

**SCOTTISH TRIBUNALS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE: REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP**

**Remit**

- To promote the interests of system users and champion an administrative justice and tribunals system that is accessible, responsive and has users' needs at the centre
- To focus on engaging with decision makers to improve rules, procedures and the complaints handling processes within the administrative justice and tribunals system
- To encourage better decision making within the administrative justice and tribunals system with the emphasis on getting the decision right first time to support early and appropriate dispute resolution
- To encourage the building of networks and the sharing of good practice amongst practitioners
- To provide scrutiny of the whole of the administrative justice and tribunals system in devolved areas, including the development of the proposals to merge the Scottish Tribunals Service and the Scottish Court Service, the new structure following the Tribunals Bill, and any relevant developments within the wider civil justice system in devolved areas
- To monitor developments in reserved areas of administrative justice and tribunals pre and post referendum that affect citizens in Scotland
- To advise Ministers on the development of the Strategy for Administrative Justice and the future direction and priorities of the strategy

- To engage across Government and identify to Ministers any policy and practice issues affecting the administrative justice and tribunals system in devolved areas which may require Government attention
- To recommend how the functions of the committee should be carried out in the longer term

In its work, the Committee will adopt the definition of Administrative Justice as set out in the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007:

*“the overall system by which decisions of an administrative or executive nature are made in relation to particular persons including:*

- *the procedures for making such decisions*
- *the law under which such decisions are made and*
- *the systems for resolving disputes and airing grievances in relation to such decisions”*

## **Membership**

**Ms Dwarshuis (Chair):** Ms Dwarshuis’ career in Scotland spans over 20 years in the public and voluntary sector in a wide range of roles including Director of Consumer Focus Scotland and positions at the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, Citizens Advice Scotland, the Scottish Government and Shelter Scotland. In each of these roles she has worked to improve access to justice in particular for more vulnerable members of society and she has developed extensive knowledge of the administrative justice landscape in Scotland. She is currently a member of the Board of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and sits on the Committee of Management of Hillcrest Housing Association Ltd. Born and educated in the Netherlands, Ms Dwarshuis’ graduated in law from the University of Utrecht.

**Sarah O’Neill:** a non-practicing solicitor, with experience in the private, public and voluntary sectors. Current independent consultant specialising in legal and

consumer policy, with many years' experience of working on civil and administrative justice issues.

**Professor Tom Mullen:** Professor of Law and the University of Glasgow and a non-practicing solicitor. Research and teaching interests include constitutional law and administrative law.

**John Sturrock QC:** Founder and CEO of the Core Solutions Group which provides commercial mediation and training.

**Shaben Begum:** Director of the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance, with an Advocacy background spanning many years. She has overseen the publication of the Principles and Standards for Independent Advocacy and the associated Code of Practice among other influential documents and has received an MBE for services to health care.

**Paul McFadden:** member of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's Senior Management Team and heads up its Complaints Standards Authority (CSA).

**Lauren Wood:** Current Scottish Civil Justice Council member and Access to Justice Policy Officer at Citizens Advice Scotland.

**Tom Drysdale:** retired solicitor and tribunal judge. Other previous roles include Director of Edinburgh Solicitors' Property Centre and Deputy Keeper of the Signet. He was a part-time tribunal judge, in social security appeals, from 2003 until 2013.

**Douglas Proudfoot:** chartered accountant with both finance and public policy experience within local government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

