



JUDICIARY OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES

**Deputy High Court (s9.4)  
Job Description**

**General**

1. The structure and jurisdiction of the High Court are governed broadly by the provisions of the Senior Courts Act 1981. There are three High Court Divisions – the Queen’s Bench Division (of which the Commercial Court and Technology and Construction Courts are part), the Chancery Division and the Family Division. It should be noted, however, that the jurisdiction of the High Court is indivisible in law and belongs to all Divisions alike.
2. Those appointed to sit as deputy High Court Judges will be expected to undertake work which would otherwise be undertaken by salaried High Court Judges.
3. They must essentially meet the criteria for appointment as a salaried High Court judge, in particular they must have exceptional ability. This ability must extend beyond pure legal skill and candidates should be able to demonstrate the necessary inter-personal skills to enable them to conduct a fair hearing of a case that may involve the participation of experienced Counsel and/or a litigant in person. They must also be able to work or develop expertise across all aspects of the work of the Division.
4. Candidates applying for this post must be of high calibre and exceptional ability, with the potential to progress to the High Court. They will be expected to give serious consideration to making an application to become a salaried judge within the four year appointment period.
5. The work will include sitting on complex cases of a very high quality. It will require exceptional standards of preparation and judgecraft. You may be asked to reach decisions on paper alone rather than with a hearing. You may also be given a specific trial or hearing of some duration.

**Main Activities**

Depending on the jurisdiction you may be hearing a range of work including:

- judicial review claims and statutory challenges to the actions of public authorities such as local authorities and other public sector bodies
- complex cases arising for example out of accidents, contractual claims, employment issues and many other areas of law
- Complex cases involving children and families in both Public and Private law. Financial disputes in Divorce cases. Jurisdictional issues relating to children, residence and contact, and validity of marriage.

The main activities are likely to include:

### **Preparing for Trial and Presiding over Court Proceedings**

- Reading and assimilating case papers before a hearing or trial commences
- Controlling (in accordance with the relevant law and practice) the manner in which cases are conducted
- Ensuring that parties are on an equal footing, and that, whether represented or not, their cases are presented and considered as fully and fairly as possible
- Promoting in each case the most expeditious dispatch of business compatible with the interests of justice
- Dealing with the case in ways which are proportionate:
  - to the amount of money involved;
  - to the importance of the case;
  - to the complexity of the issues; and
  - to the financial position of each party, and allotting to it an appropriate share of the court's resources, while taking into account the need to allot resources to other cases.
- Maintaining the authority and dignity of the Court
- Taking an accurate note of the relevant parts of the evidence
- Deciding issues of law and procedure which may arise during a case

### **Judgment**

- Deciding actions by finding facts, applying the relevant law to them and giving a reasoned judgment (which may be reserved, if necessary)
- Determining contested applications and other issues by consideration of the papers and evidence presented at any hearing and making findings of fact, applying the relevant law and, where appropriate, giving a reasoned judgment expeditiously.
- Assessing and awarding damages and costs, deciding the amount and manner of payment, making possession orders and punishing for contempt or breach of court orders
- Supervising the wording of the judgments and orders of the Court.

### **Appeals and Applications**

- Sitting in the Administrative Court hearing applications for Judicial Review

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