



Administrative Justice  
& Tribunals Council

[www.ajtc.gov.uk](http://www.ajtc.gov.uk)

The AJTC is an advisory non-departmental public body which

- Keeps the overall administrative justice system under review;
- Keeps under review the constitution and working of the tribunals designated as being under the AJTC's oversight;
- Keeps under review the constitution and working of some statutory inquiries.

What is administrative justice?

Government regulates various aspects of our everyday lives, making decisions in relation to individual people. 'Administrative justice' includes the procedures for making such decisions, the law that regulates decision-making, and the systems (such as the various tribunals and ombudsmen) that enable people to challenge these decisions.



## Our Purpose, Vision and Values

**Our purpose is to help make administrative justice and tribunals increasingly accessible, fair and effective by:**

- Playing a pivotal role in the development of coherent principles and good practice;
- Promoting understanding, learning and continuous improvement;
- Ensuring that the needs of users are central.

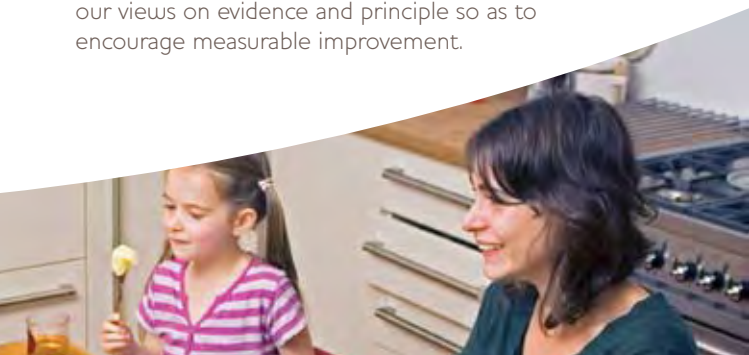
**Our vision for administrative justice and tribunals is a system where:**

- Those taking administrative decisions do so on soundly-based evidence and with regard to the needs of those affected;
- People are helped to understand how they can best challenge decisions or seek redress at least cost and inconvenience to themselves;
- Grievances are resolved in a way which is fair, timely, open and proportionate;
- There is a continuous search for improvement at every stage in the process.

**The values we seek to promote in administrative justice and tribunals are:**

- Openness and transparency
- Fairness and proportionality
- Impartiality and independence
- Equality of access to justice

We will also work collaboratively with others, basing our views on evidence and principle so as to encourage measurable improvement.



# How does the AJTC work?

The members of the AJTC:

- Provide advice to government and make recommendations on changes to legislation, practice and procedure which will improve the workings of the administrative justice system;
- Attend proceedings of tribunals (including deliberations) as an observer;
- Make recommendations on the priorities for research, as well as playing a major role in disseminating, and lending authority to, any research findings;
- Review the relationships between the various components of the administrative justice system (such as ombudsmen, tribunals and the courts);
- Give evidence before Parliamentary Select Committees;
- Publish a statutory Annual Report to the Lord Chancellor, the Welsh Ministers and the Scottish Ministers, and Special Reports and other guidance on relevant matters;
- Hold an annual conference for Presidents and Heads of tribunals, academics, the advice sector and others with an interest in administrative justice, and topical workshop events when the need arises;
- Produce a quarterly electronic newsletter which contains news and views of the wider administrative justice world.



# Membership

The AJTC consists of up to 15 appointed members, including the Chairman. The AJTC has Scottish and Welsh Committees which include members who are not members of the AJTC.

## **The AJTC does NOT**

- Involve itself with particular cases which a tribunal or inquiry is hearing; or,
- Deal with complaints about a particular case or a tribunal decision.

The AJTC has no powers to investigate or adjudicate on complaints from members of the public about the conduct or decisions of a tribunal in any particular case.



## Origins of the AJTC

The Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council (AJTC) was set up by the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 to replace the Council on Tribunals. The Council on Tribunals was set up in 1958 and operated under the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992.

## Contact Details:

### **Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council**

81 Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1BQ  
Enquiries: 020 7855 5200  
Fax: 020 7855 5201  
General email: [enquiries@ajtc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ajtc.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Scottish Committee**

George House  
126 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 4HH  
Telephone: 0131 271 4300  
Fax: 0131 271 4309  
Email: [scajtc@gtnet.gov.uk](mailto:scajtc@gtnet.gov.uk)

### **Welsh Committee**

The Welsh Committee will be formally constituted on 1 June 2008. For any queries, please contact our London office.