



## News Release

18 June 2012

### **PPS PAYS TRIBUTE TO SIR ALASDAIR FRASER CB QC**

The Director and Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Barra McGrory QC and Pamela Atchison, today paid tribute to Sir Alasdair Fraser CB QC, former Director of Public Prosecutions, who died at the weekend following his long battle against illness, and extend their deepest sympathy and condolences to his wife, Lady Fraser, his family and all those in whom he commanded the deepest respect.

In paying tribute to Sir Alasdair they said: **“We know we echo the views of all in the Public Prosecution Service, past and present, his many colleagues and friends in the field of criminal justice in this jurisdiction and further afield, and his friends and colleagues, past and present, in the International Association of Prosecutors, in paying tribute to Sir Alasdair for his long and distinguished public service for which he rightly earned deep and lasting respect.**

**“Sir Alasdair was a strongly committed and dedicated public servant who over 21 years lead the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions with courage and integrity through often difficult and challenging circumstances and from 2005 was instrumental in overseeing the establishment and rollout of the Public Prosecution Service.**

**“His legacy will be his significant contribution to the rule of law and building the foundations of a first class prosecution service for the benefit of everyone in Northern Ireland.”**

### **Notes to Editors**

Sir Alasdair was appointed Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland in April 1989. He retired in September 2010 after 21 years in post.

Born in Glasgow in 1946 he moved with his family to Northern Ireland in 1950.

Sir Alasdair read law at Trinity College, Dublin. After a period of study at Queen's University, Belfast, he was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 1970. He practised for three years before joining the then newly established Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1989. In 1999 he was elected as a Bencher of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland.

The Public Prosecutions Service:

The Public Prosecution Service was established on 13 June 2005 by the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002. The Criminal Justice Review (2000) was the key factor that shaped the design of the new Service. The Review specified the services the PPS should provide and was the key strategic driver for the service.

The roll-out of the service was completed in October 2007. It is now the principal prosecuting authority in NI responsible for all criminal cases and proceedings including those previously prosecuted by the former Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the PSNI.

Regionally based, its four regions, Northern, Western and Southern, Belfast and Eastern are serviced by 6 regional offices, with the opening of its final regional office in Newry on 7 June 2010.

Since devolution of policing and justice on 12 April 2010 it has become a non-ministerial department accountable to the NI Assembly.

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