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## Statement from the Attorney General

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The Attorney General Lord Goldsmith today announced that he is to step down next week from his post.

Lord Goldsmith said:

“I have been immensely privileged to serve in this office for just over six years. This is a record time for a Labour Attorney General. It has been an extremely interesting and challenging time. However I have wanted for some time to move on and I have told the Prime Minister and the Chancellor that I believe now is the right time to make that move.

I am proud to have been a part of making major achievements in criminal justice and take especial pride in the great progress made in the prosecuting authorities. It is a particularly appropriate moment for me to move on as there has been independent validation today of the huge and beneficial changes in the Crown Prosecution Service following the vision I set out six years ago. The Capability Review released today confirms that vision has been the right one, that there have as a result been many successes for the CPS and it is now on the right and, I believe, irreversible track to become the world class prosecuting authority I first called for in 2001.”

In a message sent to all staff in the Law Officers' Departments the Attorney General paid tribute to the professionalism and dedication of the staff in all his Departments, and across the wider Government Legal Service, and thanked them for their work.

Copies of Lord Goldsmith's exchange of letters with the Prime Minister are attached.

Lord Goldsmith will not however, be giving up all links with government and has agreed with Gordon Brown to carry out a review of the legal and other aspects of citizenship, further details of which will be announced in due course.

Ends