



News Release

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For immediate Issue

Sir Keir Starmer QC to lead independent Review of prosecution cases

The Director of Public Prosecutions Barra McGrory QC announced today (28 October 2014) that a leading human rights lawyer will conduct an independent Review of the prosecutorial systems and processes in relation to three interlinked cases involving sex abuse and terrorist related charges.

Sir Keir Starmer KCB QC, a former Director of Public Prosecutions for England and Wales is to carry out the Review which will look at all aspects of the prosecution of the cases.

Announcing the appointment Mr McGrory said: "These cases have been the subject of much public commentary with significant concerns raised. I consider that it is right to have an independent Review to maintain and build public confidence in the criminal justice system and in particular the Public Prosecution Service.

"We keep our work under constant internal review to ensure that we provide the highest possible quality of service. This external and independent Review will provide an added level of scrutiny, not just to these cases but across the systems and processes that apply to similar areas of work. I wish to achieve the best value from this Review and this will include actively and positively responding to any areas of recommendation that may arise.

"I am delighted that Sir Keir Starmer, a leading lawyer with an international reputation who has conducted cases at the highest level in England and Wales as well as having particular experience of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland as an advisor to the Policing Board, has agreed to take on this role."

It is anticipated that the Review will involve engagement with the complainants and Counsel as well as a review of the prosecution files. An early scoping exercise will

take place before the end of November with the full review expected to be completed by the Spring of 2015.

Sir Keir said: "I am very pleased to have been asked to lead this review. I have been privileged to have spent considerable time in Northern Ireland and have a tremendous respect for its people.

"I will approach this important task with rigorous independence and an open mind."

Sir Keir will be assisted by Junior Counsel Katherine O'Byrne. The Review team will be supported by Stephen Herron, Senior Assistant Director of the PPS, who will provide case files and any other information as required.

Note to editors:

1. Link to biographies; [Sir Keir Starmer, KCB, QC](#) and [Ms Katherine O'Byrne](#)
2. The Review will focus on the prosecution of R v M Morris and R v M Morris, J Finucane, P Wilson, A McCrory and B Wright.

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