



COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE JUDICIARY (SCOTLAND) RULES 2013, 2017 AND 2024

Report No 14

Basis of Report

This report covers the period of 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. For the purposes of this report we will only be considering valid complaints which were concluded within this period.

During the period of this report, a total of 104 complaints were concluded under the 2013, 2017 and 2024 Rules.

The table below provides a breakdown of the stage each complaint reached under each set of rules.

Complaints Concluded under the 2013 Rules

Under the 2013 rules, 1 complaint was concluded under rule 20, as the judicial office holder ceased to hold office.

Complaints Concluded under the 2017 Rules

Rule	Outcome	Senator/ Temp Judge	Sheriff Principal/ Temp SP	Scottish Land Court Chairman/ Members	Sheriff /Summary Sheriff / PT Sheriffs	Justices of the Peace	Total
7	Out of Time and not allowed to proceed	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Dismissed by Judicial Office	0	0	0	1	0	1
11	Dismissed by Disciplinary Judge	0	0	0	1	0	1
12	Referred to Nominated Judge and resolved	0	0	0	1	0	0
13	Referred to Nominated Judge and not substantiated	0	0	0	5	1	6
16	Complaint Substantiated and report submitted to the Lord President	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Withdrawn	0	0	0	2	0	2
20	JOH ceases to hold office	0	0	0		0	0
	Total	0	0	0	10	1	11



Dismissed by Judicial Office for Scotland (JOS)

Rule 8: The JOS dismissed 1 complaint under rule 8(4)(b) – *it is about a judicial decision*.

Dismissed by Disciplinary Judge (DJ)

Rule 11: The DJ dismissed 1 complaint under rule 11(4)(f) – *it is without substance*.

Referred to Nominated Judge (NJ)

In this reporting period, 7 complaints were referred to a NJ for investigation.

- **Rule 12:** 1 complaint was resolved to the satisfaction of the person complaining and the judicial office holder concerned without further investigation
- **Rule 13:** 6 complaints were investigated and subsequently reported to be unsubstantiated. The reports of the nominated judges in all 6 complaints were reviewed by the disciplinary judge and the Lord President who concurred with the findings they each contained

Withdrawn by Complainer

Rule 18: 2 complaints were withdrawn, or deemed to be withdrawn, by the complainer during this reporting period. In both cases, the complainers failed to respond to correspondence from the JOS within 28 days and were subsequently notified that their complaint had been deemed withdrawn.



Complaints Concluded under the 2024 Rules

Rule	Outcome	Senator/ Temp Judge	Sheriff Principal/ Temp SP	Scottish Land Court Chairman/ Members	Sheriff /Summary Sheriff / PT Sheriffs	Justices of the Peace	Total
7	Out of Time and not allowed to proceed	0	0	0	2	0	2
8	Dismissed by Judicial Office	5	0	0	53	1	59
11	Dismissed by Disciplinary Judge	1	0	0	11	0	12
13	Referred to Nominated Judge and resolved	0	0	0	4	0	4
16	Referred to Nominated Judge and not substantiated	1	0	0	8	0	9
16	Complaint Substantiated and report submitted to the Lord President	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Withdrawn	2	0	0	4	0	6
20	JOH ceases to hold office	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	9	0	0	82	1	92

Dismissed by Judicial Office for Scotland (JOS)

Rule 7: The JOS concluded 2 complaints under this rule.

Rule 8: The JOS concluded 59 complaints under this rule.

- 2 complaints were dismissed under rule 8(3)(a) – *it does not contain sufficient information to enable it to be understood*
- 55 complaints were dismissed under rule 8(3)(b) – *it is about a judicial decision*
- 1 complaint was dismissed under rule 8(4)(c) – *it raises a matter which has already been dealt with (whether under these rules or otherwise), and does not present any material new evidence*
- 1 complaint was dismissed under both, rules 8(3)(a) and 8(3)(b)

Dismissed by Disciplinary Judge (DJ)

Rule 11: The JOS concluded 12 complaints under this rule.

- 1 complaint was dismissed under rule 11(2)(c) – *it is without substance*



- 6 complaints were dismissed under rules 11(2)(d) - *even if substantiated, would not require any disciplinary action to be taken*
- 5 complaints were dismissed under both, rules 11(2)(c) and 11(2)(d).

Referred to Nominated Judge (NJ)

In this reporting period, 13 complaints were referred to a nominated judge for investigation.

- **Rule 13(2)** – 4 complaints were resolved to the satisfaction of the person complaining and the judicial office holder concerned without further investigation.
- **Rule 16** – 9 complaints were investigated and subsequently reported to be unsubstantiated. The reports of the nominated judges in all were reviewed the Lord President who concurred with the findings they each contained.

Withdrawn by Complainer

Rule 18: 6 complaints were withdrawn, or deemed to be withdrawn, by the complainer during this reporting period.

- 2 complainers asked that their complaint be withdrawn, and the file was closed.
- 4 complainers failed to respond to correspondence from the JOS within 28 days and were subsequently notified that their complaint had been deemed withdrawn.

Outstanding Complaints

As of 31 August 2025, 16 complaints were still active: 5 complaints are currently being investigated by a nominated judge; 9 complaints are currently under consideration; 2 are paused pending ongoing judicial proceeding.

A copy of the Rules and associated guidance can be found on our website: www.judiciary.scot/home/publications/judicial-complaints



Disciplinary Statements

In line with the [Publication of Disciplinary Statements Policy](#), introduced under the 2024 rules, a disciplinary statement will normally be published on the [Judiciary of Scotland website](#) where a complaint has been substantiated (or substantiated in part), and the Lord President has issued a judicial office holder with any of the following – formal advice, a formal warning, a reprimand, or any other action informally. For this reporting period (1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025), no complaints were upheld, and therefore no disciplinary statements have been published.

**Judicial Office for Scotland
September 2025**