



Legal Services Act 2007

2007 CHAPTER 29

PART 6

LEGAL COMPLAINTS

The ombudsmen

122 Appointment of the Chief Ombudsman and assistant ombudsmen

- (1) The OLC—
 - (a) must appoint a person to act as Chief Ombudsman for the purposes of the ombudsman scheme, and
 - (b) may, with the consent of the Chief Ombudsman, appoint one or more other persons to act as assistant ombudsmen for those purposes.
- (2) The person appointed under subsection (1)(a) must be a lay person.
- (3) It is a condition of an appointment under subsection (1)(b) that the person appointed must not during the appointment carry on any activity which is a reserved legal activity for or in expectation of any fee, gain or reward.
- (4) Each person appointed under subsection (1)(a) or (b) must be a person appearing to the OLC to have appropriate qualifications and experience to act as an ombudsman for the purposes of the ombudsman scheme.
- (5) In this Act a reference to an “ombudsman” (except in the expressions “ombudsman scheme”, “Chief Ombudsman” and “assistant ombudsman”) is a reference to the Chief Ombudsman or an assistant ombudsman.
- (6) A person’s appointment as Chief Ombudsman ceases if that person ceases to be a lay person.
- (7) The terms and conditions on which a person is appointed as an assistant ombudsman must specify the consequences of a breach of the condition imposed by subsection (3).

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (8) Subject to that, a person’s appointment as an ombudsman is to be on such terms and conditions (including terms as to the duration and termination of a person’s appointment and as to remuneration) as the OLC considers—
- (a) consistent with ensuring the independence of the person appointed, and
 - (b) otherwise appropriate.
- (9) Appointment as an ombudsman does not confer the status of Crown servant.
- (10) In this section “lay person” has the same meaning as in Schedule 15.