

How To Find A Local Specialist Solicitor In Scotland

If you need to engage the services of a solicitor in Scotland, how are going to go about selecting one?

You might already have a solicitor. If he or she is not able to take your case on, for whatever reason, they might be able to recommend a suitable alternative.

Another possibility is that you get a recommendation from a relative or friend who has used a particular solicitor or firm in the past.

If neither of those is an option, what you need is to find a solicitor with clear expertise in the relevant area of law (e.g. Agricultural Law).

How do you establish whether a solicitor is an expert in their field (no pun intended)?

The Law Society of Scotland's specialist accreditation scheme

A reliable, independent benchmark comes in the form of the Law Society of Scotland's Specialist Accreditation Scheme. It has been in existence since 1990 and was developed to recognise the efforts of Scottish solicitors who amass specialist knowledge, and develop specialist skills, over the course of their careers.

The directory of accredited specialists provides a handy reference point to help you to choose the best solicitor for your legal issue, especially if the matter is likely to be complex.

About 450 Scottish solicitors hold accreditation through the Law Society of Scotland (LSS). There are 28 specialisms under which solicitors can be accredited:

- agricultural law
- arbitration
- charity law
- child law
- commercial leasing
- construction law
- crofting law
- debt & asset recovery
- discrimination law
- employment law
- environmental law
- family law
- freedom of information and data protection
- immigration
- insolvency law
- incapacity & mental disability law
- intellectual property law
- liquor licensing law
- medical negligence law

- medical negligence (defender only)
- mental health law
- pensions law
- personal injury law
- planning law
- private client tax
- professional negligence law
- public procurement law
- trusts law

The accreditation process requires completion of a lengthy and detailed application form for LSS, which asks about complex matters handled by the solicitor in the particular field of law over the previous 5 years. The application is assessed by a panel of experts appointed by LSS. If accreditation is awarded, it has to be renewed – via the same process – every 5 years.

“Find a Solicitor” via LSS website

If you need to know how to find a **local** specialist solicitor in Scotland, we recommend you make this tool – on LSS website – your first port of call.

We think it could be easier to use than it is. If you don't use the Find a Solicitor search form properly, the risk is that you won't maximise the focus of your search. So we're providing a step-by-step guide to make sure you don't miss out on the full power of the search facility LSS have developed.

Finding a solicitor – step by step

- Go to the [“Find a Solicitor” page](#) on the LSS website.
- Select the “Solicitor” tab (click where indicated by the arrow in the image, below).

The image shows a screenshot of the LSS website's 'Find a Solicitor' page. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Firm', 'Solicitor', and 'Organisation'. The 'Solicitor' tab is highlighted with a green arrow pointing to it. Below the tabs, the page title is 'Find a Firm' with a subtitle 'Search our database to find contact details of law firms throughout Scotland'. The search form contains three input fields: 'Firm name', 'Postcode or city/town', and 'Area of law'. The 'Area of law' field is a dropdown menu with the text 'Select area of work' and a small downward arrow. To the right of the 'Area of law' field is a checkbox labeled 'Legal aid' with a small blue information icon. A blue 'Search' button is located to the right of the 'Legal aid' checkbox. Below the 'Area of law' field, there is a small note: '(not sure which option to select?)'.

- Select “Advanced search options” at the bottom left corner of the Search form (click on the words indicated by the arrow in the image, below).

[Home](#) > [Find a Solicitor](#)

Firm **Solicitor** Organisation

Find a Solicitor

Search our database to find contact details for practising solicitors

Last name


First name

Firm/Organisation name

Postcode or city/town

Area of work
Select area of work
(not sure which option to select?)

In house lawyers
 Include in house lawyers [?](#)

Advanced search options + 

Search

- Click on the dropdown arrow under the heading “Accredited Specialism” to see the list of specialisms and select the one which best corresponds with the area of law in which you require a solicitor (click point indicated by the green arrow in the image below).

[Home](#) > [Find a Solicitor](#)

Firm **Solicitor** Organisation

Find a Solicitor

Search our database to find contact details for practising solicitors

Last name

First name


Firm/Organisation name

Postcode or city/town

Area of work
Select area of work
(not sure which option to select?)

In house lawyers
 Include in house lawyers [?](#)

Solicitor advocate
Please select [?](#)

Accredited Specialism
Please select  [?](#)

Language
Please select

[Return to standard search](#) -

- Check that the specialisation you wanted has appeared in the “Accredited Specialism” box (in the image, below, the selected accreditation is “Personal Injury Law Specialisation”).

Find a Solicitor

Search our database to find contact details for practising solicitors

<p>Find a Solicitor</p> <p>Search our database to find contact details for practising solicitors</p>		
<p>Last name</p> <input type="text"/>	<p>First name</p> <input type="text"/>	<p>Firm/Organisation name</p> <input type="text"/>
<p>Postcode or city/town</p> <input type="text"/>	<p>Area of work</p> <p>Select area of work</p> <p>(not sure which option to select?)</p>	<p>In house lawyers</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Include in house lawyers
<p>Solicitor advocate</p> <p>Please select</p>	<p>Accredited Specialism</p> <p>Personal Injury Law Specialisation</p>	<p>Language</p> <p>Please select</p>

Return to standard search →

- (2 steps here) First, insert your postcode or city/town in the box towards the left of the form (indicated by green arrow in the image, below); second, click on the large, blue “Search” button towards the bottom right of the form (also visible in the image, below).

Find a Solicitor

Search our database to find contact details for practising solicitors

<p>Find a Solicitor</p> <p>Search our database to find contact details for practising solicitors</p>		
<p>Last name</p> <input type="text"/>	<p>First name</p> <input type="text"/>	<p>Firm/Organisation name</p> <input type="text"/>
<p>Postcode or city/town</p> <p>IV30 1UA</p>	<p>Area of work</p> <p>Select area of work</p> <p>(not sure which option to select?)</p>	<p>In house lawyers</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Include in house lawyers
<p>Solicitor advocate</p> <p>Please select</p>	<p>Accredited Specialism</p> <p>Personal Injury Law Specialisation</p>	<p>Language</p> <p>Please select</p>

Return to standard search →

Search

- Finally, view the results produced (for example, as below)

Results per page: 10 15 25	Sort by Distance
Brash, Peter Melrose Grigor & Young Total Solicitors: 10 Admission date: 24/09/1991	0.00 miles + Print Details
Morrison, Marie Helen Grigor & Young Total Solicitors: 10 Admission date: 14/12/1992	0.00 miles + Print Details

We hope this is helpful, whether you need to find a solicitor in Aviemore or Auchterless, Lerwick or Hawick, Lochaber or Fochabers .

As a reminder, the link to the “Find a Solicitor” tool on the Law Society of Scotland website is [HERE](#).

How we can help

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about this article or about any of our [Services](#). Among other things, your questions assist us by providing ideas for further help we might be able to give in the form of website articles such as this.

Call us on [01343 544077](tel:01343544077) or send us a [Free Online Enquiry](#).

Image: Elise Laberge via [Unsplash](#).