

Judge arrested in flashing probe

One of Britain's most senior judges has been arrested for allegedly exposing himself to a female train passenger.

Lord Justice Richards, who sits in the Court of Appeal, was held on Friday following a complaint from a woman that a man exposed himself to her.

The incident is alleged to have taken place last year in the London area.

Sir Stephen Richards, 56, from Wimbledon, south London, denies the allegation and has been released on police bail to return next month.

A British Transport Police spokeswoman said: "On Friday we arrested a 56-year-old man in connection with an ongoing investigation.

"He was released on police bail to return to Ebury Bridge police station on March 2."

Sir Stephen, a married father of three, has overseen several high profile hearings including that of Jean Charles de Menezes - the Brazilian killed by armed police at Stockwell tube station in south London.

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Judge is arrested over allegation of exposure

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Paul Rowland, Western Mail

A TOP judge has been arrested over claims he exposed himself to a woman on a train.

Welshman Lord Justice Richards, who sits in the Court of Appeal and last week presided over an appeal into the death of innocent terror suspect Jean Charles de Menezes, was released on bail after a female train passenger complained that a man had exposed himself to her.

Officers from the British Transport Police arrested Lord Justice Richards, 56, as part of the investigation into the case.

A spokesman for British Transport Police said, "On Friday we arrested a 56-year-old man in connection with an ongoing investigation.

"He was released on police bail to return to Ebury Bridge police station on March 2.

"As this investigation is still ongoing, it would be inappropriate to give further details."

Lord Justice Richards, otherwise known as Sir Stephen Richards, confirmed that he had been arrested.

"Yes, that is correct," he said.

"I spoke to police and gave them my full co-operation about an incident last October which I deny.

"I have not been charged and have been bailed in the usual manner."

The incident allegedly took place on a train in the London area last year, after which a commuter made a complaint to police.

The married father-of-three, who lives with his wife Lucy in Wimbledon, retains strong roots in Wales, with his father, a former high-ranking Welsh Office civil servant, still living in Aberystwyth.

Through his work in the Court of Appeal - the second highest court in the land - he has been involved in a series of high-profile cases.

Most recently these included the appeal into the Crown Prosecution Service's decision not to prosecute any police officers for their roles in the death of Mr de Menezes.

The Brazilian was shot dead at Stockwell tube station on July 22, 2005 by officers who mistook him for a terror suspect.

Last week Lord Justice Richards, sitting alongside Mr Justice Roberts, ruled that the case could be referred to the highest court in the country, the House of Lords.

Lord Justice Richards's father, Alun Richards, headed the Welsh Office's Agriculture Department for three years between 1978 and 1981.

Lord Justice Richards's entry in Who's Who lists his hobbies as walking and "relaxing in the Welsh hills".

He was educated at St John's College, Oxford, before becoming a barrister in 1975. He was promoted to become a High Court judge in 1997 and eight years later assumed his current role.

As a Lord Justice of Appeal he sits in the Court of Appeal and in the Divisional Courts of the High Court.

Despite the name, holders of the position are not peers, but knights or dames, who are also appointed privy counsellors and are entitled to use the prefix "Right Honourable" before their names.

Top judge arrested over 'flashing on train'

SEAN O'NEILL

- Transport police investigate claims
- Lord Justice says he is innocent

One of the most senior judges in the country has been arrested over allegations that he indecently exposed himself to a female passenger on a train.

Lord Justice Richards, 56, a Court of Appeal judge, will not sit in the courts while police investigations continue into the alleged incident.

The judge, who is married with three children, also serves as chairman of the board of governors at King's College School, Wimbledon, a leading independent school.

He was arrested by British Transport Police officers last Friday and was released on bail after being questioned.

A police spokesman said: "On Friday we arrested a 56-year-old man in connection with an investigation.

"He was released on police bail to return to Ebury Bridge police station on March 2. As this investigation is still on-going it would be inappropriate to give further details."

The Judicial Communications Office confirmed that the judge had been detained.

"The judge will not be sitting while this matter is being investigated," a spokesman said.

"A judge cannot be suspended, but there is a convention that they do not sit while a situation like this is ongoing. There is a police investigation, but he has been granted bail and he has not been charged with any offence."

Sir Stephen Richards became a High Court judge in 1997 after a five-year stint as the "Treasury Devil", one of the most demanding jobs in the legal world.

As first junior Treasury counsel for common law cases, he was essentially the first port of call for all the Government's legal work in the civil courts.

Traditionally, the Treasury Devil does not become a Queen's

Counsel but is automatically appointed to the High Court bench.

He was knighted in the same year that he went to the High Court and in 2005 he became a Lord Justice of Appeal.

One of the last cases he ruled on before his arrest was an attempt by the family of Jean Charles de Menezes, the electrician who was mistakenly shot dead by police at Stockwell Tube station on July 22, 2005, to take their arguments to the House of Lords.

Sitting with two other judges, Lord Justice Richards said that there were points of law raised by the de Menezes family, regarding the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service not to bring criminal charges against police, which could be considered by the law lords.

The written judgment was handed down by the appeal court on Friday after Lord Justice Richards, who lives in Wimbledon, southwest London, was arrested.

The judge spoke to reporters from the *News of the World* on Saturday and confirmed that he had been arrested. He said: "I spoke to police and gave them my full co-operation about an incident last October which I deny.

"I have not been charged and have been bailed in the usual manner."

Lord Justice Richards was educated at King's College School, Wimbledon, and St John's College, Oxford, and has been married for more than 30 years.

He lists his recreations in *Who's Who* as walking and relaxing in the Welsh hills.