

About Us

The Scottish Solicitors' Discipline Tribunal (SSDT) is an independent body which mainly deals with serious disciplinary issues that arise from time to time within the Scottish legal profession.

The Tribunal deals with the following types of business:

- Complaints of professional misconduct
- Applications for restoration to the Roll of Solicitors and Applications for Removal of a Restriction on a practising certificate
- Appeals by solicitors / lay complainers against findings / failure to make findings of unsatisfactory professional conduct

Tribunal Diary

All hearings are available on the Tribunal Website Diary page. <https://www.ssd.org.uk/diary/>

Hearings may be subject to change at short notice. The diary is updated regularly. Please check before you travel.

Some cases are held in private. When the Tribunal Office has advance notice that a case is to be held in private, this is detailed on the website diary page. Members of the media and public are not allowed in the Tribunal hearing room for cases which are being held in private.

Types of Hearings

A procedural hearing is a short hearing to ascertain whether or not the facts in the case are in dispute, what evidence will be required and whether there are any preliminary issues to be decided before a full hearing can be fixed.

If legal matters are raised, it may be that a **preliminary hearing/debate** is required to deal with issues such as competency, relevancy, delay or Human Rights.

A full hearing (also referred to as a substantive hearing) is fixed in most cases. Evidence may be led or the case can be dealt with by submissions.

A compensation hearing is fixed when professional misconduct has been established against a solicitor and the secondary complainer has lodged a claim for compensation.

Before Attending

It would be helpful if members of the media could give notice to the Tribunal Office if they wish to attend a hearing. The email address is enquiries@ssdt.org.uk. The telephone number is 01334 659088.

At the Hearing

On the day of the hearing, it is helpful if members of the media arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the hearing. Please report to the Bar Officer of the Tribunal on arrival.

No photography, recordings or interviews are permitted within the Tribunal venue.

Members of the media attending a hearing should not ask questions directly of any of the Tribunal Members.

At the start of some full hearings, the Chair will read out the charges of professional misconduct contained within the Complaint. This is to inform members of the public and media of the allegations made against the solicitor concerned. Professional misconduct which is admitted or proved will be set out in the written decision of the Tribunal. This might be different to the charges of professional misconduct read out at the beginning of the hearing.

The written decision of the Tribunal is generally published as soon as is reasonably practicable. However, occasionally publicity is deferred. If you would like to be notified when a particular case is published on the Tribunal website, please provide your email address to the Tribunal Office.

Reporting

It is possible that the names of children or vulnerable witnesses may be mentioned during the course of hearings. The media is requested not to report their names or any other references which might identify them.

More Information

You can find out more information about Tribunal hearings on our website.

<https://www.ssd.org.uk/about-us/>

Frequently asked questions also available on the website.

<https://www.ssd.org.uk/fag/>