SIR ALASDAIR FRASER TO RETIRE AFTER 21 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Sir Alasdair Fraser CB QC, Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, has today informed the Attorney General for Northern Ireland, John Larkin QC, of his intention to retire in September.

Sir Alasdair, who has held office for twenty-one years, said: “With the successful devolution of policing and justice and the roll-out of the Public Prosecution Service as a regional organisation, I consider now is the right time to pass the onerous responsibilities of Director to my successor.

“I have had the great privilege of serving this community as Director from April 1989 and of leading a highly professional team of public prosecutors and dedicated support staff. In my view, the rule of law has been well served both by the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions and more recently by the Public Prosecution Service.

“I am confident that the Public Prosecution Service will continue to provide the community which it serves with a first class independent service.

“I am most grateful to all my colleagues for their courage and integrity in carrying out their duties in difficult and challenging circumstances over the last 21 years.”

Notes to Editors

Alasdair Fraser was appointed Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland in April 1989. 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. After practising at the independent Bar he joined the then newly established Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions in 1973. He was appointed Deputy Director in 1988 and Queen’s Counsel in 1989. In 1999 he became a Bencher of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland.

The Public Prosecution Service:

Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers, 93 Chichester Street, Belfast, BT1 3JR
The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) was established on 13 June 2005 by the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002.

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.

PPS currently employs some 570 staff, 160 of whom are lawyers.

Upon devolution of policing and justice on 12 April 2010 it became a non-ministerial department accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

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