



APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR **DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT**

Introduction

The appointment of the current Deputy President, Lady Hale, as President of the Court has created a vacancy for Deputy President. The Lord Chancellor has convened a commission for the appointment of the new Deputy President, who will take up office on 2 October 2017.

This will be an internal competition since, with the appointment of three new Justices to replace those retiring or retired, there are no vacancies for a position as Justice in addition to that of Deputy President. So, the appointment will need to be made from those Justices who will be in post from 2 October.

Statutory selection process

The Deputy President is selected under the provisions set out in the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, as amended. This requires the Lord Chancellor to convene a commission, the membership of which is prescribed in the statute and in the Supreme Court (Judicial Appointments) Regulations 2013. There is a full description of the process on the Supreme Court's website.

The panel comprises

Lord Neuberger (Chair)	President of the UK Supreme Court
Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd	Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales
Lord Kakkar	Judicial Appointments Commission for England and Wales
Ms Marion Matchett CBE	Judicial Appointments Commission for Northern Ireland
Ms Deirdre Fulton	Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland

The role

The Deputy President of the Supreme Court supports the President across the whole range of his/her duties. Under the Constitutional Reform Act, the Deputy President assumes the duties of the President if that office holder is absent. As such he/she is part of the judicial leadership team and:

- Works closely with the President on a range of policy and case-related issues; and is involved in many meetings, including with Ministers, Parliament, foreign judges and the UKSC Strategic Advisory Board.
- Presides over UKSC Panels/JCPC Boards unless sitting with the President.
- Works with the President to settle constitutions for Permission to Appeal (PTA) Panels and appeal panels in the UKSC and JCPC
- Supports the President in considering amendments to Rules and Practice Directions.
- Gives directions or guidance to staff in the Registry when requested to do so, in particular on case-related issues. (This can be urgent and needs to be prioritised against other activities.)
- Has a representational and outward facing role.

Criteria for appointment

Legal ability

- An outstanding lawyer

Leadership

- Ability and determination to play an active leadership role in a collegiate court made up of 12 independent and strong-minded individuals, and to perform the public facing leadership role of the Deputy President
- Accessibility and willingness to provide prompt support and advice to the President, the Chief Executive, Registrar and other members of staff when required

Personal qualities

- Approachability, insight and sensitivity to the concerns of fellow Justices
- The ability to command the respect of colleagues

- Excellent people management and communication skills
- Resilience
- Strength and firmness of purpose

Wider contribution

- Understanding of and interest in the operation of the jurisdictions in each part of the UK and their relationship with the UKSC
- A willingness to respond to future challenges that may arise from EU withdrawal, and to represent the Court with authority and discretion in different fora
- Awareness and understanding of political and media pressures

Efficiency

- Ability to support the President in ensuring that the Court's business is dealt with efficiently
- Ability to contribute towards and support the efficient use of resources

Salary

Salary levels are set by the Senior Salaries Review Body. The current annual salary for the Deputy President of the UKSC is £215,256 pa.

The selection process

Applicants are being asked to provide a short statement of no more than 1,500 words, giving clear evidence to support how they meet the criteria for appointment and why they should be appointed to the role.

The commission will undertake the statutory consultations set out under section 27 of the Constitutional Reform Act before inviting candidates to interview.

The full range of available evidence will be taken into account in making the short-listing decision. The commission may also undertake other consultations as it deems appropriate.

July 2017