

# Annual Report 2023/2024

Judicial Institute  
for Scotland



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# Chair's foreword

I have been the Chair of the Judicial Institute since 2023. Prior to that I was Vice-Chair to the Institute, a position now held by The Hon. Lady Drummond. I am very grateful to Lady Drummond for the support she has provided to me and to the Institute during the reporting period. As Chair and Vice-Chair, we work closely with the Directors of the Institute and the Head of Education to maintain the high quality and relevance of education provided to judicial office holders in Scotland. This includes developing and delivering training that prepares the judiciary to perform its work in an impartial and fair way, ensuring all who come to court are treated equally and with dignity and respect.

With this in mind, I am pleased that the Judicial Institute is in a strong position to facilitate aspects of the implementation of the Lord Justice Clerk's Review Group Report 2021 that relate to improving the experience of court for those who have experienced trauma. Judicial training can play an important role in the implementation of legal and judicial policy. Of particular note in this current reporting period is the work done by the Jury Manual Committee in relation to the plain English rewrite of the sexual offences chapters and the inclusion of a new direction on so-called rape 'myths' and stereotypes. This work represents a substantial enhancement to the Jury Manual and to the way in which sexual offences cases are managed. Finally, I must acknowledge the unstinting efforts of our Directors, Head of Education and all of the members of our team whose indispensable efforts underpin the Institute's work.

## **Lord Beckett**

Chair, Judicial Institute

# Director's welcome

Looking back on the reporting period of 2023/24, it is clear to see some themes emerge that have played (and continue to play) a particularly dominant role in our work in the Judicial Institute.

Possibly the most important of these is trauma-informed practice. This has been an ongoing endeavour for the Institute since 2022. The work to develop training for judges in trauma-informed practice began after the publication of the Lord Justice Clerk's Review Group Report in 2021. The report writers recognised the importance of trauma training for those involved in sexual offences cases involving vulnerable witnesses. A course in trauma informed judging was first provided as online learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic. An iteration of this initial course is now delivered in person in the Judicial Learning Suite as befits its interactive, experiential learning design.

All those sitting in the High Court have now received this training. In January 2024, the Lord President directed that the course should be rolled out at sheriff court level. It was decided that all salaried sheriffs and summary sheriffs should have received the training by early 2025, an endeavour which is ongoing at the time of reporting.

Building upon the knowledge and skills provided by the original course for senators in trauma-informed practice, a new course for those sitting in the High Court, 'Complexities of sexual offences cases' was devised in the winter of 2023 and first provided in March 2024. Designed and delivered with substantial involvement of our Chair and Vice Chair, the full-day course assists judges in identifying problematic practices during cross-examination in commissions and trials. It seeks to assist judges to

understand how they might effectively intervene in order to protect vulnerable witnesses from questioning practices and behaviours (some of which may be subtle and cumulative) that may in themselves cause undue distress to the witness. Consideration is given to developments in the law on admissibility of evidence and the rape shield legislation, as well as real examples drawn from past cases.

In addition, we have begun to consider trauma within a wider setting of training about vulnerability. In addition to focusing on specific aspects of judging, for example, in the management of sexual offences cases, we have considered the intersection of trauma and domestic abuse. We have acknowledged and made strides to explore how trauma and domestic abuse are potential factors in civil cases. We keep a close eye on developments in this area and our civil servant team have nurtured connections with other justice partners, advocacy groups and specialists. We anticipate the work in this area will continue to gather pace as we look ahead to the future implementation of the new Victims and Witnesses Bill.

Another pervasive theme that shaped much of what we did in the reporting period is, perhaps unsurprisingly, digitalisation. The SCTS has an ambitious and wide-ranging agenda for the ongoing digitalisation of court processes that impacts directly upon the work of judges. During the reporting period, we were involved in different types of training activities aimed at improving judicial digital knowledge and skills. To this end, we have continued to work closely with parts of the SCTS organisation responsible for digital change and innovation, liaising with relevant parties to track developments in digital technologies that impact on the work of judicial office holders. We have established mutually beneficial working relationships with SCTS staff responsible for the ongoing digitalisation of case management in the sheriff courts and

the Court of Session. We have invited very useful contributions to judicial training from SCTS staff with specific expertise in areas such as cyber security, data protection and artificial intelligence. By maintaining good mutual communication and close working with relevant SCTS business units, and those who are involved with developing organisational strategic plans, we are able to develop resources that prepare judicial office holders for new ways of working.

The topic of artificial intelligence, which has become of great interest to the legal profession in recent years, has been a growing feature in our work. We explored this topic via collaborative training events, including at a five-day seminar in Trier for the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and in a jointly provided webinar for judicial office holders in Scotland, England and Wales which was the product of a collaboration with the Judicial College of England and Wales.

As far as 'business as usual' is concerned, the reporting period has involved successful delivery of several induction events to meet a sustained period of increased recruitment across the courts. We continually seek to develop and enhance induction course content and materials so that they prepare judicial office holders for the early challenges they face in their judicial careers. The Lord President has requested that we incorporate trauma informed judging into future shrieval and senator induction. The action taken as a result will be reported on in the next reporting period.

The reporting period saw a welcome increase in in-person events and delegations, many of which had been paused or put online during the pandemic and the years following it. We hosted 11 international delegations, saw the return of the Judicial Institute Lecture, and provided a conference event for senators. Recognising the value in providing

flexible, more inclusive learning opportunities to judicial office holders, and building on the experiences of online delivery from the pandemic, work is underway to explore flexible delivery modes including hybrid and 'bite-size' online learning.

In a similar vein, we have reviewed and enhanced our capacity for hosting events in different delivery modes. In late 2023, we began the process of upgrading the software behind the Judicial Hub, work which continues on. A major project has been the refurbishment of the Judicial Learning Suite, a purpose-built judicial training facility in Parliament House. In addition to a general upgrade, we added a new social learning area and new audio-visual equipment which should allow potential for remote participants to join in-person meetings and events. We hope to continue to explore the possibilities and challenges this brings in the coming months so that we can continue to support the professional development of an increasingly diverse judiciary.

**Sheriff Pino Di Emidio**

Director, Judicial Institute



# Governance and management

## Judicial office holders

As at the end of the reporting period the number of court judiciary in Scotland is as follows:

<b>Senators</b>	<b>36</b>
Sheriffs principal	6
Sheriffs	119
Summary sheriffs	41
Part-time sheriffs	27
Part-time summary sheriffs	12
Land Court and Lands Tribunals for Scotland members, including Chairman	6

In addition, the Judicial Institute has a role in the training of justices of the peace and Scottish tribunal judges. As at 31 March 2024 there were 216 JPs and several hundred tribunal judges.

## Judicial Institute Board and Advisory Council of the Judicial Institute (ACJI)

The Judicial Institute is responsible for all aspects of the professional development of judicial office holders in Scotland, as set out in the [Governance Framework for the Judicial Institute for Scotland](#).

The Board of the Judicial Institute is tasked with realising this remit. The Board comprises two senators of the College of Justice, who act as Chair and Vice Chair, along with two sheriffs who act as Director and Deputy Director. This structure is designed to ensure that the Institute's strategic direction, and the education, training and knowledge that it provides, is judge-led.

Sheriff Pino Di Emidio has been in post as Director of the Judicial Institute since April 2022. Sheriff Adrian Cottam joined as Deputy Director in September 2022 and during the reporting period his appointment to the Institute was part time (50%). The Hon. Lord Beckett is Chair of the Judicial Institute and The Hon. Lady Drummond is Vice Chair. The Board meets on a quarterly basis and sets the Judicial Institute's strategic direction on behalf of the Lord President. Overall responsibility for the delivery of the Judicial Institute's strategy rests with the Board.

The Advisory Council of the Judicial Institute (ACJI) meets twice per year. The Council is chaired by the Lord President and comprises of representatives of all judicial offices, including two Tribunal Chamber Presidents, a sheriff principal, two sheriffs, a summary sheriff, a part-time sheriff and two justices of the peace. A senior officer from Scottish Government Justice Department is also a member of council as is Dr Caroline Bruce, Head of Programme, Trauma, Justice and Victims and Witnesses, NHS Education for Scotland. Members provide insight and oversight on matters relating to the Institute's work. Judge Aileen Devanny, Catriona Dalrymple and Sheriff Joanna McDonald were appointed to the Council during the reporting period. Professor Susan Stokeld was reappointed for a further term.

## Committees and working groups

Several committees and working groups lead on key aspects of the Judicial Institute's work.

### Jury Manual Committee

The Jury Manual contains an extensive guide to criminal law and practice. It provides essential advice to the judiciary on the effective conduct of trials and provides specimen directions to allow judicial officer holders to direct the jury. The draft charges are used by and referred to daily by the majority of judicial office holders in solemn trials. The Jury Manual is the most frequently accessed resource on the Judicial Hub.

The Jury Manual Committee is chaired by Lord Beckett and comprises three sheriffs and three High Court judges. The committee meets on a quarterly basis and engages regularly by email to discuss changes in the law and necessary updates and revisions. Sheriff Norman McFadyen stepped down as editor in summer 2023 and Sheriff Andrew McIntyre was appointed as the new editor.

### Justices Training Committee of the Judicial Institute (JTCJI)

The Justices Training Committee of the Judicial Institute (JTCJI) reviews the National Curriculum for Justices of the Peace on an annual basis, and agrees the National Training Programme, which outlines the education

the Judicial Institute will provide for JPs in the following training year. JTCJI submits an [annual report](#) to the Lord President with an account and evaluation of training for JPs, including oversight of training delivered by Justices' Training and Appraisal Committees (JTAC) in the local sheriffdoms. JTCJI provides assurance that those who deliver training to JPs across Scotland have the skills to do so, for example, through the Institute's 'train the trainer' initiatives. The Committee meets twice per year and is made up of JPs from each sheriffdom and one sheriffdom legal adviser representative. Sheriff Principal Ross is Chair of the JTCJI. A new three-year training cycle for JPs commenced in 2023.

## Justices Technical Training Committee (JTTC)

The Judicial Institute Deputy Director usually chairs this committee. Legal advisers from all six sheriffdoms attend it. The Justices Technical Training Committee (JTTC) is a working group of the JTCJI. The remit of the JTTC is to identify legal or training issues of relevance to JPs and provide advice on the development of training programmes and materials. In this reporting period, the course of training for a large-scale JP induction was approved by legal advisers. This has continued to promote good communication, engagement and liaison between the sheriffdoms and the Institute at an operational level.

## Judicial Education for Tribunals (JET)

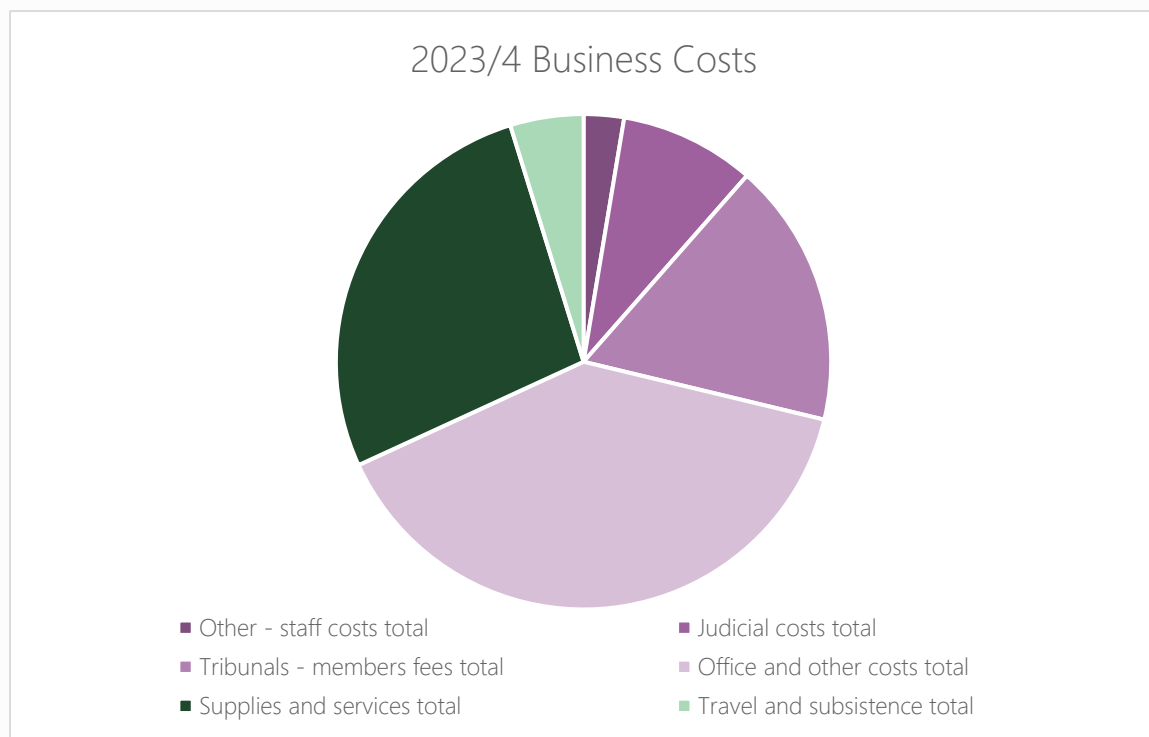
The Judicial Education for Tribunals (JET) working group was established in 2018 after the Lord President assumed responsibility for tribunal training under section 34(1)(a) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014. It brings together representatives from each of the devolved tribunals. Its

function is to identify and develop core training programmes; agree training guidelines and a quality assurance framework for specialist training undertaken by the tribunals themselves; and implement the agreed tribunal training model. JET provides oversight of the 'Tribunal Craft' course the Judicial Institute delivers for tribunal judicial office holders. The Chair of the JET Working Group during the first part of the period covered by this report was Judge Anne Scott, President of the Tax Tribunal Chamber and Temporary President of the Social Security Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland.

In October 2023, Judge Aileen Devanny, President of the Housing Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland, was appointed as Chair.

## 2023/24 expenditure

Total expenditure in respect of business costs was £64,712



# Our curriculum

## How we ensured and maintained quality

Judicial education in Scotland is predominantly judge-led, judge-devised and judge-delivered. Our training and resources are enriched by judicial contributions from across Scotland. The directors and staff team of educators work closely with these judicial contributors, advising them in applying robust learning designs and effective delivery styles. We also work closely with subject matter experts, academics and lived experts in the design and delivery of judicial education. We are particularly grateful for a substantial contribution of time and effort from practitioners in the field of forensic psychology during the reporting period. As described above, we have worked with these individuals to build and shape judicial training in trauma-informed practice. We have also worked closely with a range of other external specialists elsewhere in our curriculum, including as part of the latest update to the Equal Treatment Bench Book and will continue to do so where useful and relevant.

All judicial courses continue to be evaluated via end of course surveys. The course teams analyse the evaluation data and create relevant action plans during the process of debrief in order to improve future iterations of the same course. We also pay heed to the results of the Judicial Attitudes Survey, an anonymous and voluntary survey, conducted online by the Judicial Institute of University College London. The 2022 survey results were published at the end of March 2023. They revealed a downward trend in the perceived quality and range of training by salaried judiciary between 2014 and 2022. Additionally, satisfaction with the time and funding available for training has also fallen from 2020 to 2022. Whilst the downward trend began to emerge from 2014

onwards, it is clear from the data that the pandemic has had a negative impact in relation to training provision. The JAS has again run since the end of the current reporting period. We will consider the results carefully with a view to taking such action as may be appropriate.

We have continued to be active participants in legal and judicial training networks in the UK, Europe and internationally. The directors and Head of Education take part in regular networking and knowledge events with the Joint Standards Committee (Legal Education), the UK and Ireland Judicial Studies Council (UKIJS), the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and the International Organisation for Judicial Training (IOJT). Participation in conferences and scholarly discussions relating to judicial training is an essential part of our approach to quality assurance and enhancement of judicial training in Scotland.

## Strategic progress

This section reports against the seven areas of the Judicial Institute's [rolling training plan](#) 2023-2025. It contains activities of particular note.

## Live courses

### Sheriff Induction

As planned, we took an opportunity during the reporting period to continue the redesign of the induction curriculum to support a coherent transition for new judicial office holders both for the first full year of

office and well into early career. There were 18 participants who undertook the five day in person induction in September 2023. Whilst there was extensive preparatory reading required, this has been reduced considerably from earlier iterations to ensure the advance work is manageable during a period of transition. As materials are provided online, participants can access this useful repository as required, after the induction is complete.

## Courses for sheriffs and summary sheriffs

We have continued to develop our portfolio to strengthen training opportunities in various topics, including in modern judicial skills, personal welfare and security and judging in the social context.

We provided civil and criminal case management training to assist sheriffs and summary sheriffs in the efficient use of court time. We hope this will aid the reduction of backlogs and delays in the court process. Both courses look at opportunities for intervention from the bench to try to progress cases for everyone's benefit. The latest developments in practice and law are also covered. As planned, we made a return to Adoption/Permanence as well as Adults with Incapacity. We also provided a new course dealing with commercial business in the sheriff court.

Within a number of our courses, we have developed up-to-date case studies and scenarios that will promote contextualised learning in judgecraft and digital literacy.



# Trauma-informed practice

The Institute continued the roll-out of the 'Trauma-Informed Judging' course across the judiciary in the reporting period. By April 2024, all those sitting in the High Court and over half of all salaried full-time sheriffs had received the training, anticipated to be complete for the whole cohort by February 2025. Work continues to extend the roll-out to the remaining temporary judges and to sheriffs in general.

The trauma training has been designed and delivered in close collaboration with Dr Caroline Bruce, along with Anne McKechnie, both of whom are experts in the field of psychology. Dr Bruce's work is central to the wider work being carried out within the Scottish justice sector, having been the main author of ["Trauma-Informed Justice: a knowledge and skills framework for those working with victims and witnesses"](#), launched in 2023. Anne McKechnie performs a key role within the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and has brought her experience to bear within the judicial training by elaborating on the topic of vicarious trauma.

Building upon concepts from neurobiology and with the testimony of lived experts woven in, the training courses help judicial office holders to understand how trauma affects people and how this might play out when they appear in court. This facilitates the application of a trauma-informed lens to judicial practice, for example in the management of sexual offences cases and in the treatment of vulnerable witnesses. Practical advice on minimising retraumatisation and looking at the impact on the decision maker is also included.

## Judicial mentoring

The Institute has established a successful training model for the training of mentors and delivered one course during the reporting period. There are now more than 30 trained mentors at sheriff court level as well as a number of senators. After the course was delivered in 2023, we paused this area of work in order to free up space for courses on other subjects and kept the position under review in order to react to emerging demand. Provision of mentoring training was part of a wider package of initiatives put forward by the Judicial Welfare Committee. In addition to the mentoring training, the Judicial Institute weaves in the topic of judicial wellbeing into other courses in various ways, for example, under the heading of vicarious trauma.

## Judicial writing

A fundamental aspect of what judges do is written communication. In Scotland, there has been consistently strong leadership in improving judicial writing, shaped and endorsed heavily by the Lord President and Lord Justice Clerk.

Whilst the underlying legal basis of any writing must be sound, much of the focus on training in this area relates to the need to communicate judicial decisions in a way that is accessible to the public and not unnecessarily elaborate or complex. The use of plain and concise language is the foundation of the training. This is fundamental to securing open justice. During the reporting year, two courses in judicial writing featured in our curriculum (one for senators, one for sheriffs) which were designed with the idea that judicial office holders must articulate representations of parties in their judgments that are

accessible, fair, impartial and respectful of diverse life experiences. These courses provided opportunities for practical exercises that explored these themes in some depth.

## Courses for senators

A substantial review and refresh of senator induction took place by the members of the Judicial Institute Board, with one individual taking part in a newly developed induction in 2023. A major update to the programme included provision of all relevant material for judges who have little background in criminal proceedings. This has now been extended to inductions for temporary High Court judges. As with Sheriff Induction, care was taken to rationalise the extensive reading list provided to new senators at the time they are appointed.

As set out in our rolling training plan, we provided a training curriculum for senators as guided by the Lord President and Lord Justice Clerk. In the first part of 2023, we provided two events, one of which related to appeal report writing and the other relating to the interaction between oral and written advocacy.

## Tribunals

We consult closely with tribunal chamber presidents via the mechanism of the Judicial Education for Tribunals working group. There is consensus that the Judicial Institute should seek to expand provision for tribunal training in various ways, within resource limitations. A business case for additional staffing resource was made in late 2023 and agreed by the SCTS Executive Team in March 2024. One of the areas we hope will be

covered by this new, senior post, will be the expansion of our involvement in those aspects of tribunal training that give rise to issues that apply across different chambers.

Outwith the added resource, we have been able to revamp and simplify the landing page on the Judicial Hub for tribunal users. A new space for the Local Taxation Chamber has been developed and will be further enhanced with new features over the course of the coming year.

## Justices

In addition to providing the planned rolling curriculum for justices of the peace, work began in mid-2023 to design and develop an induction for a predicted large number of new justices as a result of a recruitment campaign earlier that year. Each prospective justice of the peace would be provided with two full days of induction by the Institute, with day 1 scheduled for April 2024 and day 2 for later that year, in September. The Institute consulted closely with sheriffdom legal advisers to develop induction events that worked in concert with plans for local programmes of training that would be provided in the period between the two days of Judicial Institute induction. Due to an expectation of numbers exceeding 80, the plan has been developed to provide the induction off-site in a local hotel and to repeat both training days so that numbers of participants on each day were capped at levels that would be conducive to a good active learning experience.

# Legal resources

Two major projects to update and enhance judicial bench books were ongoing during the reporting period. Judicial bench books form a critical part of the knowledge base of judicial office holders when sitting on the bench. For this reason, the continual maintenance of these online resources is essential. The Judicial Institute hosts and manages this material on the intranet for judges, the Judicial Hub. The staff team work closely with the relevant editors and committee members in improving and building these resources.

## The Equal Treatment Bench Book

The ETBB should be an up-to-date guide that aids the Scottish judiciary to work inclusively and respectfully of people from diverse backgrounds. During the reporting period, a large amount of preparatory work was carried out, with the support of the Head of Education, to identify and consult with a range of third sector and court user advocacy groups in order to inform and shape the new edition.

## The Jury Manual

In July 2023, the Jury Manual Committee completed the most substantial update to the Jury Manual for several years, including the publication of new directions to address rape myths and misconceptions that may impact jury deliberations in cases involving rape and other sexual offences.

Whilst these have been collectively termed “rape myths”, many of the principles and directions will also be relevant in cases of domestic abuse. In preparing these directions the Committee took account of the recommendations flowing from the Lord Justice Clerk’s Review Group Report.

The publication of this important new chapter was followed later in 2023 by completion of a plain language rewrite of all sexual offence chapters, and several amendments in light of significant new Appeal Court decisions. Whilst stating the law correctly will always be the priority, work continues on making the specimen directions more straightforward and expressed in plainer language.

On 31 October 2023, the Deputy Director attended a meeting of the Lady Dorrian Review Governance Group where at their invitation he provided them with further information about the work done by the Jury Manual Committee on the Rape Myths and Misconceptions chapter.

In the reporting period, the Committee also updated materials on trial management and issued revised written directions for jurors.

## Digital projects

### Learning Suite upgrade and refurbishment

The Learning Suite was refurbished in preparation for the new training year in September 2023. The interior was redecorated, the carpets replaced and a deep clean carried out. The room had been in need of a

refurbishment due to being repurposed during 2020-2022 for use by the SCTS Change and Digital Innovation team.

Additional audio-visual equipment for the Learning Suite was installed and commissioned in early 2024, with bespoke software for the particular requirements of the Institute. The equipment will offer the opportunity to provide events and meetings in a hybrid format, where remote participants can attend along with in-person attendees. The upgrade should improve the process of sharing audio-visual materials to screens around the room. These developments should assure the high quality of audio-visual resources used within judicial training courses.

Digitalisation and innovative technologies are topics covered increasingly in judicial courses, events and webinars.

We welcomed useful contributions from different digital subject matter experts during 2023/24. SCTS's Head of Cyber Security and Digital Risk provided an in-depth presentation to sheriffs and summary sheriffs on cyber security in June 2023, along with a representative of COPFS who gave insight into developments in digital evidence sharing.

At the request of the Lord President and Lord Justice Clerk the Judicial Institute organised a conference for senators and Sheriffs Principal entitled, "The Courtroom of the Future" in November 2023. There were a number of presentations which were generally well received, each of which invited delegates to consider the opportunities and challenges posed by the increasing digitalisation of court business and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence. The event provided a welcome opportunity for collegiality and peer discussions amongst judges about current and future innovations.

## Delivery model

We are always looking for new ways to provide good quality training and education to judicial office holders. It is not always convenient or practicable for course participants to travel to Edinburgh for face-to-face courses. The measures taken during the Covid-19 pandemic to provide remote online learning demonstrated that, in many circumstances, online learning can be a preferable option for judicial office holders to attend training. To this end, whilst the majority of courses were moved back in-person, we have been exploring the use of different delivery models for short form learning via one-hour interactive online webinars, provided at 4.15pm when courts are down for the day.

During the reporting period we provided seven webinars to around 120 participants overall on a wide range of topics provided by both judicial and expert speakers. Topics included an overview of the Scottish Prison Service, the Death by Dangerous Driving Guideline and Proceeds of Crime.

## International links and outreach

### European Judicial Training Network

The Institute provided a four-day seminar to a large group of EU prosecutors and judges from 5-8 June 2023. The Deputy Director, Head of Education and Julie Hannah, one of the Education and Learning Managers, travelled to Trier in Germany for the event. The title of the seminar was: 'AI and judging: a philosophical approach'. The Judicial Institute engaged three specialist speakers for the event: Professor



Burkhard Schafer from the University of Edinburgh; Dr Keri Grieman from the University of Oxford and Turing Institute and Jos Smits from the Government of the Netherlands. The event was very well received. It has led to further activity that has raised the profile of the Judicial Institute.

## International delegations

During the reporting period, we received visits from eleven visiting delegations of judges, prosecutors and officials from countries including Korea, Taiwan, Nigeria and Singapore. The extent and topics covered in each visit was tailored to suit the preferences and aims of the delegates.

## Course and event calendar

Courses delivered between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

(R) after the course title denotes that the course was held remotely using Cisco Webex. Courses were otherwise held in person. All courses not stated to be for senators, justices or tribunal judges were for sheriffs.

Course	Date	Participants
Developments in Family Law and Practice	20 April 2022	10
Unrepresented accused in the JP court	26 April	10
Leading with Confidence: Decision Making for Justices (R)	3 May	11
Trauma-Informed Judging	17 May	14

Induction for Senators	18-23 May	1
Sheriff and Summary Sheriff Refresher	24 May	10
Judging in the Digital Age	1 June	7
EJTN Seminar	5-9 June	19
Sheriff and Summary Sheriff Refresher	13 June	10
Judicial Mentoring	24 August	8
Sheriff Induction	4-8 September	18
Introduction to Library Services Webinar (R)	11 September	5
Solemn Case Management	13 September	16
Civil Case Management	19 September	13
Judicial Writing for Senators	29 September	6
Sentencing	3 October	14
Scottish Prison Service Webinar (R)	5 October	13
Communicating with Confidence for Justices	13 October	6
Sheriff and Summary Sheriff Refresher	30 October	12
Tribunal Craft (R)	2 November	15
Defining and Communicating Risk Webinar (R)	6 November	7
Judicial Writing for Sheriffs	8 November	17
Modern Road Traffic Challenges for Justices	20 November	19
Unrepresented Accused in the JP Court	29 November	10
Commercial Business	1 December	9

Proceeds of Crime Webinar (R)	5 December	19
Trauma-Informed Judging	7 December	18
Leading with Confidence: Decision Making for Justices	12 December	7
Adults with Incapacity	14 December	16
Artificial Intelligence Webinar (R)	11 January 2024	36
Communication – Common Challenges in Court, for Justices (R)	17 January	5
Tribunal Craft (R)	1 February	13
Sheriff Appeal Court Induction	2 February	13
Sentencing	7 February	9
Modern Road Traffic Challenges for Justices (R)	20 February	11
Death by Driving Webinar	22 February	24
Upper Tribunal	27 February	12
Judicial Skills/wellbeing	5 March	8
Temporary Judge Induction	12 March	4
Proceeds of Crime Webinar (R)	14 March	16
Complexities of Sexual Offences for Senators	26 March	15
Criminal Case Management	27 March	10

In this reporting year, we delivered 52 days of programming, for a total of 515 participants.

## Judicial Institute Lecture

The Judicial Institute Lecture was on 21 March in Parliament Hall. The speaker was Chief Justice of Ireland, Donal O'Donnell. The title was, "From the Acts of Union to the European Union: One Hundred Years of Constitutionalism".

## Concluding remarks

We have made substantial progress during the reporting period in a number of projects and initiatives that relate to the short, mid and longer term aims set out in our rolling training plan to 2025. We have had to balance carefully our resources in order to deliver on our plans as well as emergent requests, notably the requirement to provide an accelerated programme of trauma training for salaried sheriffs and summary sheriffs.

We have been successful in allowing our training content and methods to evolve in relation to continued technological and social change in Scotland. There remains much to be done. To continue to be as effective as possible we must continue to respond to change and be flexible and agile in all that we do.

We are very aware of the growing demands for high-quality judicial training, especially in relation to the social context of judging and its various facets. We continue to consider ways in which we can innovate and develop our portfolio of training in response, ever mindful of the challenges posed by decreasing budgets and increasing expectations.