



AGO

Attorney General's Office

Attorney General's Office Business Plan 2010 - 11

AGO Vision

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) aims to provide high quality legal and strategic policy advice and support to the Attorney General and the Solicitor General (the Law Officers) in their functions. We are committed to the values that reflect the distinct work and culture of the office.

The Attorney General is:

- Chief Legal Adviser to the Crown;
- A Minister of the Crown with responsibility for superintending the prosecuting departments and;
- has a number of independent public interest functions.

The Attorney General also holds the separate office of Advocate General for Northern Ireland.

Our priorities

To support the Attorney General as:

Chief Legal Adviser to the Crown by;

- providing of high quality and timely legal advice on a range of issues;
- facilitating the Law Officers' strategic leadership of the Government Legal Service and;
- effective, proportionate engagement across the Government's policy development process.

A Minister of the Crown with responsibility for superintending the prosecuting departments by;

- providing effective, streamlined support to the superintendence by Law Officers of the prosecuting departments, safeguarding prosecutors' independence; and delivering accountability to Parliament;
- contributing to the Home Office and cross Government work on the options for an Economic Crime Agency;
- supporting the effective sponsorship of the National Fraud Authority by the Law Officers;
- giving support to and setting priorities with Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate;
- close engagement with Criminal Justice System partners to shape and contribute to work on reforms and efficiency;
- the effective oversight of the Service Prosecuting Authority and of the non superintended prosecutors.

To support the Attorney General in his public interest functions by;

- providing a high quality service on the full range of the Attorney General's public interest functions, prioritised according to where most value can be added including:
 - referring potentially unduly lenient sentences to the Court of Appeal;
 - prosecutions where the Attorney General's consent is required;
 - questions of contempt of court;
 - issuing a nolle prosequi, to stop a prosecution on indictment;
 - taking action to restrain vexatious litigants;
 - intervening in the public interest in certain charity, coroner and family law cases;
 - appointing advocates to act for the Crown;
 - exercising the discretion to appoint "advocates to the court" and "special advocates" to represent the interests of litigants in cases involving sensitive material;
 - referring points of law to the Court of Appeal after an acquittal in criminal cases;
 - litigation and correspondence arising out of the Attorney General's role.

AGO Values

AGO is committed to values that reflect the distinct work and culture of the Office.

Value our people - we recognise that people are our greatest asset and that we depend on their skills, knowledge, experience, dedication and hard work to succeed. We provide the opportunity for people to perform to the best of their ability and to develop their talents and capabilities to reach their full potential.

Treat everyone with respect - we value people for the individual contribution they make and the diverse experiences and perspectives they provide. We treat people as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Always act with integrity - we adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards and take personal responsibility for our actions.

Take pride in our work - we strive for excellence in everything we do. We continually seek to improve, encourage people to contribute to development of AGO with new ideas and ways of working. We keep things simple to minimise bureaucracy and we learn from our mistakes and celebrate our successes.

Work in collaboration - we engage with people for their views and share information, knowledge and good practice and work across teams. We work with partners across the Law Officers' Departments, and across Government to develop and deliver high quality and shared policies and services.

People and Budgets

Departmental Expenditure

This section sets out the Attorney General's Office' planned expenditure for 2010/11. It is split into **resource** (the cost of running the Department including salaries) and **capital** (for example, buildings and equipment).

2010/11 Budget

Resource	£ 4,477,000
Capital	£ 100,000

AGO Transformation

Following a number of reviews in 2009/10, the AGO began 2010/11 with wholesale transformation, to enable the office to deliver a more focused and streamlined service and to reduce staffing by 25%. Key changes since the beginning of the year have included:

- transformation of Corporate Services, increasing shared services with the Treasury Solicitors' Department and reducing staff numbers at AGO;
- a reduction in staff numbers from 56 to 41 through taking advantage of natural wastage and planned career moves;
- a review of the governance arrangements within AGO has resulted in the creation of a new Executive Board, chaired by the Director General.

Within this transformation, the AGO continues to attach great importance to its values: developing its staff to meet their full potential; improving cross-office working and engaging staff in developments which affect them. An active Staff Engagement Group (SEG) continues to tap into ideas and concerns across the

Office; to monitor the AGO's progress with implementing the findings of the Civil Service Engagement Survey and to feed recommendations to the Executive Board.