

1. There are a number of individuals and bodies who have responsibility for dealing with lawbreakers, depending on what law has been broken. These include:
 - local council's trading standards department
 - HM Revenue and Customs
 - the UK Border Agency (formerly known as Immigration)
 - the Child Support Agency (CSA)
 - social services
 - an industry ombudsman or watchdog
 - the police.

Which of these is responsible depends on whether the law that is broken is civil or criminal. In civil cases it can be up to the individual involved to resolve the problem.

2. Many organisations and individuals provide advice on the law or hear legal cases. Most of these are trained in law. These include:
 - solicitors (there are about 75,000 in the UK)
 - barristers (these number around 12,000)
 - legal executives
 - a jury
 - magistrates
 - judges
 - charitable organisations, such as the Citizens Advice Bureau or local Law Centre.
3. Solicitors are usually office-based, specialise in an area of law and give advice to individuals and companies. The most common way of becoming a solicitor is to get a degree in law and then complete a legal practice course (LPC) before getting a two-year training contract in a legal firm.
4. The governing body for barristers is the Bar Council. Barristers spend a lot of time in court or preparing for legal cases in court. To become a barrister, candidates need a good degree in law and then have to join one of the four Inns of Court, which are all in London. Next they must take a Bar Vocational Course (BVC). As part of this, they have to have dinner at their chosen Inn twelve times before completing a 12-month pupillage.
5. Judges hear legal cases and pass sentence on them. They need to give their judgments impartially. In civil cases, decisions are based on the law and facts. In criminal cases, the jury decides on the facts and the judge rules on the law. Judges are appointed by the Appointments Commission.
6. Juries have existed in Britain since Norman times but today are usually only used in criminal trials in the Crown Court. They need to listen to evidence and decide guilt or innocence based on the facts presented to them.
7. Magistrates have existed since 1361 and there are now over 30,000 magistrates who hear over one million (or 96 % of) criminal cases per year. Magistrates don't get paid. They must have good character, understanding and communication skills, social awareness, maturity and sound temperament, sound judgement, commitment and reliability. They usually sit in groups of three to hear cases and come from the area in which the magistrates' court is based.