

Expressions of Interest – AJC Working Group on Tribunal Backlogs

The Administrative Justice Council (AJC) invites expressions of interest from individuals with relevant expertise to join a working group on tribunal backlogs. The group will examine the causes of backlogs, their impact on users, and potential solutions across the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Immigration and Asylum Chamber (IAC) and Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) jurisdictions. These jurisdictions currently have the largest backlogs in administrative tribunals. For example, in SSCS, the outstanding caseload as of December 2025 was 99,324, while cases in the SEND tribunal have tripled in five years. The AJC is a non-statutory oversight body for the administrative justice system across the UK. It advises government, including the devolved governments, and the judiciary on the development of that system, with the aim of promoting efficiency, accessibility and fairness.

Reducing tribunal backlogs is a key priority for the Senior President of Tribunals and Chair of the AJC, Lord Justice Dingemans. The Secretariat is therefore seeking expressions of interest from experts across the administrative justice system, including those working in advice organisations, legal practice, academia, dispute resolution services, and government departments involved in tribunal demand, productivity or reform. The Working Group will be Chaired by Lucy Scott-Moncrieff CBE.

The working group will focus on the following objectives:

- a) Identifying the cause of backlogs in SEND, IAC and SSCS;
- b) Evaluating the potential impact to tribunals from new government legislation;
- c) Improving government understanding of the impact of backlogs on users e.g. delays, loss of benefits, loss of SEND provision, delayed immigration decisions impacting on resources.
- d) Providing solutions to improving the backlogs e.g. ADR, increased resource, improved public body decision-making.
- e) Identifying areas of best practice that can be shared across tribunal jurisdictions.

A full list of objectives will be decided in the first meeting of the Working Group.

The working group will meet every two months over an estimated 12–18-month period. It will produce a final paper setting out the causes, impacts and potential solutions to tribunal backlogs for presentation to the Ministry of Justice, HMCTS and the Senior President of Tribunals.

This role is not remunerated.

What the role involves

Members of the working group will:

- Contribute to the working group by sharing their knowledge and expertise on backlog issues and share any examples of best practice;
- Work with the group to identify potential solutions to resolve the issues identified by the group; and
- Contribute to the final solutions paper to the government and judiciary.

We welcome expressions of interest from individuals from the following sectors:

- Advice sector organisations or legal representatives (specialising in SEND, IAC and/or SSCS)
- Academics
- Dispute resolution providers including mediators and ombudsman schemes
- Justice stakeholders with an understanding of tribunals and issues affecting the demand on tribunals
- Civil servants from MoJ, HMCTS and the JO working on improving tribunal demand/backlogs

Essential criteria

- an understanding of, or experience of working within, the administrative justice system;
- excellent communication skills and the ability to represent a sector within administrative justice;
- experience of sitting on a high-level Board or Committee; and
- excellent research or analytical skills.

Time commitment

Members will be expected to attend meetings every two months, read papers in advance, and contribute to the development of the final paper.

Application process

To apply, please email ajc@judiciary.uk with 'Recruitment' in the subject line. Your expression of interest should be no more than one side of A4 setting out your interest in joining the working group, and the relevant experience and expertise you would bring. Please also include a CV. Applications should be submitted by **Wednesday 10th June**. If you would like more information about the AJC, please contact Heidi Bancroft, Secretary to the Council, at Heidi.bancroft@judiciary.uk.