

Official name in original language	Judges Council for Northern Ireland
Official name in English	Judges Council for Northern Ireland
Address	The Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 3JF
Telephone number	+0289 0725958
Website	www.courtsni.gov.uk
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Brief history	<p>The Council was established in 2010. Its The overarching objectives of the Judges' Council are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To preserve the independence of the judiciary; - To protect and promote the due administration of justice; - To co-ordinate the views and actions of the judges to those ends; - To promote the welfare of the judiciary; - To promote a wider understanding of the work of the judiciary; - To enhance issues of career development and diversity; - To take account of the resources available for the judiciary - To liaise with other judicial bodies as necessary including ENCJ; - To maintain contact with the judges councils in England and Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland. <p>The Council meets 3 times a year and has a number of sub-committees. It has published advice for judges upon retirement, circulated advice to judges about judicial pensions, raised concerns about a range of issues, secured the introduction of new welfare arrangements for the judiciary as well as an indemnity for judicial activities. Since becoming a member of ENCJ the Council has been represented on the Minimum Standards Working Group and at the annual General Assembly.</p>
Constitutional or legal status/basis	The Council does not have any constitutional protection nor does the Council have statutory authority. It is an advisory body
Legal acts regulating the Status	Not applicable
Composition:	
Total number of members	11 members
Term of office	3 years
Is there a possibility to be renewed as a member?	Yes
Do the members have a full-time position or not?	Not full-time, and a member may be removed by direction of the Lord Chief Justice
Make up	All are judges, selected by the Lord Chief Justice No ex officio members.

Is there a majority of Judges?	All members are judges
Presidency	The Chairman is the Hon Mr Justice John Gillen
Main Competences:	
Career of judges and / or prosecutors	No competence in the selection, appointment or promotion of judges.
Judicial training	The Council is not directly involved in judicial training as this is a matter for the Judicial Studies Board for Northern Ireland.
Discipline	No competence in disciplinary proceedings against judges. The Council is not directly involved in dealing with complaints from litigants as the procedure in place relates to the Lord Chief Justice's code of practice.
Ethics	A judicial Code of Ethics is in place in Northern Ireland, but the Council has no role in respect thereto.
Opinions on legislation / other opinions	No competence. The Council is not involved in any public information policy and does not provide opinions on proposed legislation to government. The Council has no role in court/quality management or public confidence.
Other competencies	The competences of the Council are to represent the judiciary in Northern Ireland on a wide range of issues and to advise the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland as Head of the Judiciary. In essence, the Council serves the judiciary.
Status of decisions	Advisory and not binding
Review	Not subject to review
Budget	The Council does not have a separate budget