



News Release

5 November 2012

PPS PUBLISHES PROSECUTION FEE SCHEME

The Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPS) has today introduced a new scheme for the remuneration of external prosecuting counsel instructed in the prosecution of cases in Northern Ireland.

The [Prosecution Fee Scheme](#) has been introduced to coincide with appointments of external counsel to the PPS Junior and Senior Panels. The Scheme better aligns fees paid between defence and prosecution counsel in Northern Ireland and now aligns better with the fees paid to prosecuting counsel in England and Wales.

Commenting on the key elements of the Scheme, Barra McGrory QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, said: **“The payment to prosecution counsel instructed in Crown Court cases now aligns with the rates and rules of payment for the defence. This will provide equality of representation for the victim of crime with that of the defendant. It reduces the difference in amounts paid to defence and prosecution counsel such that prosecution counsel is paid 5% less than defence which is in keeping with the arrangements in England and Wales.**

“The rates payable in Magistrates’ and Youth Court cases are identical to those currently paid in England and Wales for broadly equivalent work.

“PPS has just completed a competition to refresh its panel of external counsel. Appointments have been made to both the junior and senior

panels. The Prosecution Fee Scheme, which will be the basis of remuneration for those panel members, is a key component of the terms of engagement for the panel.”

Notes to Editors

- 1 The PPS Prosecution Fee Scheme comes into effect on Monday 5 November 2012. A copy of the Prosecution Fee Scheme is available at www.ppsni.gov.uk

- 2 PPS Junior and Senior Panel Counsel:
 - The competition was open to both junior and senior counsel in Northern Ireland and from England & Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland who are entitled to practice in Northern Ireland. Junior counsel with five years standing and senior counsel with five years standing in the past eight years were eligible to apply.

 - Following an eligibility paper sift interviews took place in late August and early September. As a result 32 applicants have been offered a place on the PPS junior panel and 11 applicants have been offered a place on the senior panel, with one candidate still to be interviewed.

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