



The Bar Tribunals
& Adjudication
Service

The Council of the Inns of Court

Inns Conduct Committee Screening Panel FAQ



Inns Conduct Committee – Screening Panel FAQ

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1. Who are the Inns Conduct Committee?

The Inns Conduct Committee (ICC) are the overarching body appointed by The Council of the Inns of Court to consider matters of general policy, and processes to do with the applicants for admission to an Inn and student members in determining whether they are fit and proper persons to represent the profession. The membership consists of a Chair, two Vice Chairs (one lay, one barrister), four barrister members (one from each Inn) and two lay members.

2. Who are The Bar Tribunals and Adjudication Service (BTAS)?

The Bar Tribunals and Adjudications Service (BTAS) is the body responsible for the administration of the ICC process for both Screening and Hearing Panels. BTAS organises both the Panel members and dates. All referrals are sent to BTAS who ensure that the information they receive is put before the Panel members. You will receive correspondence from BTAS following the Screening Panel decision.

3. What is a Screening Panel?

A Screening Panel consists of two members (one lay, one barrister) from the ICC who consider the cases which are referred to them by an Inn, and determine whether anything calls into question whether someone is fit and proper person to become a Barrister. They meet in private and consider multiple referrals on the same day.

4. Why have I been referred?

You have been referred to a Screening Panel as you have submitted information, or the Inn has received information from a third party, which could give rise to the question of whether you are a fit and proper person to go onto become a practicing barrister.

5. How often are Screening Panel's held?

Screening Panels are held approx. 6 times a year. Usually once every 2 months or one a month during the busier periods. Your Inn will provide information on when the next Screening Panel is.

6. What information do I need to provide?

The information you need to provide depends on the reason for the referral. Information on what you need to provide can be found in the correspondence form your Inn.

7. What do I do if I am unable to provide particular documents?

If you are unable to provide particular documents, it would be helpful to the Screening Panel if you could provide this in writing; the steps you have taken to obtain it and why you are unable to provide it.



8. How long do I have to wait for a decision?

An initial decision from the Screening Panel is usually sent to your Inn either the same or the next day. More detailed reasons are usually sent within 2 weeks.

9. What decisions can a screening panel make?

The Panel can;

- Refer your case back to the Inn
- Refer your case to a Hearing Panel
- Adjourn and request further information

10. What happens if my case is referred back to the Inn?

If your case is referred back to the Inn, this means that you are a fit and proper person to become a Barrister and your admission or Call declaration it will be processed through the usual process. You can refer any question on this to your Inn.

11. What happens if I am referred to a Hearing Panel?

The Screening Panel will provide a short reason/s as to why they have referred you to a Hearing Panel. Please read this information carefully as they may request further information from you for the Hearing Panel.

If you are referred to a Hearing Panel, further information will be sent to you from BTAS at that time.

12. What is the likelihood of my case being referred to a Hearing Panel?

All cases are different and neither the Inn nor BTAS are able to comment on your specific case.