

## Paper 8.1

### Discussion paper on future options for STAJAC

1. The current committee (Scottish Tribunals and Administrative Justice Committee) was established for a fixed period of two years, ending November 2015. The remit for STAJAC specifically includes providing advice to Ministers on '*how the functions of the committee should be carried out in the longer term*'. (**Appendix A**)

2. This brief paper sets out a number of questions for discussion by the Committee, to assist in developing recommendations for Ministers. It should be read in conjunction with the AJTC(SC) paper of 2013 'Advice to Scottish Ministers – Remit and Capacity of a Non-Statutory Advisory Committee on Administrative Justice and Tribunals in Scotland'.

3. Following , in part, the approach adopted in the AJTC(SC) paper, it is proposed we consider and discuss the following questions:

- Should STAJAC seek views from stakeholders on the future options for an advisory committee on administrative justice and tribunals? If so, how should we do so?
- What has worked well in the way STAJAC has operated in the past 16 months, and what has been difficult/unsatisfactory?
- Is there a need for a committee such as this?
- What should be the main functions of a non-statutory committee? Where can/should it contribute? How well is this reflected in the current remit (**Appendix B**)? What should be changed/added/removed?
- What should be important characteristics of an advisory committee on administrative justice? How can these characteristics best be ensured in how a committee is established?
- How should membership of a follow-on committee be established (skills and experience, selection, remuneration)?
- What resources and support would a committee require to be effective, given the functions we envisage?

4. After initial discussion, and subject to the Committee's views on whether and how to seek wider views, it is proposed that a short paper be drafted for a next STAJAC meeting (29 April or 17 June) which, if agreed, can then be published and discussed with the Minister for Legal Affairs and his officials.