

Paul Cackette, CBE, LLB (Hons), Dip LP, NP



- Retired solicitor (8 January 2021)
- Part time Planning Reporter (first instance planning and environmental judge) allocated appeals by Scottish Government
- Law Society of Scotland Planning Committee member
- Nominee Visiting Professor of Public Law, Strathclyde University

Career-

Scottish Government (SG) : 8 November 1988 - 8 January 2021

SG Director, PPE then SG Director, Outbreak Management during Covid : March 2020 - January 2021

As Director PPE, responsible for PPE provision to public workers in Scotland and procuring, delivery and co-ordination of 4 UK Nations supply.

Then Director of Outbreak Management, responsible for co-ordinating responses to local outbreaks in Scotland, developing policies and second wave planning, including Covid restrictions.

Chief Planning Reporter Scotland : August 2016 - May 2018; June 2019 - March 2020

As Chief Executive of Planning and Environmental Appeals, I was responsible to Ministers and Scottish Parliament for delivery of high quality and timely decisions in planning and environmental appeals. This included implementation of a new Planning Act and development of climate change policies applicable to land use management.

Solicitor to the SG and Head of the Government Legal Service in Scotland : May 2018 - June 2019

As head of the Scottish Government Legal Directorate, I was the most senior lawyer in the SG. I was responsible to the First Minister and Lord Advocate for delivery of legal services including on protection of human rights.

Deputy Solicitor to the Scottish Government : March 2009 - August 2016

I supported the then head of the Scottish Government Legal Directorate in his duties in providing legal advice to the First Minister and Lord Advocate.

Legal Secretary to the Lord Advocate : March 2008 - March 2009

Led the Legal Secretariat to the Lord Advocate, providing legal advice independent to the Law Officers. This supported their role as Ministerial legal advisors to the First Minister and the Scottish Cabinet.

Head of Civil Justice, Law Reform & International Division, Justice Directorate, SG : October 2003 - March 2008

Policy responsibilities included negotiating and implementing EU measures in the field of JHA, including Aarhus; inputting to the setting up of the UK Supreme Court; establishing a major review of Scottish civil courts; developing reforms to personal insolvency, adults with incapacity, licensing reform and vulnerable witnesses.

Divisional Solicitor (Rural Affairs) : November 2000 - October 2003

Advisor on rural, environmental and fisheries law, including during the UK Foot and Mouth outbreak.

Aarhus Convention involvement

- 1) Lead policy official for SG responding to EU infraction on the absence of Protected Expenses Orders as a breach of Aarhus. Lead official in policy development implementing PEO's in the Scottish courts to ensure Convention compliance.
- 2) Scottish legal co-ordinator on Convention matters across all devolved policy fields, including 4 Nations co-operation on compliance.
- 3) Represented SG in proceedings before the Compliance Committee in relation to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route.
- 4) Presented to the Task Force on Access to Justice on public participation practice in Scotland on planning and the Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament.

Professional qualifications

LL.B (Hons), Edinburgh University (1978-82)
Diploma in Legal Practice, Glasgow University (1982-83)
Solicitor – Law Society of Scotland
Notary Public

Other positions held

- SG Nominated Officer for compliance with the Scottish Civil Service Code and for whistle-blowing
- SG Disability Champion
- Project Board Member- Queensferry Crossing
- Steering Group member - Scottish Public Law Group

Languages

English (mother tongue)