

Solicitor
£32,922 - £35,505 per annum + excellent benefits
(Maternity cover - fixed term contract until February 2019)
Edinburgh or Glasgow



Closing date: 22 February 2018 (at 11.30pm)

Shelter Scotland is looking for a client-focused **solicitor** or **barrister** with relevant post-qualifying experience, to provide a specialist legal casework service in Housing Law, including litigation and consultancy work.

Shelter Scotland helps over half a million people every year struggling with bad housing or homelessness through our advice, support and legal services. And we campaign to make sure that, one day, no one will have to turn to us for help.

Part of the Advice Services provision within our Services section, The Scottish Housing Law Service is funded by the Scottish Government and Scottish Legal Aid Board and also receives income through legal aid casework. The team serves all of Scotland and is based in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee. It consists of a Principal Solicitor, four Solicitors, two lay representatives, a Legal Administration Manager, Senior Administrator and an Administrative Assistant. Join us in this interesting maternity cover role and you could soon be providing legal advice and representation primarily to clients referred by our Advice Services and projects.

About the role

Your challenge will be to maintain an active caseload that enables homeless people, people with housing problems and those with problems relating to other specified area(s) of social welfare law to enforce their existing rights. This will involve litigation in test and lead cases and taking cases to judicial review. Carrying out follow-up casework and litigation, including research, will be important too, as will meeting work in progress and billing targets set by the management team. We'll also rely on you to keep up-to-date with changes in legislation and case law and provide casework support to advisers via an advice line service. And, when it comes to supporting the development of our policy and legislative responses or providing training to staff on housing law and court procedure, again, we'll look to you to play your part.

About you

You'll need a proven post qualifying track record in housing law, including litigation and representing in court on behalf of homeless people or people in housing need. Practice experience of running community care, welfare benefits or debt cases would be useful too, although this is not essential. You must, however, have handled a wide range of housing cases (public and private sector) on issues including homelessness, security of tenure and possession proceedings. A sound knowledge of legal aid (publicly funded) work, including legal representation and legal help is also required, together with a proactive, results-driven approach, strong client-focus and excellent all round communication skills.

Benefits include 30 days' annual leave (pro rata), the possibility of flexible working, enhanced family friendly policies and significant opportunities for learning and development.

For further information about the role and the benefits of working for Shelter please visit our website.

Shelter Scotland is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of clients, in particular children, young people and vulnerable adults, and expects all staff, workers and volunteers to share this commitment.

At Shelter Scotland, we welcome and encourage applications from everyone regardless of age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation. We are facing diverse problems, so need diverse people to tackle them.

Shelter does not accept unsolicited CVs from external recruitment agencies nor accept the fees associated with them.