



GLASGOW USER GROUP

19 May 2026, 3pm

In person at Glasgow City Chambers

Chaired by Lord Stephens and Lord Doherty

AGENDA

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Also in attendance from the Court:

Laura Angus, Registrar
Anna Macfaden, Judicial Assistant

User Group Attendees:

David Thomson KC, Axiom Advocates
Holly Dyce, Scottish Government Legal Directorate
Dominic Scullion, Compass Chambers
Julie Hamilton, Morton Fraser MacRoberts LLP
Jeniffer Neill, Burness Paull LLP
Louise Crichton, Office of the Advocate General for Scotland
John McPhail, Office of the Advocate General for Scotland
David Tait, Clyde & Co
Fiona Cameron, Pinsent Masons
Alison Waddell, Brodies LLP

1. Welcome (Lord Stephens)

Lord Stephens introduced himself. He identified the purpose of the Court's trip to Glasgow, seeking to undo perception of UKSC as a London Court but a court of the UK. He also explained the purpose of the local user group as seeking feedback to improve our systems and identify any specific problems facing practitioners in Scotland.

Lord Doherty introduced himself and welcomed feedback.



2. Court Updates

Laura Angus introduced herself as Registrar, apologising for Celia Cave's absence due to train delay. Laura explained the role of the registry in UKSC, discussed the new portal system, and noted that the registry is always available for questions and assistance via both the portal and phone.

Cross-Appeals

Laura provided an update on cross-appeals and noted that the registry's position is that it cannot advise on interpretation of the UKSC Rules, particularly on complex questions as to what amounts to a cross-appeal. The Rules and Practice Directions have recently been updated to improve clarity, and as a general rule it is for practitioners to interpret the Rules and advise clients accordingly.

Intervenors

Lord Stephens clarified the position on intervenors, noting that there must be an application to intervene in the UKSC, even if the same party has intervened in the Inner House and Outer House (or other relevant lower court).

Fee Increase

Laura noted that there has been a recent fee update following consultation, advising that fees increase every two years in line with inflation. She reminded attendees there is also a help with fees scheme.

Lord Stephens followed up and noted that if a litigant in person is granted permission, the Court will assist them with obtaining pro bono representation.

General

Laura also advised general expected timeframes on PTA and listing. The Portal has generally resulted in quicker PTA decisions. If PTA is granted,



listing is usually offered within the next six months or so, but the choice of dates tends to be left to the parties based on availability. The Court will not *usually* impose a date unless time is of the essence for hearing the appeal.

3. Legal Aid

Lord Stephens sought feedback on legal aid extensions of time sought under the UKSC rules. Laura noted from the registry's perspective is that there are no delays from Scottish Legal Aid Board in UKSC.

4. UKSC and JCPC User Group

Laura explained the purpose of the main UKSC and JCPC user group and invited attendees. Explaining that the user group is open to all, from a broad range of parties, and feedback is welcome and will be acted on so far as possible. User groups are held twice a year, with an option to join via a Teams link.

5. Q&A and General Discussion

AI

Users noted an increase in the use of AI by party litigants in person in Scottish Courts and in applications to the UKSC. There is a concern that AI is often inaccurate on Scots law, as it usually refers to English authorities. It was also noted that there is an absence of guidance in Scotland about the use of AI. The increasing use of AI by firms raises concerns regarding hallucinations and bias, with AI's tendency to give you an answer it thinks you want to hear. This raises difficulties with fulfilling duties to the Court, if it is not providing cases which may go against your argument.

On AI use by the judiciary, Lord Stephens and Lord Doherty noted that it is not being used at present by the UKSC Justices, but its potential use is being investigated, and guidance has been provided to judges.

Settlement



It was noted that the Court's guidance on settlement is at a high level, advising that the Court should be informed of settlement as soon as possible, and an application must be filed seeking permission to withdraw an appeal if it is listed.

Portal and Registry

Overall feedback on the Portal was positive, noting it has been easy to use. Registry have also always been friendly and helpful. The Registrar was grateful for the feedback.

Website

Users gave feedback about the website and how it could be improved. This was noted and will be fed back to the website team.

UKSC in Scotland

General discussion about the role of the UKSC in Scotland, and types of cases which are of interest to attendees.

CLOSE

Lord Stephens and Lord Doherty thanked attendees and invited them to consider joining the main user group.