

NEWS RELEASE



PN11/02

20 January 2011

MORE SOCIAL ENTITLEMENT JUDGES WANTED

Double the number of Social Entitlement Chamber salaried judicial roles are available than were in the last opportunity through a JAC recruitment exercise starting today.

The Chamber now requires 37 salaried judges, compared with 17 positions in the previous exercise in 2009. This is in addition to the 84 fee-paid Social Entitlement Chamber judges advertised for in November - eight times more roles than the last opportunity three years before.

The salaried judges appointed will hear a wide range of appeals relating to social security benefits, including Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Disability Living Allowance, Child Maintenance, Tax Credits and Industrial Injuries Benefits. Their primary role will be ensuring that all parties to the appeal, some of whom can be the most vulnerable in society, receive a fair hearing. As salaried judges, they will be dealing with the more complex cases, as well as mentoring and appraising the fee-paid judges and members.

Of the 37 positions, 27 are for immediate appointment with 12 salaried part-time opportunities available, and are located across England, Scotland and Wales. There are also 10 future opportunities.

For further information contact Rebecca Astles on 0203 334 0329

Editors' Notes

1. This exercise opened for applications on 20 January 2011 and the application materials are available to download from our website www.judicialappointments.gov.uk
2. The application window closes at noon on 10 February 2011.
3. This post is open to solicitors and barristers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, advocates or solicitors in Scotland, and Fellows of the Institute of Legal Executives, with five years' post qualification experience (PQE), or any person who in the Lord Chancellor's opinion has gained experience in law which makes them as suitable for appointment as if they satisfied these criteria. The Lord Chancellor also expects that candidates for salaried posts will have sufficient directly relevant previous judicial experience. Only in exceptional cases and if the candidate in question has demonstrated the skills in some other significant way should an exception be made.

4. The JAC came into existence in April 2006 with a statutory duty to select solely on merit and to have regard to the need to encourage diversity in the range of people applying for appointment.