

JOHN SCOTT QC SOLICITOR ADVOCATE



A court lawyer for over 30 years, John has been a QC since 2011.

At the 2018 Law Awards of Scotland, John was recognised (jointly with Aidan O'Neill QC) as Silk of the Year.

He has been instructed in some of the most significant, complex and high-profile cases of recent times. In some of these, including human rights cases at the UK Supreme Court, he has presented arguments which have helped to develop the law.

John chaired the Scottish Human Rights Centre from 1997 to 2005. That allowed him to develop a reputation as one of the leading voices on human rights in Scotland. This has seen him give evidence on many occasions on various issues to committees of the Scottish Parliament.

In 2014, he chaired human rights organisation Justice Scotland for a year, having been involved in the organisation from the planning stages years earlier.

He was Convenor of the Howard League for Penal Reform in Scotland from 2006 until 2018.

From 2015 until 2018, John was the solicitor member of the Scottish Sentencing Council.

In 2016, he was elected President of the Society of Solicitor Advocates, having been the Vice- President (Crime) since 2008.

In 2015, John chaired an Independent Advisory Group on Stop and Search at the request of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice. This Group's report was implemented in the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, introducing a Code of practice and ending the police practice of non-statutory ("consensual") stop and search.

He also chaired an independent review of Biometrics in Policing in Scotland, again at the request of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice. This led to the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Bill 2019 currently being considered by the Justice Committee.

He has just finished chairing an independent review into the Impact on Communities of the Policing of the 1984/85 Miners' Strike, his report being submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in October 2019.

Finally, he was asked by the Minister for Mental Health in May 2019 to chair a review into mental health legislation.