

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Adjudicators of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal

And

**The PATROL ADJUDICATION JOINT COMMITTEE and
THE BUS LANE ADJUDICATION SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE**

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between:

- a) The Adjudicators
- b) The Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Joint Committee (PATROL) and the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee (BLASJC)

The jurisdiction is England (outside London) and Wales. Legislation is devolved to Wales.

The purpose of this MOU is to clarify the relationship between the Adjudicators and the Joint Committees and promote mutual understanding of the duties and obligations to preserve judicial independence.

The MOU seeks to provide an instrument to support our understanding of how the Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Joint Committee Agreement will be delivered.

Not only must each party to the MOU perform their functions with a view to protecting the independence of the tribunal but must recognise that the public perception of independence is as important as de facto independence.

2. Shared Aims

The Adjudicators and Joint Committees are committed to a fair adjudication service for appellants including visible independence of adjudicators from the authorities in whose area they are working.

3 Overriding Principles

- 3.1 The overriding principle of this memorandum is that the Adjudicators are independent judicial office holders exercising a judicial function.
- 3.2 The Adjudicators are not employees of the Joint Committees. Together they constitute the independent and impartial tribunal for the determination of appeals made to them, as required by Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Adjudicators and their administrative staff are, for convenience, described collectively as the Traffic Penalty Tribunal.

- 3.3 Neither the Chief Adjudicator (see paragraph 5 below) nor any other Adjudicator is answerable to the Joint Committees in any way as regards the performance of their judicial functions.
- 3.4 The Joint Committees has no remit to consider or influence decisions of adjudicators and the function of the adjudication service as an Independent Tribunal.

4. The Statutory Framework

- 4.1 The relationship between the Adjudicators and the Joint Committees is derived from and governed by the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA) and Transport Act 2000 (TA) and the regulations made under those two Acts which:
- a) establish the office of Adjudicator for parking appeals and bus lane appeals respectively
 - b) prescribes the roles and responsibilities of the Adjudicators and the Joint Committees
- 4.2 The Joint Committees have been established to enable councils undertaking civil parking and bus lane enforcement to exercise their functions under
- a) Section 81 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and Regulations 17 and 18 of the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) General Regulations 2007.
 - b) Section 144 of the Transport Act 2000 and Regulation 11 of the Bus Lane Contravention (Penalty Charges, Adjudication and Enforcement (England) Regulations 2005.

These functions are exercised jointly in accordance with the other councils in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 16 and 12 respectively.

- 4.3 Wales has separate regulations for parking enforcement, the Regulations are The Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (Penalty Charge Notices, Enforcement and Adjudication (Wales) Regulations 2008. Regulation 17 and 18 are mirrored by Regulations 9 and 10 in Wales, and Regulation 16 in England is Regulation 8 in Wales
- 4.4 The TMA and TA regulations require Enforcement Authorities in England and Wales (TA relates to England only) to establish Joint Committees on which are conferred certain functions relating to parking and bus lane appeals.

So far as the Adjudicators are concerned, the functions of the Joint Committees are as follows:

- a) With consent of the Lord Chancellor, appoint and reappoint Adjudicators
- b) Remove Adjudicators from office with the agreement of the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice
- c) Determine the place at which Adjudicators are to sit

The Joint Committees have formally delegated the above functions to the Chief Adjudicator (see Section 5 below).

The Joint Committees' functions also include:

- Providing or making arrangements for accommodation, administrative staff (and facilities) for the Adjudicators
- Defraying expenses incurred in the Adjudicators performing their function.

4.5 The Regulations also provide that:

- In accordance with such requirements as may be imposed by the Joint Committee, each Adjudicator shall make an annual report to the Joint Committees on the discharge of his/her function. The Joint Committees have agreed that this requirement will be fulfilled by the Chief Adjudicator.
- The Joint Committees shall make and publish an annual report in writing to the Secretary of State on the discharge of the Adjudicators and their functions.

5. Chief Adjudicator

5.1 There is no statutory provision for a President or Chief Adjudicator. Nevertheless, the Joint Committees and the Adjudicators have agreed:

- a) There is a need for a de-facto Chief Adjudicator
- b) The Joint Committees shall designate one of the Adjudicators to be the Chief Adjudicator
- c) The role and responsibilities of the Chief Adjudicator are set out at Appendix A and shall include all aspects of judicial leadership and management including the following functions that the Joint Committee have delegated to the Chief Adjudicator:

- i) With the consent of the Lord Chancellor, the making of and reappointment of the part-time Adjudicator appointments, for a period not exceeding 5 years. Such appointments to be sufficient to meet the needs of the service, as appropriate.
- ii) The determination of the terms and conditions applying to Adjudicators having regard to principles established for such judicial appointments and conduct by the Lord Chief Justice and Lord Chancellor.
- iii) The determination of where Adjudicators shall sit.

It is also for the Chief Adjudicator:

- iv) To obtain such legal advice and representation necessarily required for the Adjudicators to perform their functions and to arrange for defense of any legal proceedings arising from the exercise of those functions, including the instruction of Counsel.
- v) To conduct and approve press and media relations relating to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal, including press conferences, publicity and public relations and Tribunal information and publications
- vi) To oversee promotion of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal

6. Salaried Adjudicators

6.1 The Chief Adjudicator and salaried Adjudicators have a contract of employment with the Host Authority (see section 14.0) for employment rights such as salary and pensions however they are not accountable to the Chief Executive of the Host Authority for the performance of their functions.

7. Judicial Leadership, Management and Discipline Functions

7.1 Neither the Joint Committees nor the Host Authority are liable for Judicial Leadership, Management and Discipline functions. However, the Joint Committees will nonetheless indemnify the Chief Adjudicator for any action taken against her/him in the performance of these judicial leadership duties.

8. Removal of Adjudicators

8.1 An Adjudicator may only be removed from office for misconduct or if unable or unfit to discharge his or her functions (s 81 (2) (d) Traffic Management Act 2004.

9. Appeals and Judicial Matters

9.1 Appeals are made to the Adjudicators and are their responsibility. They have a duty to ensure that appeals are dealt with in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights for a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time.

9.2 Judicial matters are entirely the responsibility of the Chief Adjudicator to determine.

These include:

- a) Monitoring and appraisal of adjudicators' competencies
- b) Adjudicator Training
- c) Dealing with judicial complaints and discipline
- d) Allocation of cases

9.3 The following are also matters for the Chief Adjudicator to determine:

- a) Administrative procedures
- b) Training requirements for Adjudicators
- c) Communications strategy

9.4 The Joint Committees would expect to be consulted to the extent that 9.2 have budgetary implications.

9.5 The Chief Adjudicator may delegate functions for the expeditious operation of the Tribunal.

10. Lead Officer

10.1 The PATROLAJC and BLASJC Agreements make provision for the appointment of a Lead Officer to whom functions are delegated pursuant to that Deed of Arrangement and the Standing Orders of the Joint Committees.

10.2 To maintain the independence and autonomy of the tribunal from the enforcement authorities the expectation is that the Joint Committees will request the Chief Executive of the Host Authority to nominate as Lead Officer the Head of Service, who will be responsible generally for delivering the delegated functions, and in particular to:

- (a) Be responsible for the administration of the Joint Committees and the Traffic Penalty Tribunal and provide for the Adjudicators on behalf of the Joint Committees, the accommodation, administrative staff and facilities. The Lead Officer has no remit to influence the decisions of the Adjudicators.
- (b) Be responsible for ensuring that the Adjudicators requirements as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Joint Committees are met within the Financial Regulations of the Joint Committee.
- (c) Work in partnership with the Chief Adjudicator to ensure the vision, aims and objectives of the Tribunal are achieved
- (d) Provide strong and strategic leadership to manage the support function for the Adjudicators to deliver an efficient service that ensures all appeals are held within legal requirements and performance criteria.
- (e) Manage the Service Level Agreement with the Host Authority on behalf of the Joint Committees.

11. Accommodation, administrative staff and facilities

- 11.1 The Joint Committees have a statutory duty to provide accommodation, administrative staff and facilities for the Adjudicators sufficient to enable them to perform their functions in accordance with their duty as set out in Section 4 above.
- 11.2 The nature of administrative support (including staff, facilities and accommodation) are for agreement between the Adjudicators and the Joint Committees, having regard to the Joint Committees' duty to the Adjudicators set out in Section 4 above
- 11.3 The accommodation and administrative staff provided for the Adjudicators by the Joint Committees in accordance with their statutory duties are, for convenience, along with the body of the Adjudicators whom they support, described collectively as the Traffic Penalty Tribunal. The Traffic Penalty Tribunal is not a legal entity.
- 11.4 The Joint Committees are responsible for the management of the accommodation and facilities including health and safety procedures for all users of the accommodation.
- 11.5 In accordance with the regulations made under the TMA and the TA, the Joint Committees are required to appoint one member of staff to fulfill the duties of the "Proper Officer" for the purposes of those regulations. It is

anticipated that the Joint Committees will consult with the Chief Adjudicator on the appointment of the Proper Officer.

- 11.6 The function of the staff, including the Proper Officer, is to support the Adjudicators in the performance of their function and to carry out such administrative tasks as the Adjudicators require in that connection. They act under the direction of the Adjudicators.
- 11.7 The Host Authority will provide contracts of employment for the staff provided by the Joint Committees to ensure their employment rights and obligations.
- 11.8 For the purposes of employment rights and obligations, while some of the employment policies of the Host Authority will apply, it should be recognized that the tribunal staff are performing duties stemming from the procedural regulations that govern the tribunal, or under the delegation of Adjudicators, the latter takes precedence.
- 11.9 The Joint Committees will ensure that staff provided for the Adjudicators carry out their functions effectively and efficiently and are responsible for their:
- a) Recruitment
 - b) Training
 - c) Line Management
 - d) Appraisal
 - e) Disciplinary procedures, including considering complaints, grievances etc.

The staff will be selected by open recruitment (except where specifically agreed by the Chief Adjudicator) for skills, experience and aptitude to administer the tribunal in accordance with the regulation governing the tribunal procedure. The Chief Adjudicator will be consulted on the appointment of senior posts and staffing structures.

When the tribunal staff are performing these functions, management instructions will support and underpin the directions of the adjudicator.

These functions are delegated to the Joint Committees' Lead Officer in consultation with the Chief Adjudicator.

- 11.10 There is an expectation that Tribunal HR policies should be formulated in consultation with the Host Authority but there is not an expectation that the policies of the Host Authority will automatically be adopted. Policies need to be fit for purpose for a national Tribunal, with particular regard to Wales, and its procedural regulations.

12.0 Defraying the expenses of the Tribunal

12.1 The Joint Committees are responsible for defraying the expenses incurred in the Adjudicators performing their functions.

12.2 Consequent upon the duty specified in paragraph 12.1, the Joint Committees are responsible for:

- a) approving the budget for the Tribunal and determining the contribution for member authorities.
- b) financial control, management and monitoring

The Joint Committees will consult the Adjudicators in approving the budget and will otherwise consult with them as may be appropriate for the proper discharge of these functions.

13. Advisory Board

13.1 The Joint Committees' Standing Orders provide for the Joint Committees to establish and appoint an Advisory Board comprising such officers and persons appointed by the Joint Committees to advise them on their functions .

13.2 The purpose of the Advisory Board is to assist and advise the Joint Committees on the overall policies and strategies for administering the adjudication service and on their responsibilities under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and Bus Lane Contraventions, (Penalty Charges, Adjudication and Enforcement)(England) Regulations 2005.

13.3 The Advisory Board has no remit to consider or influence decisions of adjudicators and the function of the adjudication service as an Independent Tribunal.

13.4 The diversity of membership of the Advisory Board including judicial expertise and consumer representation strengthens the scrutiny function it performs, is fundamental to the independence of the governance of the tribunal, and is of mutual benefit to the Adjudicators, the Joint Committees and Host Authority.

14.0 Lead/Host Authority

14.1 While the Joint Committees have statutory duties and identities, they do not have corporate status and therefore cannot contract or hold property

in their joint names; consequently they will appoint one of the authorities to hold property as trustee for the other constituent authorities comprising the joint committees, and act as agent to enable goods and services to be secured by Joint Committees. This authority, known as the Lead or Host Authority, may itself provide such goods and services as the PATROLAJC may from time to time determine.

- 14.2 For the purposes of this Memorandum, to assist our understanding of the duties and obligations to preserve judicial independence, the Lead Authority will be referred to as the Host Authority.
- 14.3 The expectation is that the relationship between the Lead Authority and both the Joint Committees and the Tribunal will replicate that of an arms length body, with the Lead Authority providing services and advice as required.
- 14.4 The services provided by the Lead Authority, enabling the Joint Committees to provide the resources to the Adjudicators as identified in this Memorandum of Understanding, will be supported by a Service Level Agreement with the Joint Committees.
- 14.5 The period of tenure for the Lead Authority is five years.
- 14.6 For the purposes of this MOU the expectation is that the Lead/Host Authority is Cheshire East Council.

15. Review Mechanism

- 15.1 The MOU will be reviewed by the Adjudicators and the Joint Committees on an annual basis. This review will inform the annual review of the service level agreement between the Joint Committees and the Lead Authority.
- 15.2 Should the Chief Adjudicator have any concerns about matters impacting upon the independence of the Adjudicators, this will be brought to the immediate attention of the Chairs of the Joint Committees and/or their Advisory Board.

APPENDIX A

CHIEF ADJUDICATOR ROLE

Introduction

The Chief Adjudicator's role is to recruit, lead and manage the Adjudicators with the aim of delivering a fair, timely and efficient adjudication service. In so doing, the responsibility of the Chief Adjudicator shall include the following:

1. Arrange the recruitment of an appropriate number of Adjudicators
2. Advise the Joint Committees on the removal of Adjudicators where necessary
3. Advise the Joint Committees on the reappointment of Adjudicators
4. Arrange appropriate induction and continuing training for Adjudicators, supplemented by appropriate guidance materials
5. Ensure the independence of Adjudicators
6. Monitoring, mentoring and appraisal of Adjudicators
7. Represent the Adjudicators in dealing with others, including:
 - i) The Joint Committees
 - ii) Government
 - iii) The press
8. Ensure proper rules of procedure and practices and promote consistency in their application.
9. Establish appropriate delegation in respect of the Chief Adjudicator and Adjudicator functions for the expeditious operation of the tribunal.
10. Ensure that administrative provision for Adjudicators is adequate and appropriate.
11. Deal with complaints against Adjudicators in accordance with the Adjudicators' Judicial Complaints Protocol, and other disciplinary matters
12. Provide guidance and support to individual Adjudicators
13. Deal with representation of Adjudicators in the event of a judicial review of their decision or other legal proceedings arising from the performance of their function.
14. Allocation of cases

15. On behalf of the Adjudicators, and in fulfillment of their obligation to the Joint Committees to report annually, author and present an annual report to the Joint Committees on the discharge by the Adjudicators of their functions with a view to its subsequent publication to the Secretary of State.
16. Keep the Joint Committees informed of all legal matters affective implementation and maintenance of the adjudication system.

APPENDIX B

FIGURATIVE REPRESENTATION OF THE ROLES REFERRED TO IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Fig 1. Provision of Services to Adjudicators



Fig 2. Governance Structure

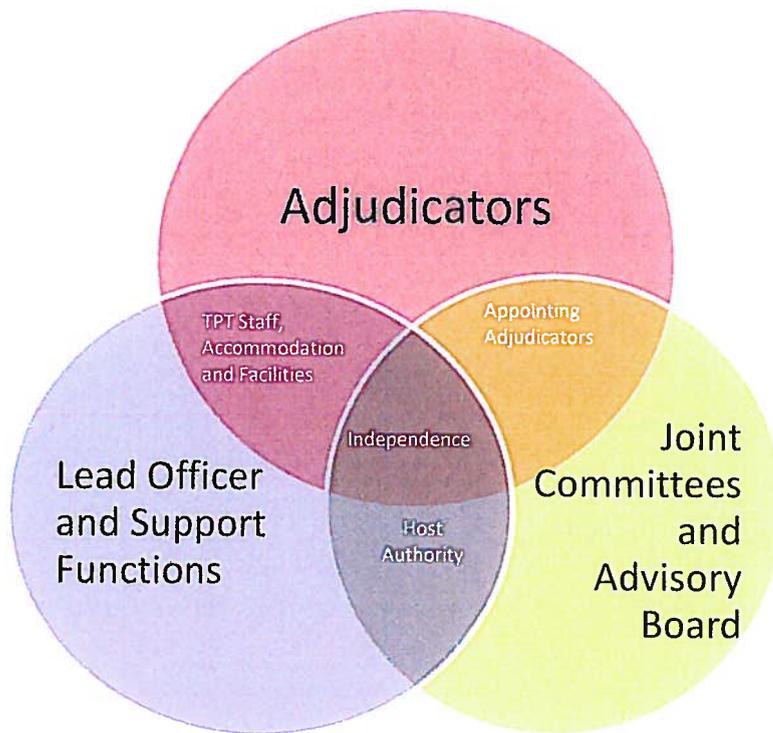


Fig 3. Overview of Joint Committee Relationships