

JUSTICE Scotland – Advert for Chair and Vice Chair of JUSTICE Scotland

Brief history

JUSTICE has been a leading charity for law reform and human rights across the four jurisdictions of the UK for over six decades. The Scottish work was historically undertaken in London, but with devolution it was increasingly recognised that there was a need for more focused work in Scotland.

In 2010 a group of committed individuals, including Lady Scott, Sheriffs Tony Kelly and Chris Shead, created a Scottish Advisory Group. This was formalised in 2012 with the launch of the JUSTICE Scotland branch.

Since then, JUSTICE Scotland has gone from strength and become the leading voice on justice and rule of law issues in Scotland. We are regularly consulted by public bodies; MSPs; legal bodies and the government for our views and contribute to consultations and parliamentary business. We publish reports based on our own research and evidence through our Working Parties, such as our work on the uptake and provision of legal advice during police detention chaired by the Right Honourable Lord Eassie.

JUSTICE Scotland also feeds into UK-wide work such as the review into reform of judicial review; the reform of the Human Rights Act; and the report on reforming benefits decision-making, which included a discussion as to the new devolved benefits system in Scotland. We are currently considering the applicability of our Understanding Courts Report recommendations, regarding the accessibility of information to court users, to Scotland.

Every year, JUSTICE Scotland hosts their Annual Human Rights Day Lecture focusing on a range of topical human rights issues from populism to counter-terrorism with contributors including Lords Hope and Hodge, Professor Connor Gearty QC, Professor of Human Rights at LSE; and David Anderson QC, the former Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation. Our wider law series brought practitioners from outside the law to discuss how the law intersects with their industry, with speakers including Jon Snow from Channel 4 News; General Sir Mike Jackson, former Head of the British Army; Shami Chakrabarti, then Director of Liberty and Baroness Helena Kennedy.

What does JUSTICE Scotland do

JUSTICE Scotland operates largely as a volunteer group of leading lawyers, with support from both Scotland and London-based staff, JUSTICE Scotland has already contributed significantly to debate about reform of the criminal and civil justice systems in Scotland.

- We consider proposals for systemic reform of the justice system in Scotland - civil, administrative and criminal – striving for a fair, accessible and equal justice system
- We respond to Government consultations and draft legislation.
- We build relationships with other interest groups, civil society, lawyer organisations and parliamentarians.
- We intervene in cases in which we can assist the courts by providing an independent analysis of the human rights principles and standards. For example, we intervened in the Supreme Court case of Cadder regarding the rights of suspects to legal advice.

As of 2021, we are delighted to have a Scots qualified lawyer and a Scottish Legal Fellow who is currently undertaking her Diploma in Professional Legal Practice to assist in the development of our work in Scotland.

We have 117 members based in Scotland, a number we seek to grow.

Alongside the Annual Human Rights Lecture, we regularly hold other events, such as panel discussions and roundtables, in Scotland.

We also hold fundraising events such as dinners and lunches with individuals and corporates based in Scotland who we think may be interested in supporting JUSTICE.

In future we will hold at least one annual meeting of the Scottish members. This meeting would be organised by JUSTICE, in conjunction with the JUSTICE Scotland Chair and Vice-Chair.

JUSTICE Scotland Chair and Vice-Chair

The JUSTICE Scotland Chair acts as a spokesperson and key promoter for JUSTICE Scotland. He/she/they would act as a contact person / liaison with JUSTICE in London.

The Chair will be ex-officio, a member of the JUSTICE Council.

Main duties and responsibilities

- chair the annual meeting of Scottish members
- be the key spokesperson for JUSTICE Scotland
- act as JUSTICE Scotland key liaison/contact points with the broader JUSTICE organisation
- provide input and advice to help guide the direction of JUSTICE Scotland's work
- support JUSTICE's fundraising efforts, identifying, and cultivating individual donors and corporate support and assisting with fundraising events
- provide ideas on how to grow the Scottish membership
- provide ideas and suggest speakers for events relevant to a Scottish audience
- assist with organising and promoting JUSTICE events in Scotland

The Vice-Chair will support the Chair in all of the above and, where necessary, deputise for him/her/they.

To stand for election for the role of Chair and/or Vice-Chair a person must be:

- a member of JUSTICE
- legally qualified
- resident in Scotland
- meet the person specification

Person specification

The JUSTICE Scotland Chair should have the following qualities.

- A commitment to JUSTICE, a belief in JUSTICE's vision and objectives and enthusiasm for our activities.
- Demonstrable professional strategic senior leadership.
- Significant experience of chairing meetings and events.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong leadership skills and the ability to motivate others.
- Impartiality, fairness and the ability to respect confidences.

- Ability to commit time to conduct the role well.
- Strong networking capabilities that can be utilised for the benefit of the charity, including in respect of fundraising.
- Skilled at liaising with justice system partners, the judiciary and the Scottish Government.
- Broad knowledge and understanding of the legal sector.
- Knowledge of the type of work undertaken by JUSTICE Scotland.

Application Process and Timetable

If you would like to apply for either or both posts, please provide an expression of interest (no more than 2 pages of A4) in which you should provide an example where something you have delivered or led has made a difference to the justice sector (or part of it) in Scotland. Please also include ideas on how you will grow the membership within Scotland.

Please send your expression of interest and CV to jobs@justice.org.uk Applications will be sifted by the Chief Executive of JUSTICE (Fiona Rutherford), the existing JUSTICE Scotland Chair and Vice-Chair. If required, interviews will be held virtually and the Chief Executive and/or Legal Director of JUSTICE will chair the interview and the existing Chair and/or Vice-Chair will also be part of the panel.

If you would like to be considered for both roles please let us know (in the covering email), including your role preference.

Indicative timetable

Deadline for Applications:	Midnight on 15 May
Sift of Applications:	Complete by 20 May
Inform applicants of results:	By 27 May
Date of Interviews:	Likely to be on 9 or 10 June (but will be confirmed nearer the time)

Please note, these are voluntary positions. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Josie at jobs@justice.org.uk in the first instance.

We very much look forward to hearing from you!

Fiona Rutherford (Chief Executive of JUSTICE) and Peter Binning (Chair of JUSTICE)