



Judicial training structures in the EU

United Kingdom – Scotland

Entity name: **Judicial Studies Committee for Scotland (JSC)**

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Target group

All judicial office holders in Scotland, specifically Senators of the College of Justice (High Court judges), temporary High Court judges, Sheriffs Principal, Sheriffs, part-time Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Stipendiary magistrates.

Initial /induction period training

For all target groups except Justices of the Peace and Stipendiary magistrates JSC provides five days' induction training consisting of three days' induction prior to the judicial office holder taking up post and thereafter a further minimum period of training of two days is provided within the first year of appointment.

For Justices of the Peace and Stipendiary magistrates there is provided by JSC induction training of three days prior to the judicial office holder sitting. Additionally at local level further training is provided by the local Justices' Training Committees. This training is not provided directly by JSC but JSC can provide resources and materials to the local Committees and has sight on an annual basis of their training plans and reports.

JSC designs a curriculum for induction training specific to each target group. That training is delivered over three days. Each judicial office holder except Justices of the Peace and Stipendiary magistrates can then choose from the range of courses offered by JSC to fulfil the other two days over the course of the first year of appointment.

There is no requirement for language training and there is no system of internships. However, prior to taking up post judicial office holders in Scotland are required to undertake five days "sitting in" with an experienced judge of equivalent rank. The new appointee does not participate in proceedings but acts as observer.

Continuous training

For all target groups except Justices of the Peace and Stipendiary magistrates there is a requirement to undertake five days of training every year. JSC provides a programme of one day seminars throughout the year. Judges can select which courses they wish to attend. In addition judges are required to attend two types of three day residential courses, a “Skills” course every three years and a “Refresher” course every five years.

In relation to Justices of the Peace and Stipendiary magistrates they are expected to attend a three day residential national training conference within the term of their five year appointment. Additionally continuous training is provided by the local Justices’ Training Committees. As explained above JSC assists with the provision of this training.

In the year to 31st March 2011 JSC provided 35 training courses to a total of 694 delegates (excluding Justices of the Peace and Stipendiary magistrates).

During the same period JSC provided training to 80 Justices of the Peace and Stipendiary magistrates.

International partnerships/agreements

JSC is a member of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and the International Organisation for Judicial Training (IOJT) and has attended the biennial conference of this latter organisation in Barcelona (2007), Sydney (2009) and Bordeaux (2011). JSC also takes part in the United Kingdom and Ireland Judicial Studies Council. JSC has also formed a training partnership with the National Judicial Institute of Canada.

Judges from outwith Scotland are welcome to attend our residential courses and there has never been such a course without a foreign judge in attendance.

History and good practices

JSC was established in 1997. Its work has grown considerably over the years. In 2007 JSC took over responsibility for the delivery of the training requirements of Justices of the Peace. In 2010 the Lord President (Scotland’s senior judge) became Head of the Scottish Judiciary and assumed responsibility for JSC.

In order to improve the quality of training both in terms of content and delivery in September 2011 JSC recruited to the new role of Head of Education a qualified educationalist with a background in academic teaching methods. Additionally JSC has now recruited an Information Technologist so that, inter alia, advantage can be taken of new methods of “e-learning” and the JSC website can be developed to provide links to embedded training resources.

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JSC is part of the Judicial Office for Scotland and is independent of the Scottish Government.

Source: Judicial Studies Committee for Scotland (JSC)