**About Page**

[**About the Law Society**](https://www.lawscot.org.uk/about-us)

The Law Society of Scotland is the professional body for Scottish solicitors and was established in 1949. We have an overarching objective of leading legal excellence and strive to excel and to be a world-class professional body, understanding and serving the needs of our members and the public. As part of our regulatory duties, we set and uphold standards to ensure the provision of excellent legal services and ensure the public can have confidence in Scotland’s legal profession.

The Law Society also has a statutory duty to work in the public interest, a duty which we are strongly committed to achieving through our work to promote a strong, varied and effective legal profession working in the interests of the public and protecting and promoting the rule of law. We seek to influence the creation of a fairer and more just society through active engagement with the Scottish and United Kingdom governments, parliaments, wider stakeholders and our membership.

**Dimensions**

The Law Society of Scotland (LSS) is the professional body for nearly 13,000 Scottish Solicitors. It is a body set and up and governed by statute. It is governed by a Council of up to 48 individuals (both Solicitor and non-solicitor). It has a staff of around 150 and around 650 volunteers (Solicitors and non-solicitors) assist in carrying out its work.

**Organisation Chart**

Available at [www.aspenpeople.co.uk/lsos](http://www.aspenpeople.co.uk/lsos)

**The Role Page**

**Job Purpose**

To provide the vision and input necessary to enable the organisation to be a world-class professional body, effectively representing the interests of its members, whilst setting and upholding standards that strives for excellence and ensures the public can have confidence in the Scottish legal profession.

**Job Description**

The Council is our decision-making body. It has 31 members elected from geographical constituencies, up to eight co-opted members representing other interest groups and nine lay members. It meets regularly and is usually chaired by the President. Working with departments and others, a wide range of Committees and Sub-Committees report to the Council.

**Role of Council**

* To fulfill its statutory obligations which include:
  + responsibility for the overall governance regime for the Law Society
  + the election of the President and Vice President
  + the election of the elected Council members on the Board
  + the appointment of conveners of Council committees (bar the Regulatory Committee) and the members of Council committees, subcommittees and working parties.
* Approve the Law Society of Scotland’s strategy, annual business plan and annual budget.
* Discuss and decide on matters of strategic importance, or material operational matters which effect the efficacy of the Society and to bring such matters to the attention of the Board and Society’s Executive.
* Hold the Board to account
* Discuss and decide any other matter which the Council determines is necessary in order to fulfill its statutory obligations.

**Role of a Council member**

* Vote in the election of the President and fulfill any other statutory obligations required of them under the 1980 Act
* Vote in the election of the five Council members to the Board
* Participate in the appointment of the conveners of the Committees of the Council (bar the Regulatory Committee) and the members of Council committees, subcommittees and working parties
* Promote the interests of the public in relation to the profession as a lay member of Council
* Raise matters of public interest in relation to the profession as a lay member of Council
* Serve on one committee or working party throughout each three year term as a Council member
* Advance the work of the Council to both the profession and public
* Acquire a good understanding of the principal areas of work of the Law Society
* Comply with the [code of conduct for Council and committee members](https://www.lawscot.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/council-members/code-of-conduct-for-council-and-committee-members/)

**Time Commitment and Expenses**

The successful candidates are required to attend around nine meetings per year plus any ad-hoc meetings which may occasionally arise.

Candidates will also need to dedicate time to reading papers and information in preparation for the meetings and responding to emails about Council work.

Council meetings are currently held on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 approx. Meetings are generally agreed at their October meeting for meetings taking place next year. Dates for 2024 are: 17 May, 28 June, 6 September, 11 October, and 22 November.

Council meets on a hybrid basis (in person in Edinburgh and with an option to join via MS Teams) and we welcome applicants from across Scotland and further afield. Attendance in person is encouraged whenever possible.

These positions are voluntary, and reasonable expenses may be claimed.

**Length of term**

These appointments are for three years. Further re-appointment may be possible.

**How to Apply**

CV and supporting letter – please upload your application at <https://jobs.aspenpeople.co.uk/>

**Application Process**

The Nominations Committee will consider all applications and put their selection forward to the Council for approval. The panel may invite applicants to a short interview. The Council Secretary will confirm member’s appointments in writing shortly after formal approval has been given. The email will set out the approved term of office and other key information that a new member will require.