



GUIDE TO SERVICES

Justiciary Office

Who are they? The administrators who run the High Court and the Sheriff Appeal Court. Justiciary Office process all criminal appeals in Scotland.

What can they do? If you want to appeal a conviction but don't have a lawyer, Justiciary Office should be able to direct you to the appropriate forms to fill out.

What can't they do? They won't be able to give you legal advice or discuss the merits of your appeal.

What does it cost? There may be court fees for some services, but usually nothing.

Contact details: ☎ 0131 225 2595

✉ Either solemnappeals@scotcourts.gov.uk (jury cases) or summaryappeals@scotcourts.gov.uk (judge-only cases), supplying the following information:

- name
- date of birth
- details of your conviction (date/court/offences)
- whether you wish to appeal conviction or sentence or both conviction and sentence

This will allow Justiciary Office to issue the appropriate forms to you. If you need one, they will send you a form to request an extension of time to lodge an appeal.

Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission (SCCRC)

Who are they? An independent body that reviews alleged miscarriages of justice.

What can they do? The SCCRC is the only body with the power to refer cases to the High Court. The SCCRC has legal powers to help it investigate miscarriages of justice. The SCCRC can look at any conviction and/or sentence in a Scottish court.

What can't they do? The SCCRC's legal officers can't give you legal advice. The SCCRC usually looks at cases only if an appeal through the normal route has failed.

What does it cost? This service is free.

Contact details: ☎ 0141 270 7030

✉ info@sccrc.org.uk

Private Solicitors

Who are they? Many firms of solicitors provide advice on criminal law to clients.

What can they do? A solicitor can lodge an appeal for you. They can also help you to make an application to the SCCRC.

What can't they do? Other services may be more appropriate if you are looking for practical advice or support.

What does it cost? Some solicitors provide advice as legal aid. This is usually free. Other solicitors only accept private clients.

Contact details:  0131 226 7411 – The Law Society of Scotland should be able to suggest firms in your area who work in criminal law.



Website tool: <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/find-a-solicitor/>

Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO)

Who are they? Publicly funded solicitors who provide advice and representation in criminal law.

What can they do? Everything that private solicitors can do in criminal law.

What can't they do? PDSO can only act for you if you qualify for legal aid. They can't help with non-criminal matters.

What does it cost? Usually free.

Contact details:  0800 328 1222

Miscarriages of Justice Organisation (MOJO)

Who are they? A voluntary organisation that gives legal and practical help to people who say that they have been wrongly convicted of a crime.

What can they do? MOJO can provide advice and support to people when they are released from prison. They can also help people to apply to the SCCRC.

What can't they do? They can't refer a conviction or sentence to the court themselves. They don't have any legal powers to investigate miscarriages of justice. They will only help people who have consistently maintained their innocence.

What does it cost? This service is free.

Contact details:  0141 552 0009



info@miscarriagesofjustice.org



Online enquiry form: [Contact - MOJO](#)

Advocacy Services

Who are they? A number of different services throughout Scotland provide help to people dealing with other organisations.

What can they do? An advocacy worker may be able to help you to fill out an application to the SCCRC. They may be able to deal with the SCCRC on your behalf.

What can't they do? Advocacy workers aren't lawyers. They can help you to put across your views, but they can't give you legal advice. Most advocacy services are targeted at particular groups of people. (For example, mental health advocates.) If you aren't part of that group, the service won't be able to help you.

What does it cost? These services are usually free.

Contact details:  0131 510 9410 – the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance can help you find advocacy services in your area.



Online enquiry: [Contact - Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance](#)