

ITEM 4.4: ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF USERS GROUPS

Purpose

1. To seek Council members views on the role of current Users Groups with the committee structure of the Council.

Discussion

2. There are currently two Users Groups in operation; the Personal Injuries Users Group and the Inner House Users Group. Details of the background, remit and membership of these Groups can be found in **Papers 4.4A and B** to this paper.
3. As noted in the attached papers the Lord President rather than the Rules Councils established the Users Groups. Both have been effective in providing an informal forum for members to exchange views and flag problem arising from practices and procedures. The Lord President is of the view that these groups serve a different purpose to the committee structure of the SCJC but would wish to keep this matter under review, particularly if the Personal Injury Committee is created.

Recommendations

4. **That the Council members advise if they are content that the SCJC Secretariat and the DPCS keep a watching brief on the work of the users group and the SCJC's committees, in particular the Personal Injury Committee to consider the extent of any overlap and the necessity for both to continue.**