

The Royal Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow



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Dear colleague,

Auditor Service

Now that I have settled into my role as Royal Faculty Auditor I would like to take the opportunity to formally introduce myself to members and customers of RFPG. I expect I will have encountered many of you during my time with Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service but for those of you I don't know, here is a little about me.

I joined Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service (SCTS) working at Dumbarton Sheriff Court in 1990 after completing a BA in Social Sciences on a 2-year intensive training programme. During my time with SCTS I worked in many courts across the West of Scotland mainly Greenock, Rothesay, Dunoon, Paisley and Glasgow obtaining internal qualifications in all aspects of Criminal, Civil and Commissary Procedure. As the Sheriff Clerk and Auditor of Court at Greenock, Rothesay and Dunoon over a 13 year span I gained extensive experience in Fee Assessment on a range of legal areas (executries, conveyancing, options purchases, leases and other commercial transactions as well as family, separation and divorce files). As Auditor of Court and previously a Depute Auditor of Court, I conducted taxations of accounts for the full range of sheriff court procedures (ordinary, debt, personal injury, family, bankruptcy and liquidation) and also Tribunal Proceedings (Land, Employment Tribunals and Criminal Injuries Compensation Board).

Alongside my extensive procedural knowledge, I assisted on many corporate projects and was a member of working groups including The Judicial and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008 The Evidence and Procedure Review and played a key role in the recent implementation of Sheriff and Jury Reforms in the Sheriff Courts. I always maintained an interest in Children's Welfare and for many years was a voluntary member of Inverclyde Children's Panel and responsible for drafting internal guidance to staff on Children's Hearings and Adoption Procedures.

I have always been committed to ongoing professional development and for 3 years studied in the evenings for a Master in Business Administration. I am a member of the Chartered Management Institute and in the last few years have participated in many CMI events helping young people develop skills for the workplace via work experience and shadowing programmes.

I hope to combine all this experience into developing the role of the Royal Faculty Auditor and assisting the Royal Faculty in providing legal services in Scotland. I have recently commenced drafting detailed accounts for Adults with Incapacity legislation for submission to court. Longer term, I will be using my experience as Auditor of Court to prepare the full range of accounts for taxation. I have a strong grasp of the recurring issues at taxation and

hope to bring that experience into drafting of accounts. Also in the longer term, and depending on the outcome of suggested changes to the Auditor of Court Role in Part 3 of the CIVIL LITIGATION (EXPENSES AND GROUP PROCEEDINGS) (SCOTLAND) BILL, I hope to extend the current service to all members of RFPG and beyond. I also hope to publish information on the RFPG website that will assist practitioners and their staff in the appointment of executors and obtaining confirmation.

I look forward to providing an efficient and valuable service to you and will continue to turn all files around within a 5-day period. I will be happy to receive any feedback and discuss current and future requirements, so please do feel free to get in touch.

Kindest Regards,

JANET BLACKSTOCK, BA MBA CMgr MCMI
Royal Faculty Auditor