

Recorder: Overview

Recorders are appointed nationally and assigned by the Lord Chief Justice to a Circuit within England and Wales.

The jurisdiction of a Recorder is broadly similar to that of a Circuit Judge; Recorders are required to read and assimilate case papers before a hearing or trial starts and play an active role in case management. Recorders must control the manner in which cases are conducted, decide issues of law and procedure that may arise during a case and provide reasons for any ruling. Recorders are expected to keep abreast of legal developments; this entails a substantial amount of reading not directly connected with the cases which they are trying.

Following appointment, and subject to completion of training and sitting in, all Recorders deployed to sit in family will be required to sit in Private Law with the majority also requiring authorisation in Public Law, subject to senior judicial approval. In addition, some successful applicants will be deployed to sit solely in the civil jurisdiction. Again, this will be subject to completing training and sitting in, and to business need.

Following appointment, there will be an opportunity for Recorders to seek cross authorisation across the jurisdictions. This remains subject to the support of the relevant leadership judiciary, senior judicial approval and completion of relevant induction and training events.