

**SCOTTISH CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL**  
**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM**  
**SOLICITOR MEMBERS**

This document provides information and guidance for individuals wishing to apply to become advocate members of the Scottish Civil Justice Council. It complements the Lord President's [Statement of Appointment Practice](#) for appointments to the Council.

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**What Council membership will involve**

*Time commitment*

As a Council member, you may expect a commitment of around 6 days a year for Council business.

It is important that members are available to attend Council meetings. Papers will be circulated a week prior to a meeting date. Some items of the Council's work are issued as an item by correspondence where an expedited decision is required or where it is unnecessary to wait until a meeting date to consider the item for progressing.

*Tenure*

Members are appointed for 3 years (but can be reappointed), unless they: resign, become disqualified from membership, are removed by the Lord President, or cease to fall within the category of membership to which they were appointed.

### *Expenses and remuneration*

Members will be able to claim for costs associated with Council or committee business, including attending meetings, training and preparation time. Members who incur financial loss or extra expenditure associated with Council or committee business, will, in exceptional circumstances, be considered for reimbursement of reasonable costs. Members will not receive remuneration.

The expenses scheme for members is available [here](#).

### **Applying for Council membership**

#### *Who can apply*

Solicitor members must be practising solicitors of at least 5 years' standing and have experience of litigating in the Court of Session or civil proceedings in the sheriff court.

To be considered for appointment, applicants must not be disqualified from holding office (Section 9 of the 2013 Act specifies that the following are disqualified from appointment: MSPs, MPs, MEPs, councillors of any council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994; members of the Scottish Government; and Ministers of the Crown).

#### *Assessment*

Candidates will be assessed on their merits and with a view to achieving a suitable range of skills and expertise across the membership to enable the Council to fulfil its functions effectively.

Candidates successful at the application stage will be invited to interview by an appropriate selection panel.

#### *Selection criteria*

The Selection Panel will be looking for applicants to have a selection of the criteria with the intention that the successful candidates will between them cover them all.

Essential requirements for solicitor members are indicated by an asterisk (\*). This means that you must meet this as a **minimum** requirement, if you are to be considered for appointment as a solicitor member.

While it is not expected that individual applicants will be able to meet every one of the criteria listed, it is in your best interests to provide specific examples for as many of the criteria as you can.

Criteria for selection will include the following

### **1. Legal knowledge and skills**

- Knowledge and experience of civil law and the civil justice system, including any specialist areas\*
- Ability to interpret and apply laws and regulations\*
- Knowledge and experience of sheriff court civil procedure and sheriff court rules
- Knowledge and experience of Court of Session procedure and Court of Session rules\*

### **2. Understanding of people and society**

- Knowledge of issues affecting individual users of the justice system, including in relation to accessibility for equalities groups and rural or island communities
- Knowledge of issues affecting businesses and other organisations which use the civil justice system
- Awareness of the interests of litigants in the civil courts
- Knowledge of the voluntary sector, particularly in an organisation with links to the civil justice system
- Experience and knowledge of consumer affairs

### **3. Knowledge and understanding of the wider justice system and issues affecting it**

- Knowledge of the non-commercial legal advice sector
- Awareness of alternative methods of dispute resolution

- Awareness of developments in civil justice policy and policy initiatives with implications for the civil justice system
- Knowledge and understanding of the effects of the criminal justice system on the civil justice system

#### 4. Personal qualities

- Integrity and objectivity
- Commitment to developing the Scottish civil justice system and the law of Scotland
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Commitment to public office

#### *Completing the application form*

The application form asks you to give examples of where you have demonstrated the skills and knowledge and criteria required for this appointment. The examples you choose need not only come from your working life but may also include home life, voluntary activities and the like. Please note that job titles etc. on their own will not be taken as evidence of meeting the criteria and the selection panel will not make assumptions based on titles alone.

For each example you should state:

- In what capacity you acquired the skills and knowledge i.e. what did you do, how did you do it, why did you do it and what was the result;
- How recently you acquired them; and
- How frequently you applied the skills or knowledge.

It is important that you provide specific examples of how you meet the criteria. A useful way to set examples out is to use the STAR method:

**Situation** – Describe the situation and explain what happened

**Task** – Outline the task you had to complete and describe your responsibilities

**Action** – Explain the steps that you took or the decisions you made

**Result** – Explain the outcomes of your actions.

### *Submitting the application form*

Application forms should be submitted by **08 December 2022**.

We would be grateful for application forms to be submitted by email where possible to: [scjc@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:scjc@scotcourts.gov.uk).

### *Interviews*

If you are successful at application stage, you may be invited to an interview at the discretion of the Lord President.

### *Feedback*

Where requested, the panel will endeavour to provide feedback timeously. However, in a large appointment round such as this it may not always be possible to do so straightaway.

### **Further information and contact details**

For further information please contact Graeme Welsh, Secretary to the Council, at [scjc@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:scjc@scotcourts.gov.uk).