

Official name in original language	Judges Council of England and Wales
Official name in English	Judges Council of England and Wales
Address	Judicial Office, Room C110, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL
Telephone number	+44 (0) 20 7947 7752
Website	www.judiciary.gov.uk
e-mail	encj@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk
Brief history	<p>The Judges' Council of England and Wales was first set up under the Judicature Act 1873. It was chaired by the Lord Chancellor and all the judges of the Supreme Court were members. The Council continued to function until 1981. At that time a new Judges' Council was set up chaired by the Lord Chief Justice with a smaller membership of the more senior judges. In 2002 the Council adopted a written Constitution and has subsequently widened its membership to include representatives from all ranks of the judiciary, including the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court, the Circuit and District Benches, the Magistracy and the Tribunals. In March, 2006 the Council further revised its Constitution and membership following the coming into effect of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. This Act and the Concordat of 26th January 2006 between the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice vest in the latter very considerable responsibilities in respect of the judiciary and of the business of the Courts of England and Wales. The Lord Chief Justice exercises these responsibilities through the Judges' Council and the Judicial Executive Board.</p>
Constitutional or legal status/basis	It has no constitutional status but is protected by legislation in the form of the Judicature Act 1873 and the Constitutional Reform Act 2005.
Legal acts regulating the Status	Not regulated by Legal acts
Composition:	
Total number of members	29 members
Term of office	3 years
Is there a possibility to be renewed as a member?	Yes, renewable up to 1 year at the discretion of the Lord Chief Justice.
Do the members have a full-time position or not?	Not full-time
Make up	- 28 judges - 1 exception is the Chief Executive of the Judicial Office.
Is there a majority of Judges?	Yes (28 judges out of 29 members)

Presidency	Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales
Main Competences:	
Career of judges and / or prosecutors	Has a specific statutory responsibility for appointment of 3 members of the Judicial Appointments Commission under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 but apart from this role the Judges' Council is not concerned in the selection, appointment or promotion of judges or in the assessment of judicial activities.
Judicial training	No competence in the organisation or supervision of judicial training.
Discipline	No competence in disciplinary proceedings against judges.
Ethics	The HR Committee is responsible for keeping "The Guide to Judicial Conduct" under review and for dealing with any points of principle that may not be dealt with in the Guide or that may need revision. The Committee reports to the Judges' Council and above that to the Judicial Executive Board.
Opinions on legislation / other opinions	It does not comment on the merits of proposed government policy.
Other competencies	<p>The primary function of the Judges' Council of England and Wales is to be a body broadly representative of the judiciary as a whole which will inform and advise the Lord Chief Justice on matters as requested from time to time. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is consulted to obtain a wider perspective on matters which concern more than one discreet judicial grouping. - It considers and conveys views, ideas or concerns of the wider judicial family. - It provides a detailed analysis and consideration of specific matters on which judicial views are sought. - It develops policy and advises the Lord Chief Justice on policy and other matters as requested from time to time by him or a member of the Judicial Executive Board to whom he has delegated the relevant responsibility. <p>The Council is primarily an advisory body to the Lord Chief Justice. The governance arrangements for the judiciary were reviewed at the request of the Lord Chief Justice in 2010 and the main changes emanating were that membership was extended to include the Senior President of Tribunals and the Chairman of the Judicial College to ensure implications for tribunals and training were not overlooked. Some changes to the Committee structure took place to ensure that the Committees of the Judges' Council are supported by civil servants with relevant expertise.</p>
Status of decisions	Decisions take the form of advice to the Lord Chief Justice
Review	Not applicable
Budget	The budget for the Judges' Council is agreed on a rolling annual basis with the Ministry of Justice.