

Official name in original language	Comhairle na mBreithiúna
Official name in English	The Judicial Council
Address	Green Street Courthouse, Dublin 7, D07 W568, Ireland
Telephone number	00 353 1 9631738
Website	judicialcouncil.ie
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Brief history	<p>The Judicial Council was established in December 2019. It is an independent body, including independent of the legislature and the executive, whose functions are set out in primary legislation. Those functions may be summarised as to promote and maintain judicial excellence, high standards of judicial conduct, respect for judicial independence and public confidence in the judiciary and the administration of justice, and to provide for the continuing education of judges. Some of these functions were supported by the Courts Service until the creation of a new Judicial Council.</p> <p>The Board of the Judicial Council is responsible for oversight of the day to day management and decision making of the Council through the Secretary to the Judicial Council. There are eleven members of the Board, all of whom must be judges. Membership consists of the Chief Justice (who is the Chairperson), the Presidents of the other four court jurisdictions, five judges elected by the judges of each jurisdiction and one co-opted judge. The elected judges serve for four years and may be re-elected for a second term.</p>
Constitutional or legal status/basis	
Legal acts regulating the Status	The Judicial Council Act 2019
Composition:	
Total number of members	170
Term of office	Membership of the Council is until retirement/resignation as a judge. The term of office of a Board member is four years in the case of a co-opted or elected judge. The Chief Justice and Presidents are <i>ex officio</i> members.
Is there a possibility to be renewed as a member?	No. In the case of the Board, a member may be re-elected once.
Do the members have a full-time position or not?	No. All members are sitting judges and are not assigned to full-time positions in relation to the functions of the Judicial Council.

	The Judicial Council is supported by a full-time staff headed by the Secretary to the Judicial Council.
Make up	All of the judges in Ireland. The composition of the Board is referred to previously.
Is there a majority of Judges?	Yes. Only judges are members of the Judicial Council and of the Board of the Council
Presidency	The Chairperson of the Judicial Council, and the Chairperson of the Board of the Judicial Council, is the Chief Justice, <i>ex officio</i>
Main Competences:	
Career of judges and / or prosecutors	Judges in Ireland may be appointed from the barrister and solicitor professions to any of the five court jurisdictions in Ireland. A serving judge may also be appointed to a position in a higher jurisdiction. Prosecutors do not form a part of the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council has no function in relation to the careers of judges in relation to appointment or terms and conditions.
Judicial training	The Judicial Council has a statutory function to provide for the continuing education of judges. This is overseen through a statutory committee of the Council, the Judicial Studies Committee. A High Court Judge devotes 50% of her working time dedicated to delivering on this function. Since 2020 the committee has developed and rolled out a number of courses. The training function is supported by the Associate Director of Judicial Studies, who is a training specialist but not a judge. The Chairperson of this committee is appointed by the Committee and is currently a Judge of the Court of Appeal.
Discipline	A statutory committee of the Council is its Judicial Conduct Committee which oversees judicial conduct, including complaints about judges. The committee has the power to issue sanctions to judges when misconduct has been substantiated and may refer a matter to the government to consider removal of a judge from office. The Chief Justice is the Chairperson of this committee.
Ethics	The Judicial Council in 2022 adopted guidelines in relation to judicial conduct and ethics. Ethics also form a part of induction and ongoing judicial training.
Opinions on legislation / other opinions	This is not generally a function of the Judicial Council
Status of decisions	Decisions are made in accordance with the authority conferred on the Judicial Council by its governing legislation. With a small number of exceptions, the Board makes many of the decisions of the Council.
Review	The actions and decisions of the Judicial Council may be subject to judicial review in a similar manner to any other public body. The Board in its decision making is accountable to the Judicial Council.

Budget

€1,775,000 (2023). Funding is provided from Central Government, further to an annual indication of required expenditure from the Council. The funding requirements to operate and manage the Council are identified by the Board in conjunction with the Secretary in July each year and a request to Central Government made for that funding.