



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Legal Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>8 August 2024</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Video Conference</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Committee priorities</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Robin Johnston, Head of Legal Services</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For approval</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>Yes, draft report and priorities</b>

**PURPOSE**

Further to a request by the Authority Chair in respect of all committees, this paper sets out proposed priorities for the Legal Committee for 2024/25.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. At each Authority meeting, members are provided with a summary of key issues considered at committee meetings. This ensures that all members are aware of the main areas of work being undertaken across the Authority as a whole.
- 1.2. As part of the continuous improvement of committee oversight, the Authority chair has requested that each committee chair identify key priorities for 2024/25.

## **2. LEGAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

- 2.1 Attached to this paper is a brief report showing the broad areas of work on which the Legal Committee focused during 2023/24. The report also contains proposed long-term priorities and more immediate ones.
- 2.1 These are merely proposals: the Committee's priorities are ultimately for the Committee chair and its members to determine.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. There are no personnel implications arising directly from this report.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. There are obvious legal implications in the Committee's work, but none arising directly from this report.

## **6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. There are no reputational implications arising from this report.

## **7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. There are no social implications arising from this report.

## **8. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 8.1. There are no community implications arising from this report.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

**10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to consider the attached report and decide the Committee's long and short-term priorities.

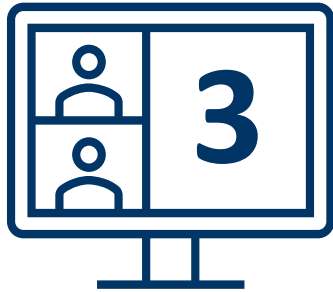


SCOTTISH POLICE  
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ÙGH DARRAS POILIS NA H-ALBA

# Legal Committee Priorities and Outcomes



# Legal Committee 2023-24 Reflections



meetings held  
during the year

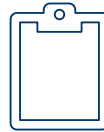
## Papers presented

Public

Private

August 2023	2	6	75%
November 2023	1	3	75%
January 2024		1	100%

## Main areas of focus and assurance sought



### Non-Disclosure Agreements

Scrutiny of Police Scotland's use of NDAs.

### Litigation overview

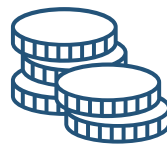
Overview of significant litigation involving Police Scotland



### Litigation and claims data

Oversight of different types of litigation and claims involving Police Scotland, including settlements

### Overview of Public Inquiries and Fatal Accident Inquiries



### Legal Costs

Scrutiny of the financial impact of litigation involving Police Scotland.

### Statistical Report on Ill Health Retiral and Injury on Duty Awards

Oversight of applications for ill-health retirement and injury on duty awards (now reported to the People Committee).



### Pension Forfeiture

Decisions taken in applications for pension forfeiture.

### Settlement of Legal Claims

Determining requests by Police Scotland for approval to settle litigation



# Legal Committee

## Current & future priorities

### Priority areas of focus (2024 – 2026)

01

**Enhanced oversight:** Through improvements in data provided by Police Scotland, gain a more in-depth understanding of the specific types of litigation in which Police Scotland is involved.

02

**Learning:** Seek ongoing assurance that Police Scotland has suitable arrangements in place to learn from litigation, with a view to reducing the scope for similar litigation in the future, and ensure that relevant client depts attend Committee meetings to discuss learning from individual cases.

03

**Financial impact:** Seek ongoing assurance from Police Scotland’s Legal and Finance departments that potential financial liabilities arising from litigation are being accurately forecasted, using the most up to date advice/information, and legal and financial staff attend Committee meetings to discuss this.

01

**Improved data:** Determine what further data would be helpful to include in Police Scotland’s reports on settlements and claims analysis.

02

**Litigation overview:** Seek assurance that Police Scotland’s litigation tables contain all cases which may require settlement approval in the short/longer term, and those cases have significant public interest or reputational implications.

03

**Settlement requests:** Ensure that all requests for settlement approval are assessed in light of legal, financial, best value and learning considerations, and that representatives of Police Scotland’s Finance and relevant client departments attend committee meetings to address these issues.

### Target Outcomes 2025