

Lord Chancellor's Department

Introduction

1. The vote covers the cost of the Lord Chancellor's Department HQ and five associated offices (the Council on Tribunals, Law Commission, Legal Services Ombudsman, Official Solicitors Department and the Office of the Judge Advocate General), grant-in-aid paid in support of marriage guidance, conciliation and reconciliation, grant-in-aid paid to the Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct and payments to the General Commissioners of Income Tax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
2. It covers the cost of the Court Service, including fees and salaries paid to some judicial officers and the court building programme. The agency provides administrative support to the Court of Appeal, the High Court, the Crown Court and the county courts of England and Wales and the tribunals for which the Lord Chancellor is responsible (the Banking and Building Societies Appeals Tribunal, Immigration Appellate Authorities, Lands Tribunal, Pension Appeal Tribunal, the Office of Social Security, the Special Commissioners of Income Tax and the Value Added Tax Tribunal). Expenditure on the civil courts is largely offset by fees which are shown as appropriations in aid.
3. It covers the administration of private monies through the Public Trust Office. The full cost of the Public Trust Office including the cost of services provided by LCD HQ is offset by fees and costs recovered.
4. It covers the cost of the legal aid programme, including the administrative grant-in-aid paid to the Legal Aid Board. The Board administers civil legal aid, means assessment, advice and assistance schemes and pays criminal legal aid bills in the magistrates' courts. Expenditure on criminal legal aid in the higher courts is met directly by the Lord Chancellor's Department.
5. It covers provision for the cost of acquitted defendants, private prosecution costs and witnesses' allowances payable from central funds and specific grants towards the cost of magistrates' courts, which are largely paid in advance of final audited claims.
6. It covers a payment to the Land Registry in respect of the Invest to Save Budget award to develop an electronic site for land and property information.
7. Further details of the expenditure contained in Section A to I can be found in Chapter 1 of the Lord Chancellor's Departments Departmental Report Cm 4206. A detailed analysis of appropriations in aid and Consolidated Fund extra receipts can be found in Appendix 1 Table 15 of Cm 4206.
8. The provision sought for 1999–2000 is 2.0 per cent higher than the final net provision and the forecast outturn for 1998–99 of £2,228.4 million. A breakdown of the forecast outturn for 1998–99 by individual function is given in Appendix 1 table 11 of Cm 4206.
9. The salaries of the higher judiciary and stipendary magistrates (estimated at £82 million for 1999–2000), are met direct from the Consolidated fund.
10. There are presently outstanding contingent liabilities where any cost arising would be met from the Vote. They are:

Nature of outstanding liability	Amount at 31.3.99
Share certificates held by the Public Trust Office	£540,000
Jewellery, silverware and other valuable property held by the Public Trust Office	£445,598
Jewellery and valuables held by the Legal Aid Board	£150,000
Collection of paintings and drawings at Middlesex Guildhall	£892,820
Collection of paintings and drawings held at Bristol Crown Court and Judges Lodgings	£210,000
Collection of paintings and a bronze sculpture held at Truro Combined Court	£130,000

10. Symbols are explained in the Introduction to this booklet.

Lord Chancellor's Department

Part I

£2,274,060,000

Amount required in the year ending 31 March 2000 for expenditure by the Lord Chancellor's Department HQ and associated offices; payments in support of marriage guidance; conciliation and mediation; the Court Service; the Public Trust Office; legal aid in criminal cases; grants to the Legal Aid Fund; costs paid from central funds; the magistrates courts; other legal services: a payment to the Land Registry for the Invest to Save Budget.

The Lord Chancellor's Department will account for this Vote.

	£
Net total	2,274,060,000
Allocated in the Vote on Account (HC 1134)	988,978,000
Balance to complete	1,285,082,000

Part II Subhead detail

£'000

Direct Expenditure		Grants and transfers					Gross total	Z: Appropriations in aid	Net total	Total net provision 1998-99	Net outturn 1997-98
1: Running costs	2: Other current	3: Capital	4: Current	5: Capital							
Departmental expenditure in Departmental Expenditure Limits											
Central government's own expenditure											
★A: Headquarters and associated offices Ω											
83,186	14,499	2,151	7,453	—	107,289	4,100	103,189	75,322	71,931		
★B: Court Service Ω											
413,714	42,504	26,317	—	—	482,535	345,250	137,285	130,671	198,952		
★C: Public Trust Office Ω											
19,209	-502	1,100	—	—	19,807	20,402	-595	-1,105	245		
D: Legal aid											
—	1,631,448	—	—	—	1,631,448	1,792	1,629,656	1,635,258	1,525,740		
★E: Legal aid: administration											
—	58,861	2,327	1,162	—	62,350	—	62,350	55,817	63,058		
F: Costs from central funds											
—	34,955	—	—	—	34,955	—	34,955	34,955	41,751		
★G: Invest to Save: payment to the Land Registry											
—	2,700	—	—	—	2,700	—	2,700	—	—		
Central government support for local authorities											
★H: Magistrates courts grants											
—	—	—	264,820	23,200	288,020	—	288,020	281,991	274,319		
Other expenditure outside Departmental Expenditure Limits											
I: Magistrates court grants on loan charges											
—	—	—	16,500	—	16,500	—	16,500	16,500	16,146		
Total	516,109	1,784,465	31,895	289,935	23,200	2,645,604	371,544†	2,274,060	2,229,409	2,192,142	

† Amount that may be applied as appropriations in aid in addition to the net total, arising from civil court fees; fees charged by the Public Trust Office and the Court of Protection; recoveries from the National Investment and Loans

Office for the cost of administering funds in court; recovery from the investment managers for the cost of administering the Commons Investment Schemes; fees charged by the Lands Tribunal, recoveries from the National

Insurance Fund for the cost of Social Security Commissioners; fees from the Land Registry; fees from nursery facilities and other fees; charges and receipts received; sale of publications; reimbursements from the ARAMIS PFI

supplier of the costs of seconded staff and banking charges; receipts from rents; service charges and site usage; recovery	for magistrates' courts accommodation; the disposal of land, buildings and surplus equipment, contributions paid by	legally aided defendants in the higher courts; and receipts of VAT refunds on contracted out services.
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Part III Extra receipts payable to the Consolidated Fund

	£'000		
In addition to appropriations in aid there are the following estimated receipts:	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98
Magistrates courts ●	238,863	232,860	252,226
<i>Court service</i> Φ	—	—	1,086
<i>Legal aid: non administration</i> Φ	—	—	920
Total	238,863	232,860	254,232

Northern Ireland Court Service

Introduction

1. This Vote covers the cost of administering the courts in Northern Ireland, including salaries of staff, construction and maintenance of courthouses, provision of office accommodation and general administrative expenditure. It also provides for the administrative costs of the Pensions Appeal Tribunals, Office of the Social Security Commissioners and Child Support Commissioners, the Fixed Penalty Office and payments to the Civil Superannuation Vote. It further provides for grant-in-aid provision for the Law Society of Northern Ireland (£2,656,000) and grant-in-aid for Queens University ♦ (£25,000). Further details can be found in Chapter B paragraphs 13-14 of the Lord Chancellors departmental report 1999 (Cm 4206).
2. A detailed analysis of the appropriations in aid can be found in Table 8 of Cm 4206. Further details of the consolidated fund extra receipts can be found in Table 1 and the note to Table 8 of Cm 4206.
3. The Vote covers the payments to solicitors and counsel in respect of civil and criminal legal aid and advice and assistance: provision is also made for the cost of jurors and for shorthand writers employed in the higher courts. Anticipated expenditure from assisted persons and recoveries of costs and other moneys on behalf of assisted persons are netted against the gross provision. Further details can be found in Chapter B paragraphs 84-88 of Cm 4206.
4. The legal aid fund is administered by the Law Society of Northern Ireland which also acts as agent for the Northern Ireland Court Service in making payments in respect of criminal legal aid, being funded monthly on the basis of estimated expenditure. The fund is audited by auditors appointed by the Lord Chancellor. The Comptroller and Auditor General who also has the right to audit the fund, examines the annual statement of accounts and, after certification, lays a copy of it together with his report before Parliament.
5. The provision sought for 1999–2000 is 5 per cent higher than the final net provision and forecast outturn for 1998–99 of £49.3 million. A breakdown of the forecast outturn for 1998–99 by individual function is given in Table 1 of Cm 4206.
6. Direct expenditure from the Consolidated Fund on the salaries and pensions of the Judiciary in Northern Ireland is estimated at £4.166 million in 1999–2000. This expenditure is not included in this Vote.
7. There are presently no contingent liabilities where any costs arising would be met from the Vote.
8. Details of the long-term capital projects can be found in Table 10 of Cm 4206.
9. Symbols are explained in the Introduction to this booklet.

Northern Ireland Court Service

Part I

£51,784,000

Amount required in the year ending 31 March 2000 for expenditure by the Northern Ireland Court Service on court services; other legal services; accommodation services; and legal aid.

The Northern Ireland Court Service will account for this Vote.

	£
Net total	51,784,000
Allocated in the Vote on Account (HC 1134)	19,253,000
Balance to complete	32,531,000

Part II

Subhead detail

£'000

Direct Expenditure			Grants and transfers			Gross total	Z: Appropriations in aid	Net total	Total net provision 1998-99	Net outturn 1997-98
1: Running costs	2: Other current	3: Capital	4: Current	5: Capital						
Departmental expenditure in Departmental Expenditure Limits										
Central government's own expenditure										
★A: <i>Court and other legal services</i> Ω										
30,566	-7,448	5,600	2,681	—	31,399	11,248	20,151	17,151	17,820	
B: <i>Legal aid and other court services</i>										
—	31,633	—	—	—	31,633	—	31,633	32,133	30,811	
Total	30,566	24,185	5,600	2,681	—	63,032	11,248†	51,784	49,284	48,631

† Amount that may be applied as appropriations in aid in addition to the net total, arising from court fees paid by litigants in civil proceedings,

administration fees in respect of Funds in Court, recoveries from the National Insurance Fund for the costs of the Office of the Social security

Commissioners and Child Support Commissioners, VAT refunds on contracted out services and other fees and receipts received.

Part III

Extra receipts payable to the Consolidated Fund

£'000

In addition to appropriations in aid there are the following estimated receipts:

	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98
Court services ●	—	5,500	7,248

Public Record Office

Introduction

1. The Public Record Office is an executive agency. The Vote covers the costs of the Office's responsibilities arising from the Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967, for administering or supervising the public records system of the United Kingdom and for advising the Lord Chancellor on its operation. Its responsibilities are:

- (i) selection: to safeguard the public records and ensure the selection of those worthy of preservation
- (ii) preservation: to acquire and preserve those records which ought to be kept
- (iii) access: to provide access to, and encourage and promote the use of, the records.

The office advises government departments and other bodies subject to the Acts on the selection of those records which ought to be preserved, and it gives assistance to those who wish to consult the records. Public records are open when they are thirty years old unless some other period has been prescribed for them by the Lord Chancellor or unless approval has been given for them to be retained by the originating body, for example on grounds of national security. Government policy, expressed by the open government initiative is, where possible, to make records publicly available at the earliest opportunity.

2. Further details of the expenditure are contained in Section A of this Vote can be found in Table 1 of part C of the Lord Chancellor's Departments' departmental report 1999 (Cm 4206)

3. The provision sought for 1999–2000 is 3 per cent higher than the net provision and forecast outturn for 1998–99 of £19.3 million. A breakdown of the forecast outturn for 1998–99 by individual function is given in Table 1 of part C of Cm 4206.

4. Symbols are explained in the introduction to this booklet.

Public Record Office

Part I

£20,012,000

Amount required in the year ending 31 March 2000 for expenditure by the Public Record Office on administration and operational costs.

The **Public Record Office** will account for this Vote.

	£
Net total	20,012,000
Allocated in the Vote on Account (HC 1134)	8,612,000
Balance to complete	11,400,000

Part II Subhead detail

£'000

Direct Expenditure			Grants and transfers				Gross total	Z: Appropriations in aid	Net total	Total net provision 1998-99	Net outturn 1997-98
1: Running costs	2: Other current	3: Capital	4: Current	5: Capital							
Departmental expenditure in Departmental Expenditure Limits											
Central government's own expenditure											
★A: <i>Records, registrations and surveys</i> Ω											
26,842	-5,230	1,000	—	—	22,612	2,600†	20,012	19,338	24,998		

† Amount that may be applied as appropriations in aid in addition to the net total, arising from charges for the sale of copies of documents; sale of

publications and other items; professional fees; a lottery grant received from the Heritage Lottery Fund in respect of the WW1 Soldiers

Documents; and VAT receipts from Customs and Excise in respect of contracted out services.

Part III Extra receipts payable to the Consolidated Fund

£'000

In addition to appropriations in aid there are the following estimated receipts:

	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98
<i>Records, registration and surveys</i>	—	903	539

The Crown Prosecution Service

Introduction

1. The Vote covers running costs, capital costs and operational costs incurred by the Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales. Included in Section A are the costs of an average 5,884 legal and administrative staff, capital costs and other running costs.
2. Crown prosecutions and legal services (Section B) include counsel fees, professional and other charges in connection with the confiscation of the proceeds of crime, witness expenses, associated prosecution costs and costs awarded against the Crown Prosecution Service.
3. The Service, headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions, is responsible for the conduct of all criminal proceedings on behalf of the police services in England and Wales. Further details of expenditure on Sections A and B can be found in Chapter 1 of the Law Officer's Departmental Report 1999 (Cm 4207).
4. A detailed analysis of appropriations in aid can be found in Chapter 1, Table 6 of Cm 4207.
5. The provision sought for 1999–2000 is 0.3 per cent lower than the final provision and forecast outturn for 1998–99 of £308,067,000. A breakdown of the forecast outturn for 1998–99 is given by individual function in Chapter 1, Table 1 of Cm 4207.
6. Symbols are explained in the Introduction to this booklet.

The Crown Prosecution Service

Part I

£307,000,000

Amount required in the year ending 31 March 2000 for expenditure by the Crown Prosecution Service on administrative costs, including the hire of private prosecuting agents; Crown prosecutions; and in connection with the confiscation of the proceeds of crime.

The **Director of Public Prosecutions** will account for this Vote.

	£
Net total	307,000,000
Allocated in the Vote on Account (HC 1134)	126,813,000
Balance to complete	180,187,000

Part II Subhead detail

£'000

Direct Expenditure			Grants and transfers			Gross total	Z: Appropriations in aid	Net total	Total net provision 1998-99	Net outturn 1997-98
1: Running costs	2: Other current	3: Capital	4: Current	5: Capital						
Departmental expenditure in Departmental Expenditure Limits										
Central government's own expenditure										
★A: Administration Ω										
226,674	-250	4,006	—	—	230,430	930	229,500	229,933	224,472	
B: Crown prosecutions and legal services										
—	97,500	—	—	—	97,500	20,000	77,500	78,134	75,219	
Total	226,674	97,250	4,006	—	—	327,930	20,930†	307,000	308,067	299,691

† Amount that may be applied as appropriations in aid to the net total arising from the recovery of costs from

private tenants in jointly occupied buildings, leased cars, costs awarded to the Crown Prosecution Service in court

and recovery of the proceeds of the sale of capital assets.

Part III Extra receipts payable to the Consolidated Fund

£'000

In addition to appropriations in aid there are the following estimated receipts:

	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98
Administration ●	—	—	820
Crown prosecution and legal services ●	—	—	2,181
Total	—	—	3,001

Serious Fraud Office

Introduction

1. The vote covers the running costs, capital costs, and operational costs incurred by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO). Included are the costs for SFO staff, fees to counsel and outside accountants, witness expenses, use of information technology to improve the presentation of evidence, other investigation and prosecution costs and defendants' costs ordered by the court to be paid by the SFO.
2. Further details of the expenditure of the SFO can be found in Chapter 2 paragraph 28 of the Law Officers' Departments Departmental Report 1999 (Cm 4207).
3. The provision sought for 1999–2000 is 6.8% higher than both the final net provision and the forecast outturn for 1998–99 of £16,002,000. A breakdown of the forecast outturn for 1998–99 by individual function is given in table 2 of Cm 4207.
4. Symbols are explained in the Introduction to this booklet.

Serious Fraud Office

Part I

£17,086,000

Amount required in the year ending 31 March 2000 for expenditure by the Serious Fraud Office on administration, investigation and prosecution costs.

The **Director of the Serious Fraud Office** will account for this Vote.

	£
Net total	17,086,000
Allocated in the Vote on Account (HC 1134)	6,969,000
Balance to complete	10,117,000

Part II Subhead detail

£'000

Direct Expenditure			Grants and transfers			Gross total	Z: Appropriations in aid	Net total	Total net provision 1998-99	Net outturn 1997-98
1: Running costs	2: Other current	3: Capital	4: Current	5: Capital						
Departmental expenditure in Departmental Expenditure Limits										
Central government's own expenditure										
★A: Administration										
8,954	—	231	—	—	9,185	230	8,955	9,221	9,677	
★B: Running costs for Investigation and prosecutions										
2,880	—	—	—	—	2,880	380	2,500	1,700	840	
C: Investigation and prosecutions										
—	6,732	—	—	—	6,732	1,101	5,631	5,081	5,637	
Total	11,834	6,732	231	—	18,797	1,711†	17,086	16,002	16,154	

† Amount that may be applied as appropriations in aid in addition to the net total, arising from the costs awarded to the SFO, and refunds of Value Added Tax on contracted out services.

Part III Extra receipts payable to the Consolidated Fund

£'000

In addition to appropriations in aid there are the following estimated receipts:

	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98
<i>Administration</i> ●	—	—	14

HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor

Introduction

1. This vote covers the running costs of the Treasury Solicitor's Department Agency (Section A) and other expenditure of the Treasury Solicitor's Department Agency which includes capital expenditure and payments to HM Customs and Excise (Section B). Section C covers the administration costs of the Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers including the salaries of two Ministers of the Crown whilst Section D covers the administration costs of the Government Property Lawyers Agency. Further details of the Department's administration costs are provided in Chapter 3 of the 1999 Departmental Report of the Law Officer's Department (Cm 4207).
2. Since 1990-91, the Treasury Solicitor's Department Agency has operated a system of full repayment for the majority of its legal services and the greater part of its running costs is now met by receipts. From 1999–2000, the Treasury Solicitor's Department Agency will operate net running cost control, to allow it the flexibility to respond to fluctuating demands on its services. A small section of the Agency's work, which is directly related to European matters or considered to be in the public interest, will remain centrally funded.
3. The Vote also covers the operational costs (Section E) of the Treasury Solicitor's Department Agency and the Government Property Lawyers Agency. Operational costs arise on the provision of legal services (for example litigation, conveyancing and legal advice) to government departments. Except for those associated with centrally funded services, operational costs are fully recovered from client departments as disbursements. The principal areas of expenditure are adverse costs, counsel fees, expert witnesses and solicitor agents. Further details of the departments operational costs are provided in Chapter 3 of Cm 4207.
4. Following a thorough review of the Government Property Lawyers Agency, the Government has concluded that against the background of a declining work load the business has become non-viable and is likely to remain so and that there is no longer a requirement to maintain a central conveyancing function in the public sector. Accordingly, the Government Property Lawyers Agency will close by 30 September 1999. However, a funding commitment will continue beyond this date. Further information about the Government Property Lawyers Agency and associated expenditure is given in the Agency's Annual Report.
5. A breakdown of appropriations in aid, £25,864,000 (Sections A to D) and £38,485,000 (Section E), which covers charges for legal and administrative services, charges for bona vacantia work, from recovery of costs for private tenants in jointly occupied buildings, from VAT refunds on contracted out services and from European Fast Streamers is contained in Chapter 3 of Cm 4207.
6. The provision sought for 1999–2000 is 45 per cent lower than the final net provision and the forecast outturn for 1998–99 of £13,046,000. A breakdown of the forecast outturn for 1998–99 by individual function is given in Chapter 3 of Cm 4207.
7. Symbols are explained in the Introduction to this booklet.

HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor

Part I

£7,175,000

Amount required in the year ending 31 March 2000 for expenditure by the Department of the Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor, the Treasury Solicitor's Department Agency, the Government Property Lawyers Agency and the Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers on administration and on costs and fees for legal and related services.

The **Solicitor to the Treasury** will account for this Vote.

	£
Net total	7,175,000
Allocated in Vote on Account (HC 1134)	7,000,000
Balance to complete	175,000

Part II Subhead detail

£'000

Direct Expenditure		Grants and transfers					Gross total	Z: Appropriations in aid	Net total	Total net provision 1998-99	Net outturn 1997-98
1: Running costs	2: Other current	3: Capital	4: Current	5: Capital							
Departmental expenditure in Departmental Expenditure Limits											
Central government's own expenditure											
★A: TSD administration											
21,665	—	—	—	—	21,665	18,398	3,267	3,057	2,583		
★B: TSD other Ω											
—	2,621	470	—	—	3,091	2,841	250	—142	195		
★C: LSLO administration											
2,163	—	30	—	—	2,193	50	2,143	2,334	2,552		
★D: GPL administration											
3,875	700	—	—	—	4,575	4,575	—	597	243		
E: Operational costs											
—	40,000	—	—	—	40,000	38,485	1,515	7,200	3,285		
Total	27,703	43,321	500	—	—	71,524	64,349†	7,175	13,046	8,858	

† Amount that may be applied as appropriations in aid in addition to the net total, arising from charges for legal and administrative services provided, from charges for bona vacantia work from recovery of costs for private tenants in jointly occupied buildings, from VAT refunds on contracted out services and from European Fast Streamers.

Part III Extra receipts payable to the Consolidated Fund

£'000

In addition to appropriations in aid there are the following estimated receipts:

	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98
Operational costs Φ	—	—	357