARDING
CONCERNS ARISING FROM SECURITY TREATMENT ON 26 AUGUST 2026**

Our Reference: DEL/WGCC/COMPLAINT/03/2026-08-26

Case Reference: 01GD1160226

Date: 26 August 2026

FROM

Derrick Lynch (also known as John Canoe)

23 Jersey House

2 Eastfield Road

Enfield

EN3 5UY

United Kingdom

Email: Derrick_Lynch@hotmail.co.uk

Email: thereparationnation@gmail.com

TO

Court Manager / Complaints Manager

Wood Green Crown Court

Woodall House

Lordship Lane

Wood Green

London

N22 5LF

United Kingdom

Email: woodgreencrowncourt@justice.gov.uk

SUBJECT

**FORMAL COMPLAINT — CONCERN AND SUSPICION OF POSSIBLE RACIAL AND/OR
RELIGION-OR-BELIEF DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT — REQUEST FOR FACTUAL
INVESTIGATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF SAFEGUARDS**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I submit this as **Document 3 of four separate but related formal complaints** arising from my attendance at Wood Green Crown Court on **26 August 2026**.

This document addresses specifically the **equality, race, religion and safeguarding implications** of what occurred.

It must be read carefully because I am deliberately distinguishing between:

1. **facts which I say occurred;**
2. **concerns and suspicions arising from those facts; and**
3. **conclusions which I have not reached.**

I require Wood Green Crown Court and HM Courts & Tribunals Service to preserve that distinction when recording, investigating and responding to this complaint.

1. IMPORTANT STATEMENT OF POSITION

For the avoidance of doubt:

I make no accusation.

I make no allegation that any identified individual is racist.

I make no allegation that any identified individual deliberately discriminated against me because of my race or religion.

I make no assumption about the motives of the security personnel involved.

I make no assertion that unlawful discrimination has already been established.

I have reached no conclusion that racism, anti-Black racism, institutional racism or religious discrimination caused what happened.

However, the circumstances of my treatment have caused me to have a **genuine concern and suspicion that race and/or religion may have influenced, consciously or unconsciously, the decision-making or treatment that occurred.**

That concern requires investigation.

The purpose of this complaint is to obtain the facts necessary for me, HMCTS and any appropriate reviewing body to determine whether that concern is substantiated or unsubstantiated.

2. RELEVANT FACTUAL CONTEXT

I am a Black person.

I attended Wood Green Crown Court on **26 August 2026.**

I was wearing articles which I had expressly identified to the Court as religious articles connected with my **VooDoo religious observance**.

Those articles included:

1. a metal wrist/arm cuff;
2. a short chain; and
3. a small combination padlock.

I had provided advance written notification to Wood Green Crown Court.

The notice was dated **5 August 2026**.

The documentary evidence in my possession bears a Wood Green Crown Court receipt stamp dated:

06 AUG 2026.

The notice included a photograph of the religious articles.

Accordingly, both the religious character and physical appearance of the articles had been disclosed before my attendance.

3. PREVIOUS COURT TREATMENT

I had previously attended other courts with the same religious articles.

At **Westminster Magistrates' Court** and **Thames Magistrates' Court**, security personnel required removal of the chain and padlock but permitted me to retain the metal wrist/arm cuff.

The chain and padlock were returned to me when I left.

I therefore had previous experience of court security addressing its security concerns while permitting me to retain part of the religious article.

I explained this previous arrangement at Wood Green Crown Court.

Nevertheless, I was required to remove the metal wrist/arm cuff itself.

The precise security decision and justification are addressed in **Document 2**.

4. WHY AN EQUALITY CONCERN HAS ARISEN

The fact that Wood Green Crown Court treated the religious article differently from the arrangements I experienced at Westminster Magistrates' Court and Thames Magistrates' Court does **not by itself prove discrimination**.

I expressly acknowledge that.

Different security decisions can potentially have legitimate explanations.

However, where:

- I am a Black person;
- the item was expressly identified as religious;
- the religious observance was disclosed in advance;
- a photograph was supplied;
- the Court received the advance notice;
- I explained the previous arrangements used at other courts;
- I identified a less restrictive security arrangement;
- my explanation was not accepted; and
- I was nevertheless required to remove the religious wrist/arm cuff,

I consider it reasonable to require an investigation into whether race, religion, stereotyping, unconscious bias, inconsistent practice, institutional processes or any other discriminatory factor played any part in the treatment.

I am seeking evidence.

5. RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

The wrist/arm cuff was not being worn by me as jewellery, decoration or an ordinary personal possession.

I had expressly identified it as part of my religious observance.

My Westminster documentation records that the metal wrist/arm cuff, short chain and combination padlock were worn as a religious observance and for religious reasons.

The prior notice also requested that security personnel be informed in advance so that unnecessary difficulty or confrontation could be avoided.

The religious character of the item was therefore not something raised retrospectively after a security problem arose.

It had been expressly documented beforehand.

6. RACIAL DIMENSION

I am also concerned about the racial dimension.

I am a Black person dealing with a public authority and its security arrangements.

I do not know whether my race influenced what occurred.

I therefore do not assert that it did.

However, I require the investigation to establish whether the decision-making process contained effective safeguards capable of identifying and preventing:

- racial discrimination;
- anti-Black racism;
- racial stereotyping;
- unconscious racial bias;
- inconsistent treatment associated with race;
- discriminatory assumptions; and
- institutional practices capable of producing unjustified differential treatment.

A response stating merely that HMCTS is committed to equality will not answer this question.

I require information about the safeguards and decision-making process actually applicable to the incident.

7. INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

My reference to **institutional racism** must not be misrepresented as an accusation that Wood Green Crown Court or HMCTS has been proved to be institutionally racist.

That is not my position.

My concern is whether the **institutional arrangements themselves contain adequate safeguards** against discriminatory outcomes.

An institution can have policies opposing discrimination while an individual decision can still be affected by inconsistency, stereotyping, unconscious bias, inadequate training, poor communication or deficient procedures.

Accordingly, I require evidence of the relevant safeguards rather than a general statement of organisational values.

8. EQUALITY ACT 2010

I request that HMCTS considers the circumstances under the applicable provisions of the **Equality Act 2010**, including insofar as applicable the protected characteristics of:

- **race**; and
- **religion or belief**.

I also request that HMCTS identifies how the **Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010** was relevant to the policies, procedures and decision-making governing this situation.

I am not asserting through this complaint that a breach of the Equality Act 2010 has already been established.

I require HMCTS to explain how its applicable equality obligations were implemented in practice.

9. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

I also request consideration of the protection of freedom of thought, conscience and religion under **Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights**, insofar as applicable.

I recognise that religious manifestation is not necessarily unrestricted and that legitimate security considerations can arise within a Crown Court.

The question is therefore not whether security rules exist.

The relevant question is whether the interference with my religious observance was appropriately justified and whether the measure imposed was necessary and proportionate to the legitimate security concern identified.

10. SAFEGUARDS AGAINST RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

Please identify the safeguards applicable at Wood Green Crown Court on 26 August 2026 for preventing discriminatory treatment based upon religion or belief.

In particular, identify:

1. the relevant policy or procedure;

2. the training provided to security personnel;
3. how unfamiliar religious practices are handled;
4. how staff distinguish legitimate security concerns from assumptions about unfamiliar religious articles;
5. when supervisors must be consulted;
6. whether reasonable alternatives are considered;
7. how equality considerations are recorded; and
8. what review mechanism exists where a court user says that a security requirement interferes with religious observance.

11. SAFEGUARDS AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-BLACK RACISM

Please identify the safeguards applicable to Court Security and HMCTS personnel for preventing racial discrimination, including anti-Black racism.

Please identify, specifically:

1. applicable equality policies;
2. applicable security policies containing equality safeguards;
3. race-equality training;
4. anti-racism training;
5. training addressing anti-Black racism, if any;
6. unconscious-bias training or equivalent decision-making safeguards, if any;
7. supervision arrangements;
8. complaint-review mechanisms;
9. monitoring of differential treatment;
10. mechanisms for identifying racial disparities in security decisions; and
11. how compliance is audited.

If a requested safeguard does **not** exist, please state that clearly.

I do not require HMCTS to describe a safeguard as existing where it does not.

12. INDIVIDUAL DECISION-MAKING

Please establish whether any aspect of the decision concerning me was affected by:

- my race;
- the nature or perceived nature of my religion;
- unfamiliarity with VooDoo;
- assumptions about the religious articles;
- assumptions about me personally;
- stereotyping;
- unconscious bias;
- inconsistent application of security policy; or
- any other irrelevant consideration.

If the investigation establishes that none of these factors influenced the decision, please identify the evidence upon which that conclusion is based.

13. COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS COURT ARRANGEMENTS

I am not asking Wood Green Crown Court to assume that Westminster Magistrates' Court or Thames Magistrates' Court necessarily made the legally or operationally correct security decision.

I am asking for the difference to be investigated.

If Wood Green Crown Court applied a different rule, identify it.

If all three courts operated under the same rule but exercised discretion differently, explain the scope of that discretion.

If the circumstances were materially different, identify the material difference.

If Wood Green Crown Court considers that Westminster or Thames should not have permitted me to retain the wrist/arm cuff, state that clearly.

What is required is a factual explanation capable of accounting for the different treatment.

14. QUESTIONS REQUIRING INDIVIDUAL ANSWERS

Please answer each question separately.

Question 1

What safeguards against race discrimination applied to the security decision concerning me on 26 August 2026?

Question 2

What safeguards against religion-or-belief discrimination applied?

Question 3

What safeguards specifically address anti-Black racism, if any?

Question 4

What safeguards address unconscious bias or equivalent risks in security decision-making?

Question 5

What training concerning race discrimination had the relevant security personnel received?

Question 6

What training concerning religion-or-belief discrimination had they received?

Question 7

Had the relevant personnel received any training concerning unfamiliar or minority religious practices?

Question 8

Had the relevant personnel received any training specifically addressing anti-Black racism?

Question 9

If yes, identify the nature and date or frequency of that training insofar as records permit.

Question 10

Was the religious nature of my wrist/arm cuff expressly considered before requiring its removal?

Question 11

Was any equality assessment undertaken before or during the decision?

Question 12

Was a supervisor consulted after I explained the religious significance and previous court arrangements?

Question 13

Was any equality, diversity or inclusion officer or equivalent resource available for consultation?

Question 14

Does HMCTS record or monitor complaints concerning racial or religious treatment by court security?

Question 15

Does HMCTS monitor whether security rules have differential effects upon particular racial or religious groups?

Question 16

What mechanism exists for identifying inconsistent security treatment between different courts?

Question 17

Does HMCTS consider that the treatment I received complied with its race-equality obligations?

Question 18

Does HMCTS consider that the treatment complied with its religion-or-belief equality obligations?

Question 19

What evidence supports those conclusions?

Question 20

Having investigated the matter, can HMCTS exclude race and/or religion as an improper factor in the treatment I received, and if so, upon what evidence?

15. NO GENERIC ASSURANCES

I specifically request that HMCTS does **not** answer this complaint merely by stating words to the effect that:

- HMCTS takes equality seriously;
- HMCTS does not tolerate discrimination;

- staff are expected to treat everyone equally;
- HMCTS values diversity; or
- HMCTS has equality policies.

Those statements, even if entirely correct, do not answer the questions raised.

I require the **actual safeguards, policies, procedures, training, records and decision-making evidence** applicable to what occurred.

Where information is not held or a safeguard does not exist, please say so expressly.

16. PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

Please preserve all records capable of assisting the investigation of the equality aspects of the incident, including:

- CCTV;
- security incident reports;
- staff notes;
- supervisor notes;
- security logs;
- relevant internal communications;
- relevant emails;
- records identifying the security personnel involved;
- records identifying supervisors;
- the advance notice received by Wood Green Crown Court;
- any contemporaneous risk assessment;
- applicable security policies;
- applicable equality policies;
- relevant operational instructions; and
- records showing the training applicable to the personnel involved.

This request is made because contemporaneous evidence should determine what happened rather than retrospective assumption.

17. REQUEST FOR OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION

I request that the investigation distinguishes between:

- A. what objectively happened;**
- B. what the security personnel understood at the time;**
- C. what policies and safeguards applied;**
- D. whether those policies and safeguards were actually followed;**
- E. whether race or religion played any improper role; and**
- F. whether improvements are required irrespective of whether unlawful discrimination is ultimately established.**

This distinction is important.

A finding that an individual did not consciously intend to discriminate would not, by itself, answer whether procedures, unconscious bias, inconsistent practice or institutional safeguards contributed to the outcome.

Equally, the fact that I have raised a racial and religious concern should not be treated as proof that discrimination occurred.

The evidence should determine the outcome.

18. APOLOGY AND REMEDIAL ACTION

If the investigation establishes that my religious observance was interfered with without adequate justification, I require a written apology.

If the investigation identifies deficiencies in:

- communication;
- security procedure;
- equality safeguards;
- staff training;
- supervision;
- religious-awareness procedures; or
- consistency between courts,

I request that the corrective measures be identified.

If HMCTS concludes that no failure occurred, I require the factual and policy basis for that conclusion.

19. OUTCOME REQUIRED

I require:

1. acknowledgement of this formal complaint;
 2. a separate complaint reference number;
 3. identification of the person or office investigating it;
 4. individual answers to the questions in Section 14;
 5. identification of the applicable race-equality safeguards;
 6. identification of the applicable religion-or-belief safeguards;
 7. identification of safeguards against anti-Black racism, if any;
 8. identification of relevant training;
 9. an evidence-based determination of whether race or religion improperly influenced the treatment;
 10. confirmation that relevant evidence has been preserved;
 11. identification of any remedial measures required; and
 12. an apology if the investigation establishes unjustified interference with my religious observance or discriminatory treatment.
-

20. FINAL POSITION

I am not asking HMCTS to accept my suspicion as fact.

I am asking HMCTS to **investigate the facts so that neither I nor HMCTS has to rely upon assumption.**

My position remains:

I make no accusation, no allegation, no assumption and no assertion that racism, anti-Black racism, institutional racism or religious discrimination caused the incident. I have reached no such conclusion.

I do, however, have a concern and suspicion arising from the circumstances, and I require that concern to be investigated objectively against the evidence.

Wednesday, 26 August 2026 26/08/2026 19:22:33

Please provide a substantive written response addressing the numbered questions individually.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Derrick Lynch', with a large circular flourish on the left and a long diagonal stroke extending to the right.

Derrick Lynch
also known as John Canoe

23 Jersey House
2 Eastfield Road
Enfield
EN3 5UY
United Kingdom

Email: Derrick_Lynch@hotmail.co.uk

Email: thereparationnation@gmail.com

Case Reference: 01GD1160226

Complaint Reference: DEL/WGCC/COMPLAINT/03/2026-08-26

WOOD GREEN

Wednesday, 05 August 2026 05/08/2026 08:54:21

Derrick Lynch (also known as John Canoe)

23 Jersey House
2 Eastfield Road
Enfield
EN3 5UY

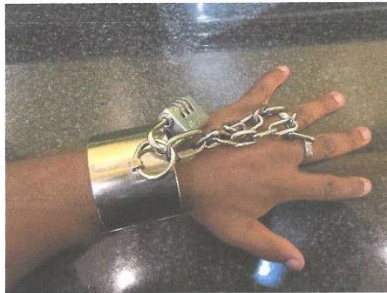
Email: Derrick_Lynch@hotmail.co.uk
Email: thereparationnation@gmail.com

Date: 5 August 2026

Court Security Manager

Wood Green Crown Court
Lordship Lane
Wood Green
London
N22 5LF

woodgreencrowncourt@justice.gov.uk



Subject: URGENT – Advance Notice for Hearing on 26 August 2026 – Religious Articles – Please Forward to Court Security and Relevant Staff

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to provide advance notice before my attendance at Wood Green Crown Court on **26 August 2026**.

I will be attending court wearing religious articles on my arm and hand as part of my religious observance (VooDoo). These include a metal wrist/arm cuff with a short chain and a small combination padlock.

These articles are worn solely for religious purposes. They are not carried for any unlawful or improper purpose.

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WOOD GREEN

Wednesday, 05 August 2026 05/08/2026 08:54:21

Derrick Lynch (also known as John Canoe)

23 Jersey House
2 Eastfield Road
Enfield
EN3 5UY

Email: Derrick_Lynch@hotmail.co.uk
Email: thereparationnation@gmail.com

Date: 5 August 2026

Court Security Manager

Wood Green Crown Court
Lordship Lane
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THAMES

VOODOO

COURT SECURITY NOTICE — RELIGIOUS ARTICLES (VOODOO)

18 June 2026

Mr Derrick E. Lynch (also known as John Canoe)
23 Jersey House
2 Eastfield Road
Enfield
EN3 5UY
United Kingdom

Email: Derrick_Lynch@Hotmail.Co.UK
Email: thereparationnation@gmail.com

Court Security Manager
Stratford Magistrates' Court
389-397 High Street
Stratford
London
E15 4SB
United Kingdom

Subject: CASE REF 01GD1160226 – ADVANCE NOTICE OF RELIGIOUS ARTICLES TO BE WORN AT COURT

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to provide advance notice that I will be attending Stratford Magistrates' Court in relation to Case Reference 01GD1160226.

I will be wearing religious articles as part of my Voodoo faith and religious observance.

The articles consist of a metal wrist/arm cuff with a short chain and a small combination padlock worn on my arm and hand. These items are worn solely for religious purposes and are not carried for any improper purpose.

I am providing this notice in advance so there is no misunderstanding, delay, difficulty, confrontation, or unnecessary disruption when I arrive at court.

I respectfully request that:

1. This notice is placed on record.
2. Relevant security staff are informed in advance that I may attend wearing these religious articles.

