

CHAPTER 15

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

Departments included in this chapter:

I. Northern Ireland Office

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

Introduction

The Northern Ireland Office administers the law, order, protective and miscellaneous services, including political development, programme within Northern Ireland. The department is comprised of a core department and three agencies - Northern Ireland Prison Service, the Forensic Science Service and the Compensation Agency. The responsibilities of these bodies are :-

Core department - encouraging and facilitating the peace process, developing and supporting effective criminal justice arrangements, upholding and sustaining the rule of law through appropriate policing and security policies and arrangements, and the provision of a legal services to government through the Crown Solicitors Office ;

Northern Ireland Prison Service - responsible for maintaining a secure and humane prison system ;

Forensic Science Service - responsible for providing effective scientific advice and support to enhance delivery of justice ; and

Compensation Agency - responsible for the administration of the various statutory compensation schemes on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Various aspects of the department's responsibilities are delivered through a number of other bodies funded by the department. In this regard, the delivery of policing is secured by the Police Authority for Northern Ireland, the provision of a probation service is carried out by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and Rathgael Training School provides residential referral facilities for children and young people.

Asset information recorded for the department comprises details of the assets in the ownership of the core department and related bodies including, NI Prison Service, Forensic Science Service, Compensation Agency, Rathgael Training School, Police Authority for NI and the Probation Board for NI.

Departmental Asset Register

Core Department

Location	Description	Purpose
Land and Buildings		
Throughout NI	80 residential houses and properties (part furnished) held on both a freehold (20) and leasehold (60) basis	Residential accommodation for seconded and detached duty staff
Belfast	Freehold land and building	Storage facility
Ballymena	Freehold land and building	Civil defence centre
Omagh	Freehold land	Greenfield site
Newtownbreda, Belfast	Freehold land	Former premises of the Forensic Science Service
Belfast Road, Holywood	Maryfield House - freehold land and building	Working and residential accommodation for the Anglo Irish Secretariat.
Hillsborough	Hillsborough Castle - freehold buildings	Administrative and residential accommodation for the Secretary of State, official , state and charitable functions.

Computer equipment, office furniture, plant and equipment

Location	Description	Purpose
Across all offices and branches in the department	Desks, chairs storage cabinet safes, fax machines shredders	Support services for 817 staff
Across all offices and branches in the department.	Various networked and PC stand alone systems, including database, accounting, spreadsheet, word processing and messaging, and peripherals	Administration and control of office systems for approx. 660 users. and control of accounting information for 31 users.
At properties throughout Northern Ireland	Security assets including - CCTV, cameras, detectors	Security

Northern Ireland Prison Service

Land and buildings

Location	Description	Purpose
Crumlin Road, Belfast	HMP Belfast - freehold land and buildings	Prison establishment with accommodation for 265 prisoners (see note)
Halfdown Road, Maze, Lisburn	HMP Maze - freehold land and buildings	Prison establishment with accommodation for 698 prisoners
Maghaberry Old Road, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn	HMP Maghaberry - freehold and land buildings	Prison establishment with accommodation for 500 prisoners
Magilligan Point Road, Magilligan	HMP Magilligan - freehold land	Prison establishment with accommodation for 328 prisoners
Hydebank Wood, Hospital Road, Belfast	HMP Hydebank Young Offenders Centre - freehold land and buildings	Prison establishment with accommodation for 235 prisoners
Ballywalter Road, Millisle	Prison Service College - freehold land and buildings	Training college

Note - HMP Belfast was formally closed on 31 March 1996, however the facility will remain available pending completion of additional accommodation at HMP Maghaberry towards the end of 1998.

Vehicles, plant and equipment

Location	Description	Purpose
At properties detailed under land and buildings above	Plant and equipment including telecommunications, physical education, general education, vocational training, catering, medical, trades, training and security	Support services to prisons and training college
At properties detailed under land and buildings above	117 vehicles including vans, lorries, minibuses, personnel carriers, tractors and forklifts	Visitor transport, court transport, refuse collection, maintenance and deliveries

Computer equipment, office furniture and equipment

Location	Description	Purpose
At properties detailed under land and buildings above and at HQ (Dundonald House, Belfast)	Office furniture and equipment	Support services for 3266 staff
At properties detailed under land and buildings above and at HQ (Dundonald House)	Various networked and PC stand alone systems, including database accounting, spreadsheet, word processing and messaging, and peripherals	Administration and control of accounts, human resources, office systems, security and prisoner information systems

Northern Ireland Forensic Science Agency

Land and buildings

Location	Description	Purpose
Seapark, Carrickfergus	Leasehold building	Facilities for forensic science service (106 staff)

Plant and machinery

Location	Description	Purpose
Seapark, Carrickfergus	Scientific and office equipment	Support services for 106 staff
Seapark, Carrickfergus	Motor vehicle	Support services

Northern Ireland Compensation Agency

Computer equipment, office furniture and equipment

Location	Description	Purpose
Royston House, Upper Queen St., Belfast	Office furniture and equipment	Support services for 129 staff
Royston House, Upper Queen St., Belfast	Various network and stand alone software, and peripherals	Administration of compensation payments and control of office systems.

Police Authority for Northern Ireland

Land and buildings

Location	Description	Purpose
Throughout Northern Ireland	Operational land and buildings including - 5 RUC headquarters, 39 divisional and sub-divisional headquarters, 38 sector stations, 68 limited opening stations, 1 large scale complex, 1 MSU base	Police administration and operations

Vehicles, plant and equipment

Location	Description	Purpose
Throughout NI.	Plant and equipment including telecomms, weapons, photographic, training and cleaning	Support services to police
At properties detailed under land and buildings above	Support vehicles including - 1 all terrain vehicle, 17 boats, 1799 cars, 52 heavy goods vehicles, 457 land rovers, 109 motorcycles, 225 personnel carriers, 74 trailers, 1 coach, and 156 vans	Support services to police

Computer equipment, office furniture and equipment

Location	Description	Purpose
At properties detailed under land and buildings.	Office furniture and equipment	Support services for staff
Across all offices and branches in the department	Personal computers, printers. Various network and stand alone software.	Administration and control of office and security systems

Probation Board for Northern Ireland

Land and buildings

Location	Description	Purpose
306 Antrim Road, Belfast	Leasehold building	Office accommodation
51 Camden Street, Belfast	Leasehold building	Office accommodation
270/272 Falls Road, Belfast	Leasehold building	Office accommodation
297 Newtownards Road, Belfast	Leasehold building	Office accommodation
330 Ormeau Road, Belfast	Leasehold building	Office accommodation
93/107 Shankill Road, Belfast	Leasehold building	Office accommodation
Alderwood House, Hydebank Wood, Belfast	Leasehold building	Office accommodation
38 Fountain Street, Antrim	Freehold building	Office accommodation
25 College Street, Armagh	Freehold building	Office accommodation
8 Crawford Square, Londonderry	Freehold building	Office accommodation
7 Limavady Road, Londonderry	Freehold building	Office accommodation
8 Downshire Place, Newry	Freehold building	Office accommodation
123 Doagh Road, Newtownabbey	Freehold building	Office accommodation
15 Castle Street, Newtownards	Freehold building	Office accommodation

Vehicles, plant and equipment

Location	Description	Purpose
At properties detailed under land and buildings above	Cars and vans - 8	Support services.

Computer equipment, office furniture and equipment

Location	Description	Purpose
At properties detailed under land and buildings.	Office furniture and equipment	Support services for staff
Across all offices and branches in the department	Various network and stand alone software, and peripherals.	Administration control of office and security systems.

Rathgael Training School

Land and buildings

Location	Description	Purpose
Rathgael, Bangor	Rathgael Training School - freehold land and buildings	Residential and other facilities accommodation for the detention and education of young offenders

Office furniture and equipment

Location	Description	Purpose
Rathgael , Bangor	Office furniture , school and sports equipment , and residential furniture	To facilitate detention and education of young offenders.