

Understanding the UK Legal Systems

This programme gives an overview of the legal framework that underpins government in Britain. It decodes and demystifies the key legal terms and concepts that anyone working in government, or working with government, needs to understand.

Aim

To provide participants with a clear understanding of:

1. The constitutional structure of the UK - Parliament, the Judiciary and Government
2. Making legislation: Acts and Regulations
3. The common law
4. EU and international law
5. Judicial Review
6. Devolution in the UK
7. The court and tribunal system
8. Working effectively with lawyers

Methodology

The training approach to be used, which governs the design and delivery of the training is based on the following principles:

- To actively involve the participants throughout the training
- To enable participants to share their thoughts and enquiries
- The training is designed based on the needs and expectations of the participants that are reflected in the pre-training questionnaire

Workshop methods and tools

In order to achieve the objectives of the training, the following tools and methods will be utilised:

- **Presentations:** presentations will be used in order to provide the background of each subject and create discussion and questions.
- **Discussions:** throughout the training, participants will be encouraged to contribute to discussions and share their experiences and thoughts with the rest of the group. The discussions will be facilitated and coordinated by the facilitator in order to maintain the focus in the key areas of interest
- **Case studies:** case studies will be used so as to facilitate and trigger discussion, as well as allow external benchmarking so as to achieve competitiveness

- **Group work:** group work will be used in order to facilitate practical understanding of the issues and in order to enhance team working, team building and cooperation amongst participants

Sample programme

Agenda

10.00 **Welcome and Introductions**

- Aims and learning objectives of the day. Participants' aims and experience.

The Constitution: Parliament, the Executive, the Judiciary and the rule of law

- The Executive: Departments, ministers, local government, arm's length bodies, agencies, non-departmental public bodies – sorting out the names, The UK, England, Wales and Scotland
- Legal personality
- Basis of governmental legal powers
- Statute law and common law
- Courts and tribunals

Refreshment Break

Maintaining the rule of law: judicial review

- Outline of judicial review principles
- Human rights law

Lunch

Judicial review case studies – you are the judge

Feedback on case studies

Refreshment break

Open forum – further legal issues chosen by participants. Could include:

- Statutory interpretation
- Law making processes (primary and secondary legislation)
- Judicial review procedure
- Outline of EU law
- Effective consultation
- Etc.

Legal information sources

Review of key concepts

16.30 Close