



CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE – ADVOCATE PANEL SCHEME

APPEAL PROCESS OVERVIEW

Aim

1. This paper provides an overview of the Advocate Panel appeal process.
2. The paper explains the scope for appealing against the Advocate Panel outcome and the process for submitting an appeal.

General Enquiries

3. Enquiries from applicants regarding the appeal process should be directed by email to the following address: advocate.panels@cps.gov.uk

Scope for Appeal

Not invited to join 2016 Panel, by failing to meet the 'active' prosecutor criteria.	Appeal against decision.
Decision at pre-qualification stage not to accept application into the process	No appeal.
Unsuccessful at the level applied for but successful at the next level down	Appeal against the unsuccessful higher level assessment
Unsuccessful at the level applied for and unsuccessful at the next level down	A single appeal can be submitted against both unsuccessful assessments or just against the lower level assessment.
Successful for general crime but unsuccessful in relation to the rape panel	Applicants can appeal against non-appointment to the rape list – but there will also be an option to make representations to local Circuit Advocate Liaison Committees (CALCs) to be added to the local rape list at a later stage e.g. after required training completed.
Unsuccessful application to upgrade	Appeal against the decision not to upgrade
Unsuccessful application for temporary membership	No appeal.
Application to join second circuit not granted	Appeal against the decision.



Submitting an Appeal

4. Applicants who have received the outcome of their application will have been advised whether they were successful or unsuccessful for the level applied for or to join a second circuit. Where the applicant was unsuccessful for either the level applied for, the next level down or for their second choice of circuit they may appeal.
5. Where an applicant is unsuccessful they will be informed of each selection criteria where the assessment panel considered the application failed to meet the acceptable standard. This will help applicants to focus their appeal on the selection criteria which let down their application most.
6. If an applicant wishes to appeal they will have the opportunity to provide reasons for the appeal and any additional evidence using the appeal form. Any written submission must be restricted to the word count on the appeal form.
7. Applicants may submit one new additional supporting document with their appeal form. The document must be submitted by the appellant with their appeal form and must only be a single document from one author e.g. a letter of support, an example of written work, a reference etc, but it must not be a compendium of documents.
8. Applicants who wish to appeal are advised to review their original application form against the original guidance on the selection criteria and to address gaps and weaknesses in their appeal form.
9. All appeals will be considered by the Appeal panel for their first choice circuit. The process will allow original applications to be re-assessed along with the additional information in the appeal form. Any revised score resulting from the appeal will also apply to the applicant's second choice circuit.
10. All appeal forms will be submitted to CPS HQ at Rose Court. The appeal forms should be submitted by the applicant electronically to advocate.panels@cps.gov.uk.
11. All appeals forms must be submitted by within 28 days of being informed of the result of the application. There is limited scope for applicants to submit a late appeal. Any appeals received after the closing date will not be accepted unless it is for good reason and by prior agreement, for example for reasons of pregnancy, maternity or extended paternity leave.

Result Notification

12. Applicants will receive the outcome of their appeal via email.