

INFORMATION ON SERIES OF DOCUMENTS

Series	HO 47
Title	Home Office: Judges' Reports on Criminals 1784-1830
Structure	<p>Foliated original handwritten letters and reports from judges on cases and criminals, with petitions for commutation of sentence, free pardon etc. They are name rich with defendants, judges and witnesses all named. These records are all indexed to item level on the Catalogue for example: HO 47/1/1 Report of John Heath on Charles Larford, convicted at the Hampshire Assizes at Southampton in 1783, for the murder of Daniel Dunn on 18/19/20 June 1783 (differing dates are given). Evidences supplied by Moses Seymor, plasterer; John Napper, staymaker; James Purkis, brewer; George Jean, butcher; Mathew Brooke, waiter at the Dolphin Inn; Dr Brazier, Sarah Huckler, John McCombie, adjutant in the Hampshire Militia; John Goldwyer, surgeon; William Couzens, victualler; James Sandiford, Serjeant and Clerk to the South Hampshire Militia; James Kunnison, merchant; Richard Penfold, sawyer of Weston and John Hunt, brewer.</p> <p>Grounds for clemency: good previous character, first offence, deceased was drunk at time of death, was probably innocent of the crime but being an 'ignorant fellow' placed too much on his innocence, application made to the judge by the Recorder of Southampton and if issues raised since the trial were announced in court it may have led to his acquittal. Initial sentence, death. Recommendation: to be pardoned on condition he serves 7 years on the hulks in the Thames. Folios 1-16. See also HO 47/1/43, folios 184-185.</p>
Size/Scope	The records are original documents only. There are 75 pieces with a rough approximation of 50,000 images with 25,000 foliated reports.
Physical Format and Condition	Bound volumes are in a poor state of repair and will require conservation before scanning can take place. Some remedial work is being carried out by The National Archives Conservation Department which is due for completion May 2010.
Popularity	Between 1st January 2009 and 31st December 2009 this series of records was requested in the reading rooms at The National Archives some 186 times. In a package with other related material it is expected to be of greater interest to the public. Popularity would also be greatly increased by improved ease of access.
Research Guide	Criminal Registers and Prisoners Registers
Possible areas	Presiding Judge, Name of Defendant, When and Where Convicted, Initial

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for indexing	Sentence, Recommendation
Any other relevant information	<p>According to records expert Paul Carter 'As good a set of criminal records as any in Europe'</p> <p>Place rich</p> <p>Part of a network of linked records – judges reports link to Old Bailey Records, King's Bench, Assizes etc.</p>