



Queen's Counsel Appointments – Assessment Process Validation

The QC Selection Panel welcomes the report from the external consultant on the assessment process. The Selection Panel intends to adopt most of the recommendations in the report.

In particular, the Selection Panel

- will invite the professional bodies to adopt a statement of purpose for the appointment scheme.
- will include a broad description of what is meant by “excellence” in the Guidance for Applicants to be published in February 2019.
- hopes to publish “exemplar” assessments to assist assessors to provide the sort of assessments which are most helpful to the Panel.
- will revise the rating scale used by assessors to emphasise that assessors are asked to consider the suitability of the applicant for appointment as QC rather than assessing their performance as a junior advocate.
- will seek to explain more fully in the Guidance for Applicants the relative significance of the assessments and the interview in coming to conclusions on the different competencies.

However, the Selection Panel will not be inviting the professional bodies to reduce the number of judicial assessments sought on each applicant. In the Selection Panel's experience, evidence from judicial assessors is often the most useful information available to the Panel. Accordingly, in the Panel's view, reducing the number of judicial assessments sought would impair the Panel's ability to take the best informed decision it can on each application.