



**Public Prosecution
Service Savings Delivery
Plans
2011 – 2015**

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Introduction

- 1) The Northern Ireland Executive's 'Final Budget 2011-15' was announced by the Minister for Finance and Personnel on 4 March 2011 setting out the departmental current expenditure and capital allocations for the four year budget period. A copy of the Executive's 'Final Budget 2011-15' can be accessed on the Budget website: www.northernireland.gov.uk/budget2010.
- 2) The purpose of this paper is to set out the impact of the Final Budget on the spending plans of the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) over the period 2011-15.
- 3) The PPS concluded public consultation on proposed spending plans on 9 February 2011, in line with other NI Civil Service Departments. The full effect of the devolution of the PPS was not fully apparent at that point and further pressures particularly have necessitated that the PPS revise these plans.
- 4) This document sets out the revised spending plans and savings proposals of the PPS and is being reissued for consultation.

Budget Outcome for the PPS

- 5) The PPS is the principal prosecuting authority in Northern Ireland. In addition to taking decisions as to prosecution in cases investigated by the Police it also considers cases investigated by other statutory authorities such as HM Revenue and Customs. 93% of the total PPS budget is spent on front line services.
- 6) The PPS is committed to providing high quality prosecution services in a cost effective manner. It aims to secure and manage resources efficiently and effectively and to find the most cost effective means of meeting its objectives within the finite resources available, exploring and taking advantage of value for money opportunities arising from partnership working, such as shared services.

- 7) The PPS is already fully engaged in a number of strategic initiatives aimed at securing greater efficiency and effectiveness in a range of frontline and corporate service areas, for example, human resources, finance and ICT.
- 8) The PPS delivered an administrative efficiency programme over the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07) period. While receiving a 'flat real' settlement for CSR07 the PPS reduced administration costs by 5% per annum year on year and redirected these savings to front line services.
- 9) During 2010-11 the PPS absorbed budgetary reductions of £1.1M, which have resulted in a 3% reduction in the opening baseline for the Budget 2010 period.
- 10) The PPS final budget settlement for 2011-15 is set out below. Current expenditure represents the ongoing costs of providing the services of the PPS, for example staff and accommodation costs, whereas capital expenditure reflects investment in assets which will underpin the delivery of services in the longer term, for example ICT systems.

Table 1: Final Budget Settlement (£M)

| PPS | Budget 2010 Settlement £million | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2010-11 Baseline | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
| RESOURCE | | | | | |
| PPS Current Expenditure Outcome | 37.386 | 37.313 | 36.345 | 35.507 | 34.249 |
| % Change | | -0.2% | -2.8% | -5.0% | -8.4% |
| CAPITAL | | | | | |
| PPS Capital Investment Outcome | 0.270 | 0.178 | 0.176 | 0.195 | 0.150 |
| % Change | | -34.0% | -34.8% | -27.8% | -44.4% |

Current Expenditure

- 11) The Final Budget settlement reduces PPS current expenditure as set out above, resulting in an 8.4% reduction by year 4 of the Budget 2010 period.
- 12) Taking into account estimated inflationary increases of 2.5% per annum the PPS budget will experience a reduction in real terms of 18% by year 4 of the Budget 2010 period. This represents a challenging settlement which has required the Service to review its expenditure and operational processes.

Capital Expenditure

- 13) The capital allocations made to the PPS represent the minimum funding necessary to maintain the current ICT infrastructure.

Summary of the Main Savings Proposals

- 14) As set out in Table 2 below, the PPS is proposing a series of savings measures in order to deliver the planned reductions under Budget 2010.
- 15) The PPS has taken a proactive approach in considering the means through which savings can be delivered. However the nature of the services provided means that this is not solely within the control of the PPS. The necessary costs arising from the delivery of prosecution services are demand led and, to that extent, difficult to forecast. It has been assumed for planning purposes that caseloads will remain steady at 56,000 cases per annum and that there will not be an increase in the levels of crimes which impact most significantly on costs such as serious organised crime and terrorist cases.

Table 2: Summary of Main Savings Delivery Measures

| £'000 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Total |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Resource Baseline | 36,858 | 36,345 | 35,507 | 34,249 | 142,959 |
| Anticipated Savings Required | 0 | 1,587 | 3,234 | 5,416 | 10,237 |
| Procurement | 0 | 1,550 | 2,425 | 2,425 | 6,400 |
| Productive Time | 0 | (33) | 228 | 225 | 420 |
| Corporate Services | 0 | 203 | 882 | 1,110 | 2,195 |
| Maximising Revenue | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Cashable Savings | 0 | 1,720 | 3,535 | 3,760 | 9,015 |

- 20) £6.4M of savings will be delivered from the procurement of goods and services over the period through the revision of contracted arrangements and efficiency savings made in the use of goods and services.
- 21) £2.2M of savings will be delivered from Corporate Services. £812k of savings are planned to be delivered from revisions to the PPS estate, through the use of reduced or less costly office space. £430k of these savings are based on the ability of the PPS to sub-let accommodation. The balance of £1,765k of savings will be derived from reduced running costs across support functions such as IT and facilities management.
- 22) £420k of savings are forecast from a review of the management structures within the PPS and from the extension of PPS advocacy.
- 23) The PPS has a shortfall in the funding available in year 4 of the Budget 2010 period in comparison to the projected running costs of the Service for that year. The Department of Finance and Personnel are aware that this is largely driven by increases in payroll costs outside the control of the PPS and that this will be a factor in its consideration of any submitted bid for additional funding in 2014-15. This position will be kept under review over the Budget 2010 period.

Staffing Implications

- 24) Whilst no staff redundancies are anticipated under this settlement a number of vacant posts will be suppressed following consultation with the Trade Unions.

Assessment of Impact

- 25) The PPS has assessed the impact of the proposals contained within this document on Section 75 groups and on good relations, poverty/social inclusion and sustainable development. This assessment concluded that the impact was neutral.

Annex A: Assessment of Equality Impact

1. EQIA for Budget 2010 Spending Proposals

Summary of the equality and good relations implications of PPS's current and capital spending proposals for the Budget 2010 period (2011-15).

Assessments have been conducted in respect of savings proposals and these concluded that there would be a neutral impact on section 75 groups.

2. Actions to achieve Budget 2010 savings plans

Summary of the main actions PPS intends to take to deliver the proposed savings over the Budget 2010 period in order to deliver its proposed spending plans, and any mitigating actions to reduce the impact on the delivery of priority services.

The PPS has identified a range of actions to achieve the additional resource savings that would be required over the Budget 2010 period in order to achieve its spending proposals as set out in the Savings Delivery Plan 2011-15.

These are being delivered through a range of measures including:

- Procurement savings generated from the negotiation of contracts;
- The use of Senior Counsel;
- The revision of the rates of remuneration for independent counsel;
- Review of Senior Civil Service Posts;
- The review of the PPS estate and rationalisation of office space, parking and security costs.

In order to determine those savings that would be selected to enable the department to meet its spending proposals, a 'long list' of savings options was developed. The relative severity and impact of each option was then assessed in order to enable the Management Board to prioritise and identify sufficient savings options to enable the department to take forward its essential services. Key factors that informed the assessment of the severity of the options were the likely impact on frontline services, likely impact on section 75 groups and the impact on the department's staffing levels.

3. Assessment of savings plans for the Budget 2010 period

Summary assessment of the impact of the proposed savings plans in terms of equality and good relations.

The department has undertaken an assessment of its savings plans on section 75 groups. The assessment shows that the plans are expected to have a neutral impact on these groups.

4. Implications of Budget 2010 proposals for section 75 and other impact groups

| Section 75/Other Impact Groups | Current Spending Proposals | Capital Spending Proposals | Savings Proposals |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Between Men and Women Generally | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Persons of Different Age | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Persons with or without disability | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Persons of different religious beliefs | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Persons with or without dependants | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Persons of different political opinions | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Persons of different marital status | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Persons of different racial group | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Persons of different sexual orientation | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Sustainability | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Poverty/Social Inclusion | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |
| Construction Industry | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact | Neutral Impact |

5. Mitigating Measures

Summary of the main actions PPS intends to take to deliver the proposed savings over the Budget 2010 period in order to deliver its proposed spending plans, and any mitigating actions to reduce the impact on the delivery of priority services.

Not applicable.