

THE LANDSCAPE OF ICT COMMITTEES

Purpose

1. This paper provides an overview of the key ICT committees that have a role to play across the justice system in Scotland.

Background

2. The number of committees involved in the development of justice related ICT can be confusing, particularly when trying to differentiate between each committee and their respective remits.
3. The attached diagram looks to provide a one page summary in order to help clarify that committee structure.

The Committees

4. The following descriptions provide a very brief summary of each committee shown within the attached diagram:

Service Delivery

5. The day to day delivery of services for the courts and the OPG is the responsibility of the **SCS Board** which controls the main operational budget for delivery of new IT systems within the courts service. Their expectations for digital innovation are as set out in the SCS Corporate Plan (2014-17), and the supporting Business Plan (2014-15). Both those documents are available on the SCS website.
6. The day to day delivery of that digital innovation is delegated to the SCS executive team who convened an **ICT Steering Group** to assist in delivering on those corporate objectives. The **Enabling Technologies Project (MJW 1.2)** helps to link that steering group's work with the wider collaborative effort that is expected across the making justice work programme.

Judicial Perspective

7. The **Judicial Council for Scotland** was established to provide information and advice to the Lord President of the Court of Session and the judiciary of Scotland on matters relevant to the administration of justice in Scotland. Among its functions is making recommendations to the Lord President on any matters that might more directly affect the judiciary.
8. That council specifically set up an **IT Committee** to provide a clear judicial view on the suitability of the IT tools currently provided to help support the judiciary, and also to provide a coordinated view on the judiciary's aspirations for the future.

User Perspective

9. The **Scottish Civil Justice Council** was established by statute to provide a strong user voice that would both support the day to day rule making function and also keep the wider civil justice system under review.

10. The council has established its own **ICT Committee (of the SCJC)** to specifically focus on the way ICT opportunities can be anticipated and supported within the emerging rules of courts, and more broadly in terms of whether the actual ICT provision is keeping pace with the needs of the wider civil justice system.

Policy Development

11. The **Justice Board** is comprised of the Scottish Governments Justice Directorate and the Chief Executives of the main justice delivery organisations in Scotland (SCS, COPFS, SLAB, Police Scotland etc.). It has set the overall strategic direction for the entire Scottish justice system as outlined in the “Justice Strategy for Scotland (*Sep 2012*)”.

12. That board is supported by:
 - The **Making Justice Work Advisory Board** which oversees a portfolio of six projects and programmes tasked with delivering key elements of the justice strategy; and
 - One of those six projects is the **Justice Digital Strategy Project (MJW 4)** which is specifically tasked with delivering a Justice Digital Strategy that can transform the way the overall justice system works.

Conclusion

13. Each committee is focussed on their own separate elements within the justice system which are spelt out in each committee’s individual remit.

14. Where appropriate there are cross memberships to assist in providing clarity of focus, and to optimise the potential for meaningful collaboration across the justice system.

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The Landscape of ICT Committees (Justice Sector)

THE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL



THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES	LORD PRESIDENT AS CHAIR OF THE SCS BOARD (SCTS from Apr 2015)		LORD PRESIDENT AS HEAD OF THE JUDICIARY, and as HEAD OF THE SCOTTISH TRIBUNALS	LORD PRESIDENT AS CHAIR OF THE SCOTTISH CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL
PERSPECTIVE	POLICY DEVELOPMENT <i>(Government Policy)</i> OPERATIONAL DELIVERY <i>(from a justice wide perspective)</i>	SERVICE DELIVERY	SERVICE DELIVERY	SERVICE USERS / CITIZENS
KEY JUSTICE BODIES	Justice Board Making Justice Work Advisory Board	SCS Board <i>(SCTS from Apr 2015)</i>	Judicial Council for Scotland	Scottish Civil Justice Council
ICT BUDGET HOLDER	YES	YES	NO	NO
ICT COMMITTEES	Justice Digital Strategy Project (MJW 4)	ICT Steering Group <i>(of the SCS)</i> Enabling Technologies Project (MJW 1.2)	IT Committee <i>(of the Judicial Council for Scotland)</i>	IT Committee <i>(of the SCJC)</i>
STRATEGIC FOCUS	Government policy The law making function	Setting the long term digital strategy (10 years) <i>(for the courts and the tribunals)</i>	User voice for the judiciary	SCJC - Keeping the system under review and the rule making function IT Committee - How ICT can be used more effectively in the Civil Courts
TACTICAL FOCUS	Justice Digital Strategy	Priorities from SCS Corporate Plan (3 years) Priorities from SCS Business Plan (1 year)	- ICT tools <i>(for commercial courts)</i> - ICT tools <i>(electronic sift)</i>	Links to Style Guide of the RRWG Links to other ICT Groups and Initiatives <i>(NB- Transfer of tribunal rules delayed till 2017)</i>
OPERATIONAL FOCUS	Law Making	Maintain availability of ICT systems Web Design and Hosting	User Perspective on: - Effectiveness of courtroom technology - Effectiveness of hearing venue technologies - ICT tools & support for judiciary	IT content within new rules <i>(Civil Courts)</i>

Notes:

1. The potential name change from SCS to SCTS reflects the tribunals merger as proposed in part 7 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill
2. The new statutory function of having the LP as Head of the Scottish Tribunals is as proposed in the Tribunals (Scotland) Bill