

ITEM 4.3: ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES

Purpose

1. To seek Council members views on the committee structure of the Scottish Civil Justice Council (SCJC). In particular, to seek members views on the formation of committees and the timing of the creation of such committees.

Discussion

2. As noted in the previous paper the Chair is minded to establish the Family Law Committee and the Personal Injury Committee at this juncture. It is anticipated that the majority of the detailed work of the Council will be undertaken at committee level and therefore it is essential that committees or where appropriate working groups are created at the appropriate junctures but are not so numerous as to become unwieldy or cumbersome for members.
3. With this in mind, members are asked to consider how they would wish to operate the committee structure of the Council. It is recommended that the Council determine the committees that they would wish to establish, set the remit for these committees and agree the membership. I would refer to the terms of the standing orders.
4. It is proposed that members consider whether in principle they would wish to create any of the following committees. These committees have been identified as they are linked to a number of ongoing or identified workstreams which will require to be progressed by the Council. If there is agreement that some or all of the following committees should be established, the SCJC secretariat will prepare the remit and proposed membership for the committees with a view to the Council confirming this at their next meeting.
 - **Finance Committee** (Judicial Rate of Interest, implications of SP Taylor report and calculation of the "value" of the privative limit)
 - **Access to Justice Committee** (Lay representation, consideration of guidance to lay support/party litigants, ADR)
 - **IT committee** - general consideration of how IT can be used more effectively within the courts particularly in respect of the reforms and IT e-transmission in summary cause and small claims and electronic signatures. The creation of such a committee should not detract from the overall position that the use of IT will be imperative to the work of all Committees going forward but by having an IT committee to consider particular projects such as those detailed above, it ensures that these matters are not overlooked.

Recommendation

5. That Council members consider the operation of the committee structure and advise if there are any further committees that they would wish to establish at this stage and if so, which committees.