

Section 5

The Lord Chancellor's Departments

Departments included in this chapter:

- The Lord Chancellor's Department
- The Northern Ireland Court Service
- Public Record Office
- HM Land Registry

Section 5 | The Lord Chancellor's Departments

Introduction

The Lord Chancellor's Departments include the Lord Chancellor's Department and three sister departments: the Northern Ireland Court Service, Public Record Office and HM Land Registry.

The Lord Chancellor's Department consists of: the departmental headquarters and associated offices (the Core Department); two executive agencies - the Court Service and Public Trust Office; and an executive non-departmental public body - the Legal Aid Board (replaced by the Legal Services Commission).

The associated offices of the Lord Chancellor's Department are:

- the Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman
- the Law Commission
- the Office of the Official Solicitor
- the Judicial Studies Board
- the Council on Tribunals
- the Office of the Judge Advocate.

Department's Aim

The aim of the Lord Chancellor's Department is justice.

The priority for the Lord Chancellor's Department is to contribute to the Government's commitment to fairness, growth and opportunity by introducing a programme of reforms to provide a modern, fair and efficient system of justice, which operates in the public interest and ensures value for money for the taxpayer.

The Core Department

The Core Department consists of the departmental headquarters and seven associated offices. Headquarters provides advice and support to the Lord Chancellor on policy and in his supervision of the agencies, as well as in the appointment of virtually all the judiciary.

The associated offices operate independently on a day to day basis but headquarters is responsible for the control and monitoring of these offices.

The Executive Agencies

The agencies of the Lord Chancellor's Department are the Court Service and Public Trust Office.

The Court Service exists to carry out the administrative and support work of courts and tribunals and to promote their impartial and efficient operation.

Public Trust Office aims to ensure the effective management of private assets and financial affairs entrusted to its care by the courts or by, or on behalf of, people unable or unwilling to manage these matters themselves.

Asset holding

The 1999-2000 resource accounts are a consolidation of the Core Department and the Court Service, and Public Trust Office agency accounts. The resource accounts are published by the Stationery Office. The resource accounts show that the Lord Chancellor's Department holds the following assets:

NET BOOK VALUE At 31 March 2000

Tangible fixed assets (£'000s)
1,332,342

Public Trust Office annual report and accounts 1999/2000 is published by the Stationery Office. The Court Service annual report 1999/2000 is also published by the Stationery Office and includes unaudited accounts.

The Legal Aid Board

The Legal Aid Board (replaced by the Legal Services Commission on 1 April 2000) is funded by grant-in-aid from the Lord Chancellor's Department. The Board was created to manage the major elements of the legal aid scheme and to assist the Lord Chancellor in meeting his objectives for publicly funded legal services.

Asset holding

The Legal Aid Board produces accounts for its administration expenditure on an accruals basis. Fund accounts are on a cash basis, but the Fund does not own any assets. The accounts are contained in the Legal Aid Board Annual Report 1999-00, which is published by the Stationery Office. These accounts show the asset holding to be:

NET BOOK VALUE At 31 March 2000

Tangible fixed assets (£'000s)
1,926

Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding the return for the Core Department, Executive Agencies and executive NDPB should be addressed in the first place to Kate Ivers (tel: 020 7210 8521, e-mail: kate.ralph@LCDHQ.gsi.gov.uk).

The Northern Ireland Court Service

The Northern Ireland Court Service was established by the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 as a “unified and distinct Civil Service of the Crown” and is a department for which the Lord Chancellor has ministerial responsibility.

Department’s Aim

The Service’s purpose is to facilitate the conduct of the business of the Supreme Court, County Courts, Magistrates’ Courts, Coroners’ Courts and certain Tribunals, to give effect to judgements to which the Judgements Enforcement (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 applies, and to provide the Lord Chancellor with policy advice and legislative support relating to his responsibilities in Northern Ireland.

Asset holding

The Financial Statements for 1999-2000 have been audited and will shortly be published. They show the total value of fixed assets as follows:

NET BOOK VALUE At 31 March 2000

	Tangible fixed assets (£’000s)
	105,107

The Annual Report can be found at www.nics.gov.uk/pubsec/courts/annrept.pdf

Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding this return should be addressed to Anthony Carleton (tel: 02890 328594 ext 2258, e-mail: anthonycarleton@courtsni.gov.uk).

Public Record Office

The Public Record Office (PRO) is an executive agency funded by a vote from Parliament. The PRO is a Government Department in its own right established under the Public Record Acts of 1958 and 1967, and the Chief Executive, the Keeper of Public Records, reports directly to the Lord Chancellor. The PRO became an executive agency on 1 April 1992.

Department's Aim

To assist and promote the study of the past through the public records in order to inform the present and the future. To achieve this aim, the Office undertakes four core activities:

- It supervises the selection, safekeeping and transfer of the public records;
- It keeps the records selected for preservation in the PRO or allocates other suitable places of deposit for them;
- It provides access to the records and encourages and promotes their use;
- It gives advice and guidance to government and others on public record issues.

Asset holding

The Annual Report and Accounts for 1999-2000 is published by the Stationery Office and shows the total value of fixed assets and investments as follows:

NET BOOK VALUE At 31 March 2000

Tangible fixed assets (£'000s)

87,332

Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding the Public Record Office return should be addressed to Nick Worrall (tel: 020 8876 3444, e-mail: nick.worrall@pro.gov.uk).

HM Land Registry

Established in 1862, the Land Registry's role is to maintain a register of title to freehold and leasehold land in England and Wales and to deliver land registration services to the public. It is a separate department of the government, which became an Executive Agency in July 1990 and a Trading Fund in April 1993.

Asset holding

The Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000 is published by the Stationery Office, and shows the total value of fixed assets and investments to be:

NET BOOK VALUE At 31 March 2000

Tangible fixed assets (£'000s)

142,229

The Annual Report and Accounts are available on-line at www.landreg.gov.uk/publications/ar/ar9900acc.pdf

Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding the HM Land Registry return should be addressed to Jan Turner (tel: 020 7917 8888 ext 4593, e-mail: jan.turner@landreg.gsi.gov.uk).

Completion of the National Asset Register and levels of aggregation

This entry to the National Asset Register includes those assets that would normally be capitalised on each body's balance sheet broken down into appropriate headings.

The Lord Chancellor's Department

Apart from the Royal Courts of Justice, where several buildings make up a single site, full details are given for the site rather than the individual buildings that make up that site.

Values are not shown for individual properties/sites, rather they are sub-totalled by type. Individual property values are considered to be commercial in confidence in the light of the current project to rationalise the Court Service estate.

Non-operational antiques such as paintings and works of art have been excluded from the National Asset Register, as they are currently excluded from the Department's asset register.

Property assets in the course of construction are omitted from the National Asset Register as the information is not available.

The Northern Ireland Court Service

Values are not shown for individual properties/sites. Individual property values are considered to be commercial in confidence in the light of the current rationalisation programme.

Non-operational antiques such as paintings and statues are included in the National Asset Register, as they are currently in the Service's financial statements.

Property assets in the course of construction are also included, and are stated at the value disclosed in the audited financial statements. These are currently shown under "Other holdings" in land and buildings.

Public Record Office

This entry is compiled from the information held on the PRO's computerised asset register. The sums disclosed are at revaluation values less accumulated depreciation, and are presented by asset category as at 31 March 2000. These sums concur with that disclosed on the face of the audited balance sheet at 31 March 2000, and are in accord with note 9 of the PRO's Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000.

HM Land Registry

The Registry's register of assets has been fully operational since 1st April 1992 and is used to compile the 'Tangible Fixed Assets' notes 8a and 8b to the Annual Report and Accounts prepared pursuant to section 4(6) of the Government Trading Funds Act 1973.

The fixed asset register has been used to produce the Registry's contribution to the National Asset Register. The details, which follow, show various categories of tangible fixed assets as at 31st March 2000. The largest category of the Registry's fixed assets, 'Land and Buildings' has been broken down into freehold, long leasehold and short leasehold. All the properties valued at over £1 million are separately identified.

The Lord Chancellor's Department

The Core Department

PLANT AND MACHINERY

	Items	Units Value (£'000s)
Furniture and fittings		
Office equipment		
LCD HQ	30	17
Law Commission Conquest House	7	4
Official Solicitor 81 Chancery Lane	3	46
Judge Advocate General 22 Kingsway	1	4
Judicial Studies Board Millbank Tower	2	2
	43	73
Pooled furniture		
LCD HQ		959
Law Commission Conquest House		107
Official Solicitor 81 Chancery Lane		488
Council on Tribunals 7th floor Kingsway		55
Judge Advocate General 22 Kingsway		10
Judicial Studies Board Millbank Tower		26
HM Magistrates Courts Inspectorate – 4 sites		89
Legal Services Ombudsman 22 Oxford Court Manchester		36
Total		1770

Information and Communication Technology

	Items	Units Value (£'000s)
LCD HQ	192	568
Law Commission Conquest House	163	22
Official Solicitor 81 Chancery Lane	298	147
Council on Tribunals 7th floor Kingsway	33	17
Judge Advocate General 22 Kingsway	45	22
Judicial Studies Board Millbank Tower	66	24
HM Magistrates Court Inspectorate – 4 sites	7	16
Legal Services Ombudsman 22 Oxford Court Manchester	53	34
Total	857	850

Vehicles

LCD HQ	63	498
HM Magistrates Court Inspectorate – 4 sites	4	32
Total	67	530
Total plant & machinery		3,223

Total land and buildings	0
Total plant and machinery	3,223
Total tangible fixed assets	3,223

The Court Service

LAND AND BUILDINGS

Values are not shown for individual properties/sites, rather they are sub-totalled by type. Individual property values are considered to be commercial in confidence in the light of the current project to rationalise the Court Service estate.

Freehold land and buildings with an individual value of more than £1 million

Location	Use (m2)	Value (£'000s)
Birmingham Crown Court Newton Street Birmingham	4,025	
Bristol Crown Court Small Street Bristol	8,579	
Cardiff Crown Court Cathays Park Cardiff	7,387	
Chelmsford Crown Court PO Box 9 New Street Chelmsford	6,125	
Doncaster Crown Court College Road Doncaster	2,472	
Durham Crown Court Old Elvet Durham	1,654	
Harrow Crown Court Hailsham Drive Harrow	6,485	
Inner London Sessions Hse Newington Causeway (ILCC) London	9,297	
Ipswich Crown Court Civic Centre Ipswich	1,456	
Isleworth Crown Court 36 Ridgeway Road Isleworth	5,023	
Kingston Crown Court The Bittoms 6-8 Penrhyn Road	9,443	
Knightsbridge Crown Court (Aka Blackfriars) Pocock Street London	8,908	
Leicester Crown Court 90 Wellington Street Leicester	5,793	
Lincoln Crown Court The Castle Lincoln	1,322	
Luton Crown Court 7/9 George Street Luton	4,632	
Manchester Crown Court Minshull Street Manchester	7,246	
Middlesex Guildhall Crown Broad Sanctuary Court London	4,906	
Newport Crown Court Faulkner Road Newport Gwent	3,088	
Preston Sessions House Lancaster Road (Crown) Preston	2,925	
Reading Comb.Court (Crown) The Forbury Reading RG1 3GU	5,734	
Snaresbrook Crown Court 75 Holly Bush Hill Snaresbrook	13,005	
St Albans Crown Court Bricket Road St Albans	3,313	
Swansea Crown Court St Helens Road Swansea	3,708	
Wood Green Crown Court Lordship Lane London	9,041	
Woolwich Crown Court 2 Belmarsh Road London	7,132	
York Crown Court The Castle York	2,219	
Crown Courts: Sub-Total	144,918	380,846
Bow County Court 96 Romford Road London	651	
Brentford County Court Alexandra Road Brentford	970	
Brighton County Court William Street Brighton	2,215	
Bromley County Court College Road Bromley	1,634	
Clerkenwell County Court 33 Duncan Terrace London	639	
Edmonton County Court Fore Street London	1,447	
Epsom County Court The Parade Epsom	677	

Location	Use (m2)	Value (£'000s)
Kingston Upon Thames Cnty 14/26 St.James Road Crt Kingston Upon Thames	1,815	
Leicester County Court 90 Wellington Street Leicester	1,717	
Loughborough County Court (Immigration Appellate Authority) Southfield Park Southfields Road	268	
Manchester County Court 184-186 Deansgate Manchester	2,142	
Milton Keynes Cnty Court 351 Silbury Boulevard Milton Keynes	1,320	
Neath & Port Talbot Cnty Forster Road Court Neath	830	
Pontypridd County Court Courthouse Street Pontypridd	740	
Romford County Court 2a Oaklands Avenue Romford	1,134	
Telford County Court Malinsgate Town Centre Telford	1,797	
Wandsworth County Court 76-78 Upper Richmond Road London	1,828	
Willesden County Court 9 Acton Lane London	1,550	
County Courts: Sub-Total	23,374	40,854
Basildon Combined Court Regent House The Gore	5,454	
Bolton Combined Court Blackhorse Street Bolton	4,213	
Bournemouth Combined Crt. Wessex Fields Bournemouth	5,692	
Bradford Combined Court Exchange Square Bradford	10,142	
Burnley Combined Court Hummertown Street Burnley	2,457	
Canterbury Combined Court Chaucer Barracks Canterbury	6,170	
Carlisle Combined Court Earl Street Carlisle	3,781	
Chichester Combined Court 41/42 Southgate Chichester	2,144	
Coventry Combined Court 140 Much Park Road Coventry	4,152	
Croydon Combined Court Altyre Road Croydon	7,946	
Derby Combined Court Morledge Derby	4,455	
Exeter Combined Court The Castle Exeter	2,680	
Grimsby Combined Court Town Hall Square Grimsby	3,121	
Hull Combined Court Lowgate Hull	6,109	
Leeds Combined Court 1 Oxford Row Leeds	13,371	
Lewes Combined Court High Street Lewes	7,292	
Lincoln Combined Court 360 High Street Lincoln	1,594	
Liverpool CCC & DPR Derby Square Liverpool	24,484	
Maidstone Combined Court Barker Road Maidstone	8,119	
Newcastle Combined Court Quayside Newcastle Upon Tyne	13,347	
Newport (IoW) Crown Court Quay Street (Ccc) Newport	1,619	
Northampton Combined Crt 85-87 Ladys Lane Northampton	5,617	
Norwich Combined Court Bishopgate Norwich	5,407	
Nottingham Combined Court 60 Canal Street Nottingham	14,209	
Peterborough Comb. Court Rivergate Peterborough	2,996	
Plymouth Combined Court Armada Way Plymouth	2,900	
Portsmouth Crn Court (CCC) Winston Churchill Avenue Portsmouth	9,190	
Preston Combined Court Saul Street Preston	9,224	
Salisbury Combined Court St John Street Salisbury	3,118	
Sheffield New Comb.Court West Bar Sheffield	10,937	

Location	Use (m ²)	Value (£'000s)
Southampton Combined Ct London Road Southampton	5,081	
Stafford Combined Court Victoria Square Stafford	4,514	
Stoke Combined Court Bethesda Street Stoke On Trent	5,299	
Swindon Combined Court Islington Street Swindon	2,628	
Teesside Combined Court Russell Street Middlesborough	12,501	
Truro Combined Court Edward Street Truro	3,357	
Warrington Combined Ct Leigh Street Warrington	2,682	
Wolverhampton Combined Ct Pipers Row Wolverhampton	4,193	
Worcester Comb Crt Shire Hall Foregate St Worcester	4,587	
Combined Courts: sub-total	246,782	443,192
RCJ St Duns 133-137 Fetter Lane London	3,770	
RCJ The Strand London	52,478	
Supreme Court: sub-total	56,248	251,572
Harpenden	793	
Maidstone	906	
Judges Lodgings: sub-total	1,699	2,500
Leasehold land and buildings with an individual value of more than £1 million		
Location	Use (m ²)	Value (£'000s)
Chester Crown Court The Castle Chester	3,833	
Guildford Crown Court Bedford Road Guildford	3,275	
Southwark Crown Court Tooley Street London	11,103	
Crown Courts: sub-total	18,211	43,258
Birmingham County Court 33 Bull Street Birmingham	12,248	
Cardiff County Court 2 Park Street Cardiff	4,509	
Central London Trials Ctr 26-29 Park Crescent London	3,295	
Guildford County Court Mary Road Guildford	1,140	
Hastings County Court Bohemia Road Hastings	792	
Lambeth County Court 21/35 Cleaver Street London	2,531	
Staines County Court Knowle Green Staines	1,134	
County Courts: sub-total	25,649	40,793

Location	Use (m2)	Value (£'000s)
Merthyr Tydfil Comb.Court Castle Street Merthyr Tydfil	4,697	
Oxford Comb.Court Centre 62/74 St Aldates Oxford	4,966	
Taunton Combined Court The Shirehall Taunton	2,508	
Winchester Combined Court The Law Courts Winchester	6,810	
Combined Courts: sub-total	18,981	28,275
Birmingham	1,133	
Winchester	862	
Judges Lodgings: sub-total	1,995	2,750
Other Holdings	Use (m2)	Value (£'000s)
Crown Courts	2,533	3,580
County Courts	39,902	25,013
Combined Courts	553	764
Supreme Court	301	475
Judges Lodgings	8,110	5,598
Administration & Management Offices	4,978	1,380
Total land & buildings		1,270,850

PLANT AND MACHINERY

Items	Units	Value (£'000s)
Furniture and fittings		
Crown Courts		5,808
County Courts		9,548
Combined Courts		2,637
Supreme Courts		5,011
Judges Lodgings		386
Tribunals		1,259
Administration & Management Offices		1,359
Total		26,008

Courtroom and office equipment

Crown Courts	1,541	1,719
County Courts	1,134	1,125
Combined Courts	780	618
Supreme Courts	240	317
Judges Lodgings	58	45
Tribunals	37	71
Administration & Management Offices	126	251
Total	3,916	4,146

Information and Communication Technology

Crown Courts	602	444
County Courts	2,906	954
Combined Courts	474	505
Supreme Courts	1,923	857
Judges Lodgings	34	27
Tribunals	797	564
Administration & Management Offices	1,636	4,878
Total	8,372	8,229

Vehicles

Crown Courts	4	29
County Courts	370	3,114
Supreme Courts	2	20
Judges Lodgings	1	9
Tribunals	5	44
Administration & Management Offices	105	893
	487	4,109
Total plant & machinery		42,492

Total land and buildings	1,270,850
Total plant and machinery	42,492
Total tangible fixed assets	1,313,342

Public Trust Office

LAND AND BUILDINGS

Land and buildings with an individual value of more than £1 million

Location	Use (m2)	Value (£'000s)
Stewart House 22 Kingsway London WC2B 6JX	9,198	13,800
Total land & buildings		13,800

PLANT AND MACHINERY

Items	Use	Value (£'000s)
Furniture and fittings		
Office equipment	General office use	150
Pooled furniture	General office use	1,416
Information and Communication Technology		
Computers	Financial systems	411
Total plant & machinery		1,977

Total land and buildings	13,800
Total plant and machinery	1,977
Total tangible fixed assets	15,777

The Northern Ireland Court Service

LAND AND BUILDINGS

Freehold land and buildings with an individual value of more than £1 million

Location	Use H/Acres	Value (£'000s)
Londonderry Court House	0.22	
Armagh Court House	0.26	
Petty Sessions, Belfast	0.24	
Old Town Hall, Belfast	0.15	
Ballymena Court House	0.24	
Newtownards Court House	0.24	
Magherafelt Court House	0.30	
Omagh Court House	0.10	
Royal Courts of Justice, Belfast	1.38	
Craigavon Court House	1.05	
Downpatrick Court House	0.30	
Coleraine Court House	2.84	
Lisburn Court House	0.18	
Antrim Court House	1.01	
Newry Court House	0.30	
Enniskillen Court House	0.11	
Ballymoney Court House	0.30	
Total land & buildings with a an individual value of more than of £1 million		99,461

Other Holdings

	Use (m2)	Value (£'000s)
		4,494
Total land & buildings		103,955

PLANT AND MACHINERY

Items	Use	Units	Value (£'000s)
Furniture and fittings			
Furniture pools:			
Headquarters	General office use		265
Court & other judicial offices	General office use		827
Vehicles			
Lorry	Transportation of seized goods	1	0
Other			
Antiques		91	60
Total plant & machinery			1,152
Total land and buildings			103,955
Total plant and machinery			1,152
Total tangible fixed assets			105,107

Public Record Office

LAND AND BUILDINGS

Land and buildings with an individual value of more than £1 million

Location	Use (m2)	Value (£'000s)
Public Record Office, Kew, Surrey	50,000	82,421
Total land & buildings		82,421

PLANT AND MACHINERY

Items	Use	Units	Value (£'000s)
Furniture and fittings			
Furniture	Administration	8,000	839
Antiques	Office	106	58
Office machinery	Office, conservation, reprographic and archives	950	936
Information and Communication Technology			
Computers and peripherals	Administration and public	670	3,078
Total plant & machinery			4,911

Total land and buildings	82,421
Total plant and machinery	4,911
Total tangible fixed assets	87,332

HM Land Registry

LAND AND BUILDINGS

Freehold land and buildings with an individual value of more than £1 million

Location	Use	Size (m2)	Value (£'000s)
Southfield House, Durham	Office building & car park	7,770	4,450
Birkenhead House, Lytham	Office building & car park	7,107	4,400
Warton Camp, Lytham	Office building & car park	4,560	4,946
Old Market House, Birkenhead	Office building & car park	5,500	3,800
Parkside Court, Telford	Office building	5,817	5,000
Lincoln's Inn Fields, London	Office building & car park	6,705	10,600
Brickdale House, Stevenage	Office building & car park	9,460	8,000
St Andrews Court, Portsmouth	Office building	6,509	6,250
Plumer House, Plymouth	Office building	8,593	8,100
Drake's Hill Court, Plymouth	Office building	34,500	4,150
Ty Bryn Glas, Swansea	Office building & car park	6,716	3,000
Chalfont Drive, Nottingham	Office building & car park	25,118	7,007
Rosebrae Court, Birkenhead	Office building & car park	5,800	5,350
Boldon House, Durham	Office building & car park	5,820	3,750
Eagle House, Hull	Office building & car park	4,026	2,200
Forest Court, Tunbridge Wells	Office building & car park	6,400	8,700
Westbridge Place, Leicester	Office building & car park	3,800	4,700
Cumberland Drive, Weymouth	Office building & car park	6,750	5,380
		160,951	99,783

Leasehold land and buildings with an individual value of more than £1 million

Location	Use	Size (m2)	Value (£'000s)
Torrington Avenue, Coventry	Office building & car park	7,850	5,820
Twyver House, Gloucester	Office building & car park	7,034	4,568
		14,884	10,388

Other Holdings values	Use	Size (m2)	Value (£'000s)
			2,960
Total land & buildings			113,131

PLANT AND MACHINERY

Items	Use	Value (£'000s)
Furniture and fittings		
Furniture, fixtures, fittings and office equipment	Accommodation and furnishing of offices	11,119
Information and Communication Technology		
Computer and telecom equipment	Record storage and communication	17,692
Vehicles		
Motor cars and vans	For general office and surveyor use	287
Total plant & machinery		29,098
Total land and buildings		113,131
Total plant and machinery		29,098
Total tangible fixed assets		142,229

Information on executive non-departmental public bodies**The Legal Aid Board**

The Legal Aid Board (replaced by the Legal Services Commission on 1 April 2000) is funded by grant-in-aid from the Lord Chancellor's Department. The Board was created to manage the major elements of the legal aid scheme and to assist the Lord Chancellor in meeting his objectives for publicly funded legal services.

Asset holding

The Legal Aid Board produces accounts for its administration expenditure on an accruals basis. Fund accounts are on a cash basis, but the Fund does not own any assets. The accounts are contained in the Legal Aid Board Annual Report 1999-00, which is published by the Stationery Office. These accounts show the asset holding to be:

NET BOOK VALUE At 31 March 2000

	fixtures & fittings (£'000s)	furniture & equipment (£'000s)	computer equipment (£'000s)	total (£'000s)
	157	419	1,350	1,926

Changes since the last National Asset Register

The Lord Chancellor's Department

Acquisitions

The Department made the following significant acquisitions:

	total value (£'000s)
1997-98	68,785
1998-99	13,800
1999-00	-

The above totals include the following individual acquisitions:

1997-98	£'000s
Telford County Court extension	3,725
Reading Crown Court	21,151
Kingston Crown Court	43,909
1998-99	£'000s
Stewart House 22 Kingsway London	13,800

Stewart House was brought on to the Public Trust Office's balance sheet following the introduction of capital charging. The PTO previously paid rent to the Property Advisers to the Civil Estate. From 1 April 1998 this rental ceased and under Treasury guidance, the PTO was deemed to be the beneficial owners of the property. No payment has been required or made for this acquisition.

Disposals

The Department made the following disposals:

	total value (£'000s)
1997-98	1,086
1998-99	624
1999-00	5,740

The above totals include the following significant individual disposals:

1997-98	£'000s
Satellite to Basildon CCC	135
Swansea County Court	340
1999-00	£'000s
Uxbridge County Court	3,728
Oxford Combined	801

The following assets have been sold during 2000-01:

	£'000s
Rochdale County	500
Kettering Crown Buildings	100

The above properties were marked for sale prior to 31 March 2000, and as such were removed from the asset register and held as assets awaiting disposal under current assets on the balance sheet. It should be noted that this is no longer the accounting treatment applied. Instead assets marked for future sale remain on the asset register, but are not subject to further depreciation, until the sale is complete.

The following assets are marked for future sale:

Stewart House 22 Kingsway London

To enable the Department to deliver efficient and effective services to the public and the taxpayer, in addition to increasing courtroom utilisation, we propose to dispose of any buildings that are surplus to requirements.

Further rationalisation will be tied to consideration of business needs and will form an integral part of our programmes to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and to modernise the civil courts. The latter programme can be expected to bring substantial savings in accommodation, although these will not begin to accrue to any degree until after 2004.

Information on future investment plans, asset management and utilisation is set out in the Departmental Investment Strategy, which can be found on the Department's web site at www.open.gov.uk/lcd/deptobj/dis/lcddis.htm.

The Northern Ireland Court Service

Acquisitions

The Department made the following significant acquisitions:

	total value (£'000s)
1997-98	-
1998-99	-
1999-00	1,285

The above totals include the following individual acquisitions:

1999-00	£'000s
Dungannon Courthouse	1,285

Dungannon Courthouse is under construction. It is held on the asset register under 'Other holdings' and is not depreciated. Further capital expenditure will be incurred during 2000-01.

Disposals

The Department has not received any material proceeds from the disposal of its fixed assets.

The Department has several property assets marked for future sale. Negotiations are continuing, and until they are completed no information regarding these properties will be published.

The Department has a long-term objective to plan for and provide high quality facilities that will support the judicial process. We plan to meet the reasonable needs and changing expectations of the public, the judiciary, the legal profession and other court users. The Department must be able to deal efficiently with the variations to business practice that result from changes in law and the increased use of information technology.

To this end the Department, as part of its overall investment strategy, continues to avail of the opportunities provided by establishing partnership arrangements with private sector suppliers. The development and enhancement of partnership arrangements will be the strategic lever for the delivery of the Department's major capital programmes over the period of this review and for the next ten years.

The Department will issue to public consultation an accommodation strategy review to ensure that appropriate accommodation is available to enable the Strategic Objectives and their related SDA commitments to be met. Surplus venues that may be identified will be disposed of. The review, following public consultation and Ministerial decision should be effective from Autumn 2001.

Information on future investment plans, asset management and utilisation is set out in the Departmental Investment Strategy, which can be found at: www.nics.gov.uk/pubsec/courts/nictsdis.pdf.

Public Record Office

Acquisitions

The PRO has the following significant acquisitions:

	total value (£'000s)
1997-98	-
1998-99	31,516
1999-00	-

The 1998-99 acquisitions include a book keeping exercise to bring the value of part of the Kew site onto the asset register. It does not represent a purchase. The Kew site in total was valued at 31 March 2000 at £82,421,000.

Disposals

The PRO made the following disposals:

	£'000s
1997-98	5
1998-99	0
1999-00	4

There has not been any significant disposal of assets during 2000-01 to date.

The following extract from the Departmental Report spells out the PRO's investment strategy:

'In 2000-01 and beyond, other than PFI projects, the PRO's capital investment of approximately £1million per annum is small in relation to its asset base, but is crucial to achieving its objective of extending access by electronic means. This capital investment will also support the government target for 50% of services for citizens to be capable of delivery electronically by 2005 and promote social inclusivity by broadening the range of PRO users. Expenditure will be on a mixture of hardware and software with significant expenditure on new systems.'

HM Land Registry

Acquisitions

The Land Registry made the following significant acquisitions:

	total value (£'000s)
1997-98	20,407
1998-99	22,145
1999-00	8,373

The above totals include the following significant individual purchases:

1997-98	£,000s
Chalfont Drive, Nottingham	7,007
Forest Court, Tunbridge Wells	8,700
Westbridge Place, Leicester	4,700
1998-99	£,000s
Chalfont Drive, Nottingham	7,007
Forest Court, Tunbridge Wells	8,700
Warton Camp, Lytham	4,946
Mainframe Computer (CE5549)	1,492
1999-00	£,000s
Warton Camp, Lytham	4,946
Computer Disk System	1,120
Mezzanine floor (FF1800)	1,105
Mainframe 6 way processor	1,202

The significant acquisitions include extensive capital enhancements to existing property assets spread over several years. These properties are shown at their 31 March 2000 value at all times.

Disposals

	total value (£000s)
1997-98	55
1998-99	5,123
1999-00	425

The above totals include the following significant individual disposals:

1998-99	£'000s
Curtis House, Tunbridge Wells	2,100
Eastern Avenue, Gloucester	2,971

There have been no significant disposals during 2000-01 to date.

HM Land Registry has produced a Departmental Investment Strategy paper, which gives a view of how the Registry uses and manages its investments. However, as a self-financing Executive Agency with trading fund status, the Registry makes no call on public funds and therefore does not require parliamentary approval to spend generated income on capital purchases.

