

**HONORARY KING’S COUNSEL NOMINATION GUIDANCE**

The Lord Justice General invites nominations for appointment as Honorary King’s Counsel. Nomination forms must be completed and returned to Lord President’s Private Office by 12.00pm on 25 March 2025.

Honorary KC is an honorary award unique to the legal profession. It is an opportunity to recognise those in the profession who have made a major contribution to the law of Scotland or the legal profession and how it is advanced, out with practice as an advocate or solicitor advocate.

**What is the award for?**

Nominations should demonstrate a significant positive impact which an individual’s efforts have had.

Example are:

* Influencing legislation or the general law (eg through academic research).
* Making an impact on the legal profession (eg through initiatives that have improved diversity, legal education, or the provision of legal services).
* Making an impact through innovation (eg by digital or technical innovation).

It is not a long-service award. Honours may be awarded for significant impacts over a long period of time. They may equally be awarded for an impact over a shorter period. The scale of the impact is what is important.

The Lord Justice General is keen to recognise the diversity within the profession, with awards that reflect the range of different legal careers that make up the profession as a whole.

**Who is eligible?**

To be eligible, the individual must be a qualified advocate, solicitor, legal academic or the equivalent. The nomination must be for achievement outside practice as an advocate or solicitor. In other words, an award is made for non-advocacy work. The award is separate to substantive KC appointments. Where someone is eligible to apply for silk in their role as an advocate or solicitor advocate, they would not normally be considered for an Honorary KC award. Anyone nominated may be subject to criminal record checks with Disclosure Scotland.

**How to make a nomination**

The Lord Justice General welcomes nominations for Honorary KC from anyone, including people outside the legal profession, who can explain the impact which the nominee has made.

Nominations must be made on the Honorary KC nomination form. When completing the form, please explain the contribution that has been made, providing clear evidence of its impact. The nomination must not exceed 500 words.

The nomination form should be sent by 12.00pm on 25 March 2025 preferably by email, or alternatively post, to:

**c/o Paul Gilmour**

**The Lord President’s Private Office**

**Parliament House**

**Parliament Square**

**Edinburgh**

**EH1 1RQ**

**Email:** [**lordpresident@scotcourts.gov.uk**](mailto:lordpresident@scotcourts.gov.uk)

**How are awards made?**

The process is administered by The Lord President’s Private Office. Nominations are considered by a panel comprised of the Lord President, representatives from academia, the Law Society and the Faculty of Advocates.

Recommendations are then made to the Scottish Government, whose role is to ensure that the process has been carried out in a fair, open and transparent way. If approved by the First Minister, the recommendations are then referred to the King, who grants the awards under the royal prerogative.

**Contact us**

If you would like additional information on Honorary KC awards or how to make a nomination, please email: [**lordpresident@scotcourts.gov.uk**](mailto:lordpresident@scotcourts.gov.uk)