

# Deputy District Judge 2021

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merit  
good character  
diversity

## 2. JAC Statute



The Judicial Appointments Commission was established on 3 April 2006 following the 2005 Constitutional Reform Act, with a remit to make judicial appointments **independent, transparent and fair**.

**In selecting candidates, the JAC has three key statutory duties:**

To select candidates solely on **merit**.

To select only people of **good character**.

To encourage **diversity** in the range of persons available for judicial selection.

# 3. Fair Selection



Assigned  
Commissioner for  
each exercise

Fair selection  
training for panels  
and observations of  
interviews

Selection materials  
reviewed by JAC staff  
and Advisory Group

Targeted outreach

Monitored  
progression of target  
groups

Name blind  
shortlisting

Equal Merit  
Provision

Calibration of scores  
and moderation of  
panel reports

Independent reviews

# 4. Deputy District Judge 2021

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The JAC will launch this years DDJ competition on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2021

There are 150 posts across England and Wales

Candidates are invited to register to take an online qualifying test

# 5. Post Qualifying Test

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If you are successful in passing the Situational Judgment and Critical Analysis tests, you will be invited to complete an online scenario test which forms the second shortlisting stage.

Candidates who successfully complete that stage will be invited to selection days happening Feb – April 2022. They will also be invited to complete the full exercise application form.

At the selection stage the candidates' self-assessment and independent assessment evidence will be considered alongside the evidence provided from the role play and competency-based interview.

## 6. 2021 Process

Some elements of the process are **transferable** for the forthcoming **Fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal and Fee-paid Judge of the Employment Tribunals (England and Wales)** exercise. These are as follows:

Candidates invited to complete a full application for both exercises will be able to use the same application details for both exercises (candidates will need to enter the information into both application forms separately).

Candidates will be able to use the same independent assessments for both exercises. You will still be required to nominate your assessors and the selection team will cross reference the assessor details and where applicable an assessment can be used in respect of applications for both exercises.

# 7. Who can apply?

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## You are eligible to apply for this post if:

you are a solicitor, CiLEX fellow, or barrister in England and Wales with at least **5** years post qualification legal experience;

No previous judicial experience is required for this role.

There is no additional selection criteria for this role.

This is non jurisdiction role, candidate deployed to sit in Family will in due course, also sit in Civil Jurisdiction.

# 8. An overview of the selection process

## 1. Advertising

Exercise launches on the JAC website in July 2021

**2. Application:** Register for first stage online qualifying test and brief registration form. Candidates who pass both shortlisting stages (qualifying test and scenario test) invited to complete full application form

**3. Eligibility** Candidates must be solicitors, barristers or CiLEX fellows with 5 years post qualification experience. No previous judicial experience is required.

## 4. Shortlisting

DDJ 2021 will use an online qualifying test followed by an online scenario test.

**5. Selection Day**  
Competency based interview and role play. Welsh questions if applicable.

## 6. Statutory consultation

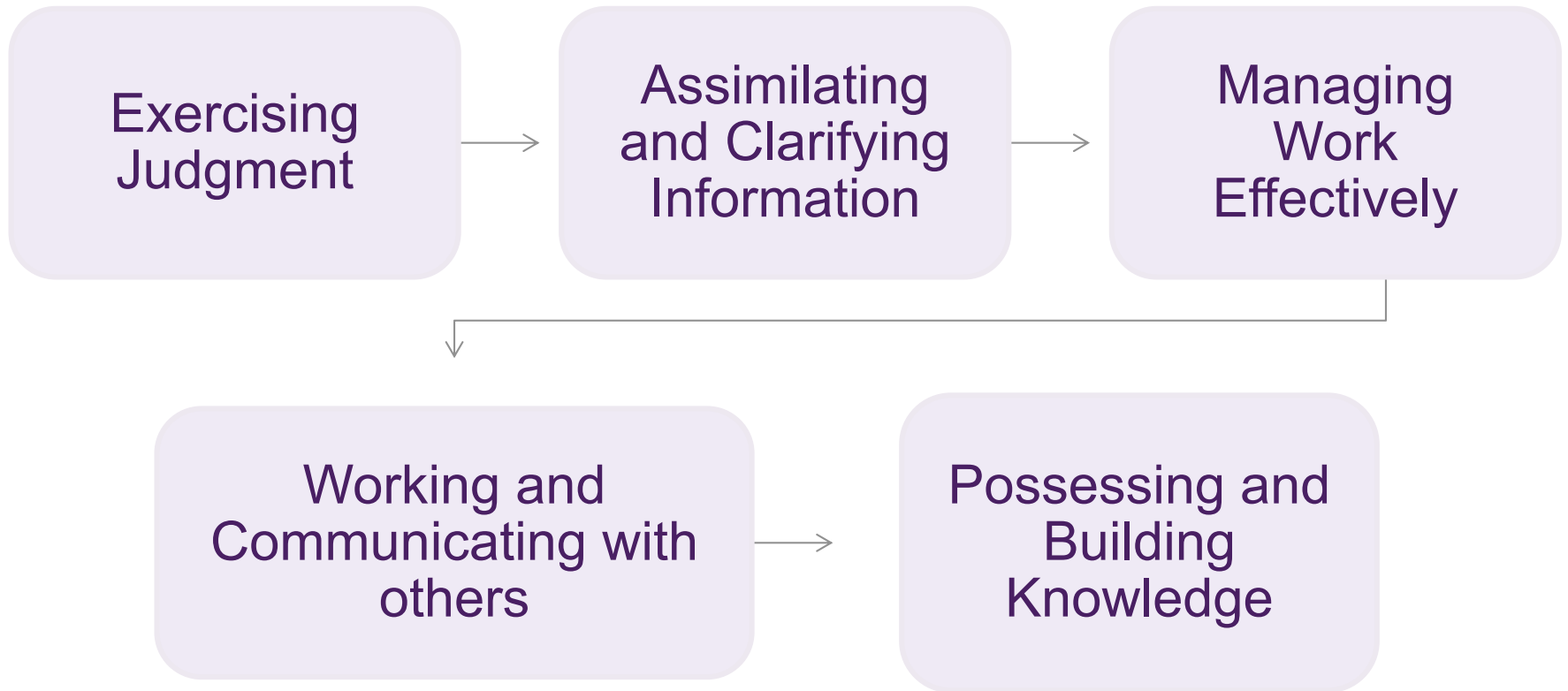
As required by the Judicial Appointment Regulations 2013, the JAC will carry out consultation as part of a selection exercise.

**7. Character** Candidates make a declaration of good character We conduct professional, financial and criminal checks on candidates

**8. Recommendation** The JAC Board meets as the Selection and Character Committee to agree The Commission then makes its recommendation to the Appropriate Authority



# 9. Competency Framework



# 10. Preparing for application



Prepare thoroughly. **It is competitive.**

Consider your **strengths** and your **career aspirations.**

**Learn about the role** – sit in court, shadow a circuit judge.

**Utilise** the JAC website for a range of guidance, case studies and practical tips on applying

**Start collecting examples** of your work, as a portfolio and thinking about how your experience aligns with the competencies.

# 11. Self-Assessment: Advice



**Explain** the part you played

Provide **evidence** of your potential to rise to the particular challenges

**Present** relevant examples and relate them to the required skills and the job

Best practice is to use examples that are no more than 2 years old because these tend to be more **relevant**

**Identify** the skills which are transferable to judicial office

**Share** with a friend – ask someone else to read

**Quantify** your success – explain how you made a difference

# 12. Find out more



More information will be published on JAC website:  
[www.judicialappointments.gov.uk](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk)

Follow us on Twitter [@becomeajudge](https://twitter.com/becomeajudge)

Sign up to the monthly JAC newsletter - “[Judging Your Future](#)”  
for notification of the forthcoming vacancy

Sign up for vacancy specific email alerts via the JAC website

Read case studies on the JAC website

merit

good character

diversity

**Thank you for listening**

**Questions?**

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[www.judicialappointments.gov.uk](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk)

[@becomeajudge](https://www.instagram.com/becomeajudge)