

THE DEFENCE LEGAL SERVICE
CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING OF 9 JUL 01

COMMITTEE DECISION 32/01

**Subject: Policy – Clarification of Committee Decision 43/00 -
Applications for Legal Competency Level 4 from Legal Officers with
prior legal experience**

The Committee noted:

1. Its Decision 43/00 in relation to Applications for Legal Competency Level 4 from Legal Officers with prior legal experience.
2. That the Secretary has drawn attention to two sentences within the policy decision which were capable of different interpretations and the need to clarify the policy.
3. The aspects requiring clarification were:
 - a. prior legal or paralegal experience; and
 - b. legal experience that would be taken into account when considering applications for LL4.

The Committee decided:

1. In stating in its decision 43/00 “1. Any prior legal or paralegal experience for which credit has been given for the purpose of granting LL3 to a Legal Officer will not be taken into account when considering an application for Legal Competency Level 4(LL4)” it was the intention of the Committee to not allow a member to double count that experience.
2. It was, however, the intention of the Committee to allow a member who had received a credit towards the four (4) years required to achieve the necessary experience for LL3 to retain the same credit when determining whether the member had achieved the necessary experience of ten (10) years for LL4.
3. In stating in its decision 43/00 “3. Only legal experience of a character appropriate to a Legal Officer at LL3 may be taken into account when considering applications for LL4” it was the intention of the Committee to refer to the experience that the member achieved after the member had been granted LL3.
4. If a member had been deemed LL3 at the introduction of the new

Structure, the member normally must have six (6) years of experience appropriate to a legal officer at LL3. The member may receive credit for prior legal or paralegal experience, in accordance with decisions 11/00, 71/00 or 06/01, towards the first four (4) years of experience that forms part of the total of ten (10) years experience required for LL4.

M.F.J. SMITH

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Director General The Defence Legal Service

Chairman, Career and Professional Development Committee