



13 September 2022

## INFORMATION ON PATENTS OF PRECEDENCE APPLICATIONS

### 1. General Information

Applications for a Patent of Precedence are open to all legal practitioners as defined by the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015. The criteria for considering the Applications are set out in the objectives under section 173 of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 (see note).

The role of the Advisory Committees on the grant of Patents of Precedence is to consider each individual application in accordance with the criteria as set out in the Act. The Advisory Committee does not distinguish between the gender of applicants and a recommendation for a Patent of Precedence is exclusively on the basis of meeting the criteria.

**Note:**

Section 173 of the act on criteria and objectives:

The objectives... are those of ensuring, in relation to a legal practitioner seeking to have a Patent granted to him or her, that he or she:

- (a) has, in his or her practice as a legal practitioner, displayed—
  - (i) a degree of competence and a degree of probity appropriate to and consistent with the grant to him or her of a Patent,
  - (ii) professional independence, and
  - (iii) one or more of the following:
    - (I) a proven capacity for excellence in the practice of advocacy;
    - (II) a proven capacity for excellence in the practice of specialist litigation; or
    - (III) specialist knowledge of an area of law;
- (b) is suitable on grounds of character and temperament;
- (c) is in possession of a tax clearance certificate that is in force;
- (d) is otherwise suitable to be granted a Patent.



## 2. Statistics

### September 2020 Cabinet approved grants of patents of Precedence

See: <https://www.lsr.ie/list-of-37-legal-practitioners-to-be-granted-title-of-senior-counsel/>

#### Applications to the Advisory Committee for recommendations:

The number of applications received by the Advisory Committee: 76

The number of barrister female applicants: 9

The number of barrister male applicants: 20

The number of solicitor female applicants: 11

The number of solicitor male applicants: 36

Profession	Male	Female	Total
Barrister	20	9	29
Solicitor	36	11	47
Totals	56	20	76

Appointed barristers 20, 6 women

Appointed solicitors 17, 2 women

Total appointees 37, 8 female

### 15 June 2021 Cabinet approved grants of patents of Precedence

See: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/aaf52-government-grants-patents-of-precedence-for-senior-counsels/>

#### Applications to the Advisory Committee for recommendations:

The number of barrister female applicants: 9

The number of barrister male applicants: 25

The number of solicitor female applicants: 20

The number of solicitor male applicants: 35

Profession	Male	Female	Total
Barrister	25	9	34
Solicitor	35	20	55
Totals	60	29	89

Appointed barristers 25, 5 women

Appointed Solicitors 12, 5 women

Total appointees 37, 10 female



**23 June 2022 Cabinet approved grants of patents of Precedence**

See: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/8048d-government-grants-admission-to-inner-bar/>

**Recommendations by Legal Profession and Gender June 2022**

Barrister		Solicitor	
Female	Male	Female	Male
16	12	4	2
28		6	
34			

**Applications by Legal Profession and Gender**

Barrister		Solicitor	
Female	Male	Female	Male
17	24	7	13
41		20	
61			

**ENDS**