

The Appointment of Queen's Counsel in Gibraltar

The following guidelines will apply to the appointment of Queen's Counsel in Gibraltar with effect from 18 July 2011 until further notice.

General

1. The rank of Queen's Counsel in Gibraltar will be made available to a limited number of senior legal practitioners in Gibraltar.
2. Numbers of Queen's Counsel will be restricted to approximately 10% of the number of those members of the practicing Bar.
3. There will be a biennial invitation for applications.

Applicants

4. Applicants are to have a minimum of 15 years' experience since Call or Admission to the Bar.
5. Applicants should be of the highest standard and professional reputation and integrity.
6. Applicants should be recognised as being of eminent stature in the practice of the law.
7. Applicants must provide three references (two legal, one non-legal).
8. Applicants will normally be expected to have displayed competence in litigation but it is accepted that in exceptional cases an applicant may come from a non-litigation background.

Selection

9. The QC Appointments Committee will comprise: the Chief Justice; 2 members nominated by the Judicial Services Commission (of which they may be members); and 2 members appointed by the Governor, acting in his discretion. The Chief Justice will chair the Committee and appoint a Secretary from the membership of the Committee.
10. The QC Appointments Committee will consult the senior judiciary on prospective appointments.
11. The advice of the QC Appointments Committee to the Governor is not subject to appeal or review.
12. The Governor, as HM's Representative, will make the appointment on the advice of the QC Appointments Committee.
13. The Governor may disregard the advice of the QC Appointment Committee in any case where he judges that compliance with that advice would prejudice Her Majesty's service or the good standing of QCs.
14. All applicants will be informed at the same time of the outcome of their application.
15. The Governor's decision is not subject to appeal or review.

Administration

16. The Judicial Service Commission secretariat will serve the QC Committee.
17. Applicants will be responsible for their own costs.
18. All applications for QC are to be submitted to the Secretary to the QC Committee at the Supreme Court.