# UK magistrate formally warned after trial aborted due to conflict of interest



A magistrate in the UK has received a formal warning for misconduct following his involvement as a complainant in a criminal trial, which was subsequently aborted due to a conflict of interest. The incident took place at Loughborough Magistrates' Court and highlights concerns regarding judicial oversight and procedural integrity.

The Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (JCIO) disclosed that the trial was halted because it involved one of its own magistrates, Andrew York, who found himself in a position of conflict. According to the JCIO, York acknowledged his error and took "full responsibility" for the situation, offering an apology for the oversight.

In detailing the circumstances surrounding the incident, the JCIO stated, "He explained that he did inform the police of his role as a magistrate when giving his statement, and similarly advised a member of court staff when notified about the trial date." York attributed the oversight to personal circumstances but conceded that he should have promptly notified the chair of his bench about his involvement in the case.

Mr Justice Keehan, acting on behalf of the lady chief justice, together with the lord chancellor’s agreement, determined that York's failure to report his role constituted misconduct. The JCIO noted that the failure to disclose this information resulted in "operational harm," as a trial had to be aborted on the day it was scheduled, wasting court resources.

In consideration of York's "unblemished conduct record" and his assurance that such an oversight would not occur again, he was ultimately issued a formal warning rather than facing more severe disciplinary measures. This incident underscores the ongoing need for vigilance in maintaining the integrity of the judicial process, particularly regarding potential conflicts of interest among court officials.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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