

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE SIAN ELIAS
REFLECTIONS ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

VIDEO QUESTIONNAIRE

1. In your view, what should be the starting point for criminal court procedures? Should it be fairness to the individual defendant in the individual trial? Or a fair allocation of time and resources to an individual case? Explain whether you think it makes a difference and give an illustration.
2. In a recent case in which the UK Supreme Court quashed fees chargeable for those who sought to bring employment grievances (on the basis that they unduly fettered access to justice and therefore breached the rule of law): see *R (Unison) v Lord Chancellor* [2017] UKSC 51. Reflect on how you seek to uphold the rule of law in your practice, and the challenges you face in this regard. As part of this, can you identify any specific obligations on you as a professional and on the courts to uphold the rule of law?
3. If a District Court Judge responded to a plea of Not Guilty by saying to a defendant in custody "Guilty plea now will lead me to impose a sentence that allows for Home Detention, but otherwise, the trial will be reserved to me and the sentence will be at least 3 years if you are convicted", and the defendant immediately changed the plea to Guilty, what – if any – are your grounds of appeal against conviction?