

DOCUMENT 2 OF 4

FORMAL COMPLAINT — FORCED REMOVAL OF RELIGIOUS ARTICLE, FAILURE TO CONSIDER PREVIOUS COURT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, AND REQUEST FOR PRECISE SECURITY JUSTIFICATION

Our Reference: DEL/WGCC/COMPLAINT/02/2026-08-26

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 — REQUIREMENT TO REMOVE RELIGIOUS METAL WRIST/ARM CUFF — ATTENDANCE AT WOOD GREEN CROWN COURT ON 26 AUGUST 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

I submit this as **Document 2 of four separate but related formal complaints** arising from my attendance at Wood Green Crown Court on **26 August 2026**.

This document concerns specifically the decision by Court Security to require me to remove the **metal wrist/arm cuff that I wear as part of my VooDoo religious observance**.

This document does not ask Wood Green Crown Court simply to provide an assurance that security procedures were followed.

I require the **facts, applicable security rule or policy, decision-making process, reasons for the decision, identity or position of the relevant decision-maker, and explanation of why a less restrictive arrangement previously used at other courts was not accepted at Wood Green Crown Court**.

1. RELIGIOUS NATURE OF THE ARTICLES

I wear religious articles on my arm and hand as part of my **VooDoo religious observance**.

The articles consist of:

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

These articles are worn for religious purposes.

They are not carried for an unlawful or improper purpose.

The religious nature and physical appearance of these articles had been disclosed to the court system in advance.

My previous Westminster Magistrates' Court notice expressly recorded that the metal wrist/arm cuff, chain and combination padlock were worn as part of my religious observance.

2. PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE COURTS

This issue did not arise for the first time at Wood Green Crown Court.

I have consistently taken steps to notify courts in advance that I would be attending while wearing these religious articles.

My documentary record includes notices concerning:

Westminster Magistrates' Court
181 Marylebone Road

London
NW1 5BR
United Kingdom

and

Thames Magistrates' Court

58 Bow Road
London
E3 4DJ
United Kingdom.

The documents in my possession include court receipt stamps.

My Westminster notice expressly stated that I wore:

a metal wrist/arm cuff with a short chain and a small combination padlock
as a religious observance.

I had therefore openly disclosed the nature of the articles and had not attempted to conceal them.

3. PREVIOUS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

My previous experience at **Westminster Magistrates' Court** and **Thames Magistrates' Court** is directly relevant.

At those courts, security personnel required me to remove the:

- padlock; and
- chain.

Those items were retained while I was inside the court and returned to me when I left.

However, I was permitted to continue wearing the **metal wrist/arm cuff**.

That arrangement distinguished between the separate components of the religious articles.

It allowed the courts to address their security concerns concerning the chain and padlock while permitting me to retain the metal wrist/arm cuff forming part of my religious observance.

I do not contend in this complaint that a security decision made at one court necessarily binds every other court.

I do contend that this previous arrangement was relevant information which I was entitled to bring to the attention of Wood Green Crown Court Security and which should have been properly considered before a more restrictive course was imposed.

4. ADVANCE NOTICE TO WOOD GREEN CROWN COURT

I did not arrive at Wood Green Crown Court without warning.

A written notice dated **5 August 2026** was provided to Wood Green Crown Court in advance of my hearing on **26 August 2026**.

The notice was specifically addressed to the **Court Security Manager**.

Its subject stated:

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

The notice expressly stated that I would attend wearing religious articles as part of my VooDoo religious observance.

It identified:

- the metal wrist/arm cuff;
- the short chain; and
- the small combination padlock.

A photograph was included.

The document bears a **Wood Green Crown Court RECEIVED stamp dated 06 AUG 2026**.

Accordingly, the Court had approximately twenty days' notice before my attendance.

The administrative handling of that advance notice is the subject of **Document 1**.

5. EVENTS AT WOOD GREEN CROWN COURT ON 26 AUGUST 2026

I attended Wood Green Crown Court on **26 August 2026** wearing the religious articles.

There was confusion at security notwithstanding my advance notification.

I explained to Court Security that I had previously attended other courts wearing the same religious articles.

I explained the previous security arrangement.

In substance, I explained that Westminster Magistrates' Court and Thames Magistrates' Court had permitted me to retain the metal wrist/arm cuff after the chain and padlock had been removed.

I was therefore not asking Wood Green Crown Court Security to disregard security requirements.

I was explaining that a practical security arrangement had previously been used which simultaneously:

1. addressed the security concerns concerning the chain and padlock; and
2. allowed me to continue wearing the religious metal wrist/arm cuff.

6. MY EXPLANATION WAS NOT ACCEPTED

Despite my explanation, Wood Green Crown Court Security required me to remove the religious metal wrist/arm cuff.

I found this **greatly offensive and distressing because the article was being worn as part of my religious observance.**

The central issue requiring investigation is not merely whether Court Security possesses security powers.

I recognise that court security exists for legitimate reasons and that security personnel are required to assess objects entering a court building.

The issue is:

Why was complete removal of my religious wrist/arm cuff considered necessary at Wood Green Crown Court when I explained that Westminster Magistrates' Court and Thames Magistrates' Court had previously addressed the security issue by removing the chain and padlock while permitting the wrist/arm cuff to remain?

That question requires a substantive answer.

7. I REQUIRE THE ACTUAL SECURITY BASIS

I do not require a generic response stating that:

- security is important;
- staff must protect court users;
- security officers have discretion;

- different circumstances can require different decisions; or
- court users must comply with security instructions.

I understand those general propositions.

I require the **specific basis for the specific decision made concerning me and my religious article on 26 August 2026.**

If there was a rule prohibiting the wrist/arm cuff, identify that rule.

If there was a written HMCTS security policy, identify the relevant provision.

If there was a local Wood Green Crown Court security policy, identify it.

If the decision resulted from an individual risk assessment, identify the relevant factors considered.

If the decision was made pursuant to the judgment or discretion of an individual security officer, identify the nature and limits of that discretion.

If a supervisor made or confirmed the decision, identify that fact.

8. LESS RESTRICTIVE ALTERNATIVE

A plainly identifiable less restrictive alternative was available for consideration because I specifically described it.

That alternative was:

remove the chain and padlock, retain those items while I was inside the court, permit me to continue wearing the metal wrist/arm cuff, and return the chain and padlock when I left.

That was the arrangement I say had previously operated at Westminster Magistrates' Court and Thames Magistrates' Court.

I therefore require Wood Green Crown Court to explain whether this alternative was actually considered.

If it was considered and rejected, explain why.

If it was not considered, explain why the information I provided was not taken into account.

9. RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE

The fact that the wrist/arm cuff was a religious article was not incidental.

I expressly informed the Court of its religious character.

I had done so in writing before attending.

I explained the position again when attending.

The photograph provided in advance showed the articles.

The decision therefore concerned an article that I had expressly identified as being worn in the exercise of my religious observance.

This requires the complaint investigation to determine what consideration, if any, was given to the religious character of the article before requiring its removal.

10. EQUALITY AND HUMAN-RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

I request that the investigation identifies whether and how the decision-making process took account of any applicable obligations concerning:

- religion or belief;
- equal treatment;
- the **Equality Act 2010**;
- the **Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010**;
- freedom of thought, conscience and religion;
- **Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights**, insofar as applicable; and
- proportionality where a security requirement interferes with religious observance.

I am not asserting in this document that any particular statutory or Convention breach has already been established.

I am asking HMCTS to identify what legal, policy and equality considerations actually informed the decision.

11. QUESTIONS REQUIRING INDIVIDUAL ANSWERS

Please answer each question separately.

Question 1

Who made the decision on 26 August 2026 that I could not enter Wood Green Crown Court while wearing the metal religious wrist/arm cuff?

Question 2

Was the decision made by an HMCTS employee, contracted security officer, security supervisor, Court Security Manager or another person?

Question 3

What precise security concern was presented by the metal wrist/arm cuff itself?

Question 4

What written rule, policy, instruction or security criterion authorised or required its removal?

Question 5

If a written provision exists, please identify the document and relevant provision.

Question 6

Was an individual risk assessment undertaken?

Question 7

If so, what factors were considered?

Question 8

Was the fact that the wrist/arm cuff was a religious article taken into account?

Question 9

If so, how was that fact taken into account?

Question 10

Was my explanation concerning the arrangements previously adopted at Westminster Magistrates' Court and Thames Magistrates' Court taken into account?

Question 11

Was the alternative of removing only the chain and padlock while allowing the wrist/arm cuff to remain considered?

Question 12

If that alternative was considered, why was it rejected?

Question 13

If it was not considered, why was it not considered?

Question 14

Was a security supervisor consulted before I was required to remove the wrist/arm cuff?

Question 15

Was the Court Security Manager consulted?

Question 16

Was any HMCTS member of staff consulted?

Question 17

Was any written record made of the decision?

Question 18

Was an incident report produced?

Question 19

What consideration was given to the religious significance of requiring removal of the article?

Question 20

What consideration was given to whether a less restrictive security measure could adequately address any legitimate security concern?

12. DISTINCTION BETWEEN SECURITY AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

I recognise the legitimate function of court security.

I am not asking HMCTS to abandon or weaken legitimate security requirements because an article has religious significance.

Equally, describing something as a security decision does not remove the need to explain:

- what risk existed;
- how that risk was assessed;
- what alternatives were considered;
- why the restriction imposed was necessary; and
- what consideration was given to the religious character of the article.

The purpose of this complaint is therefore to establish whether the requirement imposed upon me was based upon an identifiable and properly considered security justification.

13. NO PREDETERMINED CONCLUSION

For the avoidance of doubt:

I make no allegation, accusation, assumption, assertion or conclusion in this document that the individual security personnel deliberately discriminated against me because of my religion.

I do not presently know why the materially different decision was made.

That is precisely why I am asking for an investigation and documentary explanation.

The separate question of possible racial and/or religion-or-belief discriminatory treatment and the safeguards applicable to that issue is addressed in **Document 3**.

14. PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

Please preserve all material relevant to the security decision made on **26 August 2026**, including, insofar as it exists:

- CCTV covering the security entrance and relevant security area;
- incident reports;
- security logs;
- staff notes;
- supervisor notes;
- emails;
- internal communications;
- radio or control-room records where retained;
- records identifying the security personnel on duty;
- records identifying supervisors on duty;
- the advance notice concerning my religious articles;
- any security assessment concerning me or the articles;
- any record of consultation concerning whether I could retain the wrist/arm cuff;

- any relevant local security instructions; and
- any contemporaneous record of my interaction with Court Security.

This is an express **preservation request** because those materials may provide objective evidence of what occurred.

15. APOLOGY REQUESTED

Being required to remove an article which I had expressly identified as a religious article was seriously offensive to me.

I had attempted to avoid precisely this situation through advance notification.

I had also explained a less restrictive security arrangement previously adopted at other courts.

I therefore request an apology for the interference with my religious observance **unless the investigation establishes and explains a specific, necessary and proportionate security basis for requiring removal of the wrist/arm cuff itself.**

Any such explanation should identify the actual decision and reasoning applicable on 26 August 2026 rather than relying upon a retrospective generic description of court security.

16. OUTCOME REQUIRED

I require:

1. formal acknowledgement of this complaint;
2. a separate complaint reference number;
3. identification of the person or office investigating the matter;
4. individual answers to all questions in Section 11;
5. identification of the security rule, policy or assessment relied upon;
6. an explanation of why the previous less restrictive arrangement was not adopted;
7. confirmation of what consideration was given to my religious observance;
8. confirmation that relevant records have been preserved;
9. confirmation of whether HMCTS considers that the handling of the incident was appropriate;

10. details of any corrective action or staff guidance arising from the investigation;
and
11. an apology where appropriate.

17. WRITTEN RESPONSE REQUIRED

Please respond **in writing**.

Please do not merge this complaint with the administrative complaint contained in Document 1 or the equality and document-handling matters contained in Documents 3 and 4.

The four documents arise from the same attendance but concern distinct questions requiring distinct findings.

I require a clear audit trail showing which questions have been answered and which, if any, HMCTS considers it cannot answer.

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/02/2026-08-26

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

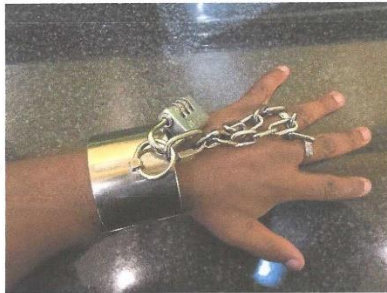
Email: Derrick_Lynch@hotmail.co.uk
Email: thereparationnation@gmail.com

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.

1 | Page

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.

1 | Page

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.



