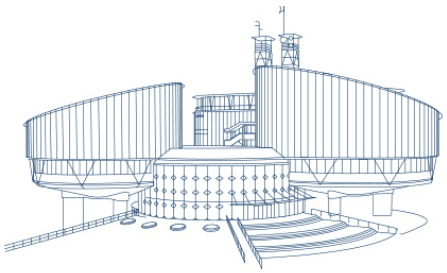
EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE

JUDGMENTS OF 22 SEPTEMBER 2026

ECHR 229 (2026) 22.09.2026

Issued by the Registrar of the Court



The European Court of Human Rights has today notified in writing five judgments[1]:

- one Chamber judgment is summarised below;
- four Committee judgments, concerning issues which have already been examined by the Court, can be consulted on Hudoc and do not appear in this press release.

The judgment summarised below is available only in English.

Stanton and Bowen v. the United Kingdom (application no. 49096/19)

The applicants, Christopher Stanton and Raymond Bowen, are British nationals who were born in 1974 and 1952 respectively and live in Newport (Wales).

The applicants were prisoners serving indeterminate sentences. Their release after the expiry of their minimum terms of detention was subject to a risk assessment by the Parole Board. In both their cases, the Parole Boards ordered release subject to the condition that they reside at designated Approved Premises (accommodation provided to prisoners released on licence who pose a high or very high risk of harm in the community) as part of the risk management plan for their release. Owing to a lack of immediate availability at the Approved Premises, Mr Stanton was released 118 days after the Parole Board directed his release and Mr Bowen was released 69 days after the Parole Board directed his release.

Relying on Article 5 §§ 1 and 4 (right to liberty and security/right to have lawfulness of detention decided speedily by a court) of the European Convention on Human Rights, the applicants complain about the delay in their release from detention.

No violation of Article 5 § 1

[1] Under Articles 43 and 44 of the Convention, Chamber judgments are not final. During the three-month period following a Chamber judgment's delivery, any party may request that the case be referred to the Grand Chamber of the Court. If such a request is made, a panel of five judges considers whether the case deserves further examination. In that event, the Grand Chamber will hear the case and deliver a final judgment. If the referral request is refused, the Chamber judgment will become final on that day. Under Article 28 of the Convention, judgments delivered by a Committee are final.
Once a judgment becomes final, it is transmitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for supervision of its execution. Further information about the execution process can be found here: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/execution

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.