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PRIME MINISTER

Reference: C13/73770

17 NOV 2013

The Hon Chief Justice Robert S French AC  
High Court of Australia  
PO Box 6309  
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Chief Justice

Thank you for your letter dated 9 October 2013 regarding the application of the increases to the efficiency dividend to the High Court of Australia.

As a result of our fiscal constraints, I am unable to alter the decision of the previous Government in relation to the temporary increase in the rate of the efficiency dividend to 2.25 per cent per annum to apply for three years from 1 July 2014, announced as part of the August 2013 *Economic Statement*. This increase in the efficiency dividend applies to all agencies that are not fully exempted from the efficiency dividend, including all Commonwealth Law Courts. I note that the four Parliamentary Departments are also subject to the efficiency dividend and the increase announced in the *Economic Statement*.

However, in recognition of the circumstances of the Court, the High Court will be exempt from the increase in the efficiency dividend of 0.25 per cent announced as part of my Government's election commitments.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Treasurer, the Minister for Finance and the Attorney-General.

Yours sincerely

TONY ABBOTT

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