



ABOUT THE CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL

The primary task of the Council is to promote the needs of civil justice and to monitor the system to ensure that progress to modernise it continues.

It advises the Lord Chancellor on how the civil justice system can be continuously improved, building on the fundamental changes brought about by the civil justice reforms introduced in April 1999.

It was established under the Section 6 of the Civil Procedure Act 1997 and is required to:

- keep the civil justice system under review;
- consider how to make the civil justice system more accessible, fair and efficient;
- advise the Lord Chancellor and the judiciary on the development of the civil justice system;
- refer proposals for changes in the civil justice system to the Lord Chancellor and the Civil Procedure Rule Committee; and
- make proposals for research.

To achieve its purpose effectively, the Council needs to be representative of a broad cross section of those who have an interest in the civil justice system. The Civil Procedure Act requires that it should include:

- members of the judiciary
- members of the legal professions
- civil servants concerned with the administration of the courts
- persons with experience in and knowledge of consumer affairs
- persons with experience in and knowledge of the lay advice sector
- persons able to represent the interests of particular kinds of litigants (for example businesses or employees)

The Council has identified five areas of priority within the civil justice system and has established committees to carry forward work in each of these areas:

- Injury
- Property
- Consumer
- Dispute Resolution
- Funding

The committees are all chaired by Council members and have other Council members with particular expertise or interest in the given area serving on them.

The work of the committees is complemented by a variety of oversight groups, working groups and sub-committees.

For more information about the work of the Council, please see the enclosed copy of its Annual Report or visit its website at www.civiljusticecouncil.gov.uk