



LAW OFFICERS OF THE CROWN

Law Officers of the Crown 2023/2024 Business Plan

Introduction

We are very pleased to introduce the Law Officers of the Crown Business Plan for 2023 and 2024. This is our first published Business Plan, and together with our Annual Report, we hope it offers an interesting and useful insight into who we are, what we do and how we see our priorities, and the value for money we represent. We are proud of what we do, and we would like more people to know about the wide range of the work we undertake for the good of the people of the Bailiwick. The publication of this short Business Plan is part of that process.

If you have any comments (including information you would like to see in future Business Plans) or questions, please email lawofficers@gov.gg.

M.M.E. Pullum K.C.	R.M. Titterington K.C.
<i>H.M. Procureur</i>	<i>H.M. Comptroller</i>

What we do

The two Law Officers of the Crown are HM Procureur (Attorney General) and HM Comptroller (Solicitor General). Their responsibilities extend throughout the Bailiwick. They have certain statutory and customary law functions and are non-voting Members of the States of Deliberation.

The Law Officers are the chief legal advisers to the States of Guernsey, the States of Alderney and the Chief Pleas of Sark and to their committees. They have the exclusive right to bring criminal prosecutions. They carry out investigative coronial functions and discharge quasi-judicial functions including, for example, in relation to mental health. HM Procureur is the Bailiwick's competent authority for the purposes of international Mutual Legal Assistance.

Under separate Warrant, HM Procureur also holds appointment as HM Receiver General and HM Comptroller has authority to carry out the functions of HM Deputy Receiver General. Under the Warrant, HM Procureur is responsible for the assets of and revenues due to the Crown in right of the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

In addition to the above we provide legal services to some public bodies including the Guernsey Financial Services Commission, the Alderney Gambling Control Commission and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority; various statutory and public office holders; and parochial officials.

The functions of the Law Officers are carried out by the Law Officers themselves and on their behalf by members of their Chambers. In particular:

- we prosecute criminal offences, and provide advice in relation to criminal law matters
- we draft legislation, and provide advice in relation to matters of statute law
- we conduct civil litigation before all Bailiwick courts and tribunals, and provide advice in respect of dispute resolution and related matters

- we draft contracts and advise in respect of contractual and other commercial law matters
- we provide general civil law advice including employment law advice
- we provide advice (and conduct civil litigation) to safeguard children and others at risk
- we provide advice in relation to international obligations binding on the Bailiwick
- we provide advice to the States Greffier in relation to parliamentary matters and to People's Deputies in their capacity as such – drafting amendments to Propositions before the States of Deliberation, for example

Our people

In addition to the two Law Officers, the Law Officers Chambers comprises 40 lawyers and 25 non-lawyer support staff. We are currently structured into five main legal directorates – Criminal Law, Civil Litigation, Legislative Drafting and Advisory, Civil Advisory and Legislation, and Commercial Law – headed by the Director of Legal Services.

At the end of last year we established a specialist Economic Crime Unit within the Criminal Law Directorate as a first step in a planned restructuring of Chambers, which will reduce the number of directorates to two – Civil Law and Criminal Law – and create a number of specialist Units within those directorates. We aim to have finished that restructure by the end of 2024. The internal benefits we expect to see from this include increased line management and better management data, leading to more efficient provision of services to our clients.

A number of our lawyers have qualified as Advocates while employed in Chambers, and we will actively support those who wish to qualify where we think that is appropriate. We have also supported staff who have qualified as solicitors or barristers (the necessary pre-cursor to qualification as an Advocate) while employed with us.

Our non-lawyer staff are key and valued members of Chambers and perform a range of functions, including accountancy and HM Receiver General support, I.T. and H.R. support, and general administration.

Our objectives and priorities

We want to provide a high-quality service that represents value for money. Each team in Chambers has different standards (depending on the nature of the team's work) to measure how well that objective is being achieved.

We are assisted in this by data provided through our time recording system (Carpe Diem) and our document management system, iManage. It is expected that other projects – for example, the digital courts project and the introduction of new criminal case management software – will provide opportunities for capturing and using further data to refine our objectives and performance indicators. Our relationships with key stakeholders are managed through different high-level agreements: there is a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the States of Guernsey, for example, and Service Level Agreements with the Chief Pleas of Sark and HM Receiver General. We use client surveys to make sure our focus properly reflects our clients' priorities.

In 2023 and 2024 we have several key priorities. We recognise the fundamental importance of supporting the States of Guernsey in achieving the strategic priorities set out in the Government Work Plan (GWP). The GWP objective at which most resource within Chambers has been dedicated in 2022 and 2023 is preparing for the Bailiwick's forthcoming evaluation by MONEYVAL in April 2024, and our objectives in relation to this include:

- preparing all legislation within the target period
- ensuring the Economic Crime Unit is fully staffed and appropriately accommodated
- preparing a comprehensive, fully searchable SharePoint site of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) cases
- preparing outstanding policy, process and procedure documents for MLA and other economic crime

We also work with the other Islands to ensure we understand and can support their strategic priorities. For example, Chambers has played a key role in supporting Chief Pleas of Sark in

their formulation of a strategy aimed at ensuring security and resilience in the supply of electricity.

Our value for money

1. What we cost

The budgeted costs of the Law Officers Chambers in 2023 are £7,064,000. Some of this will be offset by income from agreements with specific clients (including a Service Level Agreement with the Chief Pleas of Sark) provision of ad hoc services, and recovery of costs in legal proceedings. The budgeted value for income in 2023 is £189,000. Remaining costs are met by the States of Guernsey, for which the contribution is budgeted at £6,875,000.

2. How this cost breaks down

Most of Chambers' costs are for pay; £6,573,000 of the 2023 budgeted costs to cover the salaries and other costs of 67 staff. (Note some posts are part time, and there is a variable number of contractors.)

Overheads are £491,000, of which the largest costs are for:

- training and professional development, including training to qualify as an advocate
- professional memberships and subscriptions
- contracted out work to provide specialist support
- subscriptions for legal reference resources

3. How our costs compare with other parts of the States

Based upon the figures in Appendix III of the 2022 States Accounts

<https://gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=168796&p=0>) the Law Officers Chambers were 2.1% of the total pay costs and 1.1% of the total number of FTE (Full Time Equivalent posts) of the States.