

**THE DEFENCE LEGAL SERVICE**  
**CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**MEETING OF 16 OCT 01**

**COMMITTEE DECISION 73/01**

**Subject: Policy – Rank of Members / Applicants Seeking to Join the  
Specialist Legal Structure**

**The Committee noted:**

1. The DFRT Decision on the Legal Officers' Career Structure and, in particular, within paragraph 26 the sentences: 'Direct appointments may be made to Legal Officer – Level Two positions where appointees have an appropriate level of legal or military experience.' and 'Level Two members will normally be of Captain (and equivalent) rank.'
2. Determination No 2 of 2000 – Salaries of Legal Officers, where Note (a) states "These rates apply to members transferring from another ADF category to the Legal Specialty category. Such members do not progress to the rates applying to the Legal Level (LL) 3 competency until they have served 4 complete years of service in a legal position.'
3. That some Reserve officers have special expertise as lawyers that will be of considerable benefit to the ADF and should be encouraged to join the Specialist Legal Structure if they so wish without reverting to the more junior ranks.

**The Committee decided:**

1. To **agree** that it is preferable that the maximum rank of a member / applicant joining the Specialist Legal Structure is CAPT(E).
2. To **agree** that, in exceptional cases, the maximum rank of a member joining the Specialist Legal Structure as a permanent legal officer shall be MAJ(E).
3. To **agree** that, in exceptional circumstances, the maximum rank of a member joining the Specialist Legal Structure as a Reserve legal officer shall be LTCOL(E).

**M.F.J. SMITH**

CDRE RAN

Director General The Defence Legal Service

Chairman, Career and Professional Development Committee