



**NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND APPOINTED**

2 April 2012

The Attorney General for Northern Ireland, John F Larkin QC, today appointed Pamela Atchison as the new Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland.

Pamela Atchison is a solicitor with extensive experience in criminal law and as a prosecutor.

Speaking about the appointment the Attorney General said:

"I am delighted to appoint Pamela Atchison as the new Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland. Her knowledge and experience will be a great asset as she meets the challenges ahead. Pamela now becomes the first female to hold this prestigious post, one of the highest positions within the criminal justice system. In her new role I am sure she will be an inspiration to other women lawyers in both the public and private sectors.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Pamela's predecessor Jim Scholes whose wise leadership has served the public well for many years. The prosecution service has been indeed fortunate to have had a lawyer of his skill, wisdom and integrity at its heart for so long."

Welcoming the appointment, Barra McGrory QC, Director of Public Prosecutions said: **"Pamela Atchison is an outstanding criminal lawyer and I am delighted that the Attorney General has made**

this appointment. I am very much looking forward to working with her in this important leadership role within the Public Prosecutions Service.”

Notes to Editors

1. The appointment of the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland is made by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland under section 30 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002

2. Jim Scholes retired as the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions on 29 March 2012.

3. Biographical Note

Pamela Atchison, Solicitor, was appointed Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland on 2 April 2012.

- She graduated from the Queen’s University of Belfast with a First Class degree in languages. Pamela decided to pursue a career in law and was admitted to the Roll of Solicitors of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland in 1978 having completed a three year apprenticeship in the firm founded by her late father, Ivan Greene, which specialised in civil defence litigation.

- In 1982 she joined the then Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions to pursue her interest in criminal law and in 1999 was the first woman promoted to Assistant Director. As Assistant Director she held different posts including lead

responsibility for the Stevens III Investigation, one of the largest and longest running police investigations in the UK.

- Pamela was promoted to Senior Assistant Director in November 2009 with overall responsibility for a wide range of matters including the most serious and complex casework, prosecutions for government departments, appeals, extradition, and the development of legal policy.
- She has two grown-up children which has given her time to develop her interest in art. Pamela also enjoys travelling, photography, reading, and has eclectic tastes in music.

For media enquiries:

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Relating to the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions appointment process please contact – Eamonn McConville at the Office of the Attorney General office on 028 9072 5310 or by email Eamonn.McConville@attorneygeneralni.gov.uk