

President of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice

The President of the Queen's Bench Division ("QBD") is one of the four Heads of Division. He or she must be able to:

- preside over some of the most difficult criminal, civil and administrative law cases in the Court of Appeal and the Divisional Court;
- advise the Lord Chief Justice about matters across the criminal justice system;
- support the Lord Chief Justice in discharging his responsibilities as Head of the Judiciary;
- provide leadership to the judges of the Division;
- delegate, with the agreement of the Lord Chief Justice, some of the responsibilities of the office;

Responsibilities

Criminal Justice

1. Presiding over some of the most difficult cases in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) and the Divisional Court in and out of London.
2. Under the leadership of the Lord Chief Justice (as Head of Criminal Justice):
 - a. Developing the judicial approach to long term and more immediate modernisation and other issues; planning and taking action in this respect.
 - b. Maintaining relations between the judiciary and other participants in the criminal justice system.
 - c. Working with the Senior Presiding Judge on matters relating to the effective operation of the criminal justice system at all levels in the Circuits.

Deployment and Pastoral

3. Supporting the Judges of the Division in pastoral care and career development and overseeing their deployment.
4. Engaging with the JAC in the appointment of new judges to the Division and new Deputies under s.9 (1) and providing induction and pastoral care to those appointed.

The Administrative Court, including the Divisional Court

5. In conjunction with the Lead Judge, the Administrative Court Liaison Judges for the circuits, the Master and Deputy Master of the Administrative Court and the court manager and listing officer, supervising the allocation of the leading cases and the just and timely despatch of the business of the Administrative Court. Presiding in the some of the most high profile or difficult Administrative Law cases in the Divisional Court in and out of London.

6. Completing the transfer of business to UTIAC and making the consequential changes to the working of the Administrative Court
7. Working with the Senior President of Tribunals, providing leadership to the liaison between the work of the Administrative Court and the Tribunals

Civil business, the Commercial Court and the TCC

8. Presiding from time to time in appeals the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal
9. In conjunction with the judges in charge of the Commercial Court and the TCC, ensuring the just and timely despatch of the business of these courts.
10. Completing the transfer of the Central London County Court to the RCJ and the arrangements for the allocation of work as between the QB lists and the Central London County Court.
11. In conjunction with the Judge in charge of the lists, the liaison judge for the Masters and the Senior Master, ensuring the just and timely despatch of the business of the lists of the QB and Central London County Court.

Judicial Leadership

12. As a member of the Judicial Executive Board (JEB) and a member of the Judges Council, taking an informed and broad view on matters relating to the responsibilities of the Lord Chief Justice as Head of the Judiciary; advising objectively; supporting him in the interests of justice.
13. Providing leadership to Judges' Council working groups and a link between them and JEB as appropriate.

The longer term

14. Although it is envisaged that the PQBD will in the longer term concentrate the responsibilities on criminal justice and deployment, pastoral care and career development of judges of the Division, it is possible that the other responsibilities may be adjusted.

Requirements

The PQBD must be a lawyer of the highest calibre and personal integrity, who commands confidence in his or her ability to preside over the type of case referred to above. He or she must have strategic and leadership capability and a deep understanding of the operation of the criminal justice system and the factors which shape it. The following requirements are of particular importance.

- The judicial skills, experience, energy, resilience and authority to fulfil with distinction the office of PQBD.
- An interest and understanding of the long term and immediate fiscal, strategic and political context in which the justice system operates, and the ability to advise and plan on the basis of this.
- Expertise in the full complexity of the criminal justice system at all levels, the wider context in which it operates and its modernisation.

- The ability to lead the judges of the QBD, to improve performance and to lead and manage modernisation and change. The ability to develop priorities and to inspire the judges to follow the lead given.
- The ability to engage outside, including members of Government, the Ministry of Justice and the professions; to understand their perspectives and influence their thinking.
- The ability to progress diversity in the judiciary and encourage the development of careers and leadership capabilities.
- Participation in corporate decision making and a willingness to take corporate responsibility on matters which affect the justice system and judiciary as a whole.