

Sheriff 2026 – Frequently Asked Questions

Please see below for questions received by JABS from potential applicants to the Office of Sheriff 2026 recruitment round. Any questions related to expense provision for the Lerwick post will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Judicial Office for Scotland. All questions have been anonymised for publication.

Question	Response
Campbeltown and Oban Courts	
Update - The advert and guidance note previously stated that the successful candidate will be required to work two days per month at Lochgilphead Sheriff Court. This has been updated to the successful candidate will be required to work one day per month at Lochgilphead Sheriff Court.	
Lerwick Sheriff Court	
Could the working pattern be altered (i.e. one week on / one week off)?	No. For operational reasons, the sitting requirements in Lerwick Sheriff Court are for 2 weeks on/2 weeks off only.
In addition to the two weeks in post at Lerwick, is there any prospect of floating work elsewhere in the Sheriffdom?	The post is a resident 0.5 FTE position. During the two working weeks, there may be occasions when the Sheriff is required to sit in other courts within the Sheriffdom. However, no further work will be provided beyond the scope of a 0.5 FTE post.
Would the appointed Sheriff need to reside in Lerwick during the sitting pattern?	The appointed Sheriff would need to reside in Lerwick during the sitting pattern.
Can the appointed Sheriff still practice as a Solicitor or Advocate and sit on Tribunals?	<p>You cannot practice as a solicitor or advocate whilst holding the Office of Sheriff. This is set out under Section 15 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/18/section/15/enacted).</p> <p>It is a matter for the Judicial Office for Scotland to consider if individuals serving in salaried judicial roles are able to hold, continue to hold, or apply for additional fee-paid Judicial appointments. Dual roles, whilst permitted are discretionary and subject to conditions of prioritisation of duties and that any additional work does not in any way interfere with their shrieval duties.</p>