

Vote Attorney-General

APPROPRIATION MINISTER(S): Attorney-General (M5)

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE VOTE: Crown Law Office (A2)

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR CROWN LAW OFFICE: Attorney-General

Overview of the Vote

The Attorney-General is responsible for appropriations in Vote Attorney-General for the 2025/26 financial year covering the following:

- a total of nearly \$135 million on providing for the discharge of the Law Officers' constitutional, criminal law, and system leadership responsibilities including legal advice and representation services, and
- a total of just over \$1 million for capital expenditure by the Crown Law Office that mainly relates to the renewal and replacement of assets in support of its service delivery.

The Attorney-General is also responsible for capital injections totalling \$300,000 to the Crown Law Office.

Details of these appropriations are set out in Parts 2-4.

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Departmental Capital Expenditure			
Crown Law Office - Capital Expenditure PLA (M5) (A2) This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Crown Law Office, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.	253	253	1,086
Total Departmental Capital Expenditure	253	253	1,086
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure			
Law Officer Functions MCA (M5) (A2) The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to provide for the discharge of the Law Officers' constitutional, criminal law, and system leadership responsibilities including legal advice and representation.	135,959	135,959	134,807
Departmental Output Expenses			
Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions This category is limited to conducting appeals arising from Crown prosecutions.	11,415	11,415	11,177
Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties This category is limited to providing assistance to the Principal Law Officers in the exercise of their functions, and providing advice on constitutional, criminal law, mutual assistance and extradition matters.	12,155	12,155	12,448
Public Prosecution Services This category is limited to the provision and supervision of a national Crown prosecution service and oversight of public prosecutions.	79,130	79,130	77,573
Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation This category is limited to leading and developing the collective strength of government lawyers and providing legal advice and representation to State Sector entities.	33,259	33,259	33,609
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	135,959	135,959	134,807
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	136,212	136,212	135,893

Capital Injection Authorisations

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Crown Law Office - Capital Injection (M5) (A2)	300	300	300

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

This part provides trend information for the vote.

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25		2025/26			2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000
Appropriations												
Output Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	110	404	314	8,115	253	253	1,086	-	1,086	210	245	498
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)												
<i>Output Expenses</i>	79,211	81,748	111,258	129,597	135,959	135,959	134,807	-	134,807	134,316	132,516	132,516
<i>Other Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	79,321	82,152	111,572	137,712	136,212	136,212	135,893	-	135,893	134,526	132,761	133,014
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts												
Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-

Note - where restructuring of the vote has occurred then, to the extent practicable, prior years information has been restated as if the restructuring had occurred before the beginning of the period covered. In this instance Total Appropriations for the Budgeted and Estimated Actual year may not equal Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations in the Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections.

Adjustments to the Summary of Financial Activity Table Due to Vote Restructuring

There have been no restructuring adjustments to prior year information in the Summary of Financial Activity table.

1.3 - Analysis of Significant Trends

Significant movements within each appropriation category are shown below.

Capital Expenditure

The increased capital expenditure in 2023/24 is mainly due to the Wellington office accommodation project being funded and completed in that year.

Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

The decreases in the multi-category appropriation for 2025/26 and subsequent years are in response to the Budget 2024 baseline saving initiatives being implemented.

The increase in the multi-category appropriation for 2023/24 is mainly due to a one-off funding transfer from 2022/23 for improving the justice response to sexual violence victims.

The increases in the multi-category appropriation for 2022/23 and subsequent years are mainly due to funding increases to meet the Government's response to increased demand in Crown prosecution services. In addition to this, Crown Law has increased its funding to meet cost pressures in:

- strengthening Crown Law's system stewardship role
- delivering justice system outcomes
- the cyber security and resilience programme
- the information system strategic plan implementation
- justice sector resourcing, such as addressing the COVID-19 impacts
- remuneration.

Part 2 - Details of Departmental Appropriations

2.3 - Departmental Capital Expenditure and Capital Injections

Crown Law Office - Capital Expenditure PLA (M5) (A2)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Crown Law Office, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Capital Expenditure

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Forests/Agricultural	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	253	253	1,086
Intangibles	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	253	253	1,086

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the renewal and replacement of life-expired assets in support of the delivery of the Crown Law Office's services.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Expenditure is in accordance with the Crown Law Office's capital asset management plan	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Crown Law Office in the Annual Report.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2025/26 is mainly due to the scheduled renewal and replacement of various computer hardware equipment.

Capital Injections and Movements in Departmental Net Assets

Crown Law Office

Details of Net Asset Schedule	2024/25 Estimated Actual \$000	2025/26 Projected \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2025/26
Opening Balance	9,123	7,923	
Capital Injections	300	300	The capital injection of \$300,000 relates to Crown Law's information system strategic plan implementation projects.
Capital Withdrawals	-	-	
Surplus to be Retained (Deficit Incurred)	(1,500)	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
Closing Balance	7,923	8,223	

Part 4 - Details of Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

4 - Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

Law Officer Functions (M5) (A2)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to provide for the discharge of the Law Officers' constitutional, criminal law, and system leadership responsibilities including legal advice and representation.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions

This category is limited to conducting appeals arising from Crown prosecutions.

Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties

This category is limited to providing assistance to the Principal Law Officers in the exercise of their functions, and providing advice on constitutional, criminal law, mutual assistance and extradition matters.

Public Prosecution Services

This category is limited to the provision and supervision of a national Crown prosecution service and oversight of public prosecutions.

Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation

This category is limited to leading and developing the collective strength of government lawyers and providing legal advice and representation to State Sector entities.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	135,959	135,959	134,807
Departmental Output Expenses			
Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions	11,415	11,415	11,177
Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties	12,155	12,155	12,448
Public Prosecution Services	79,130	79,130	77,573
Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation	33,259	33,259	33,609

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	105,169	105,169	104,017
Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions	11,365	11,365	11,127
Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties	12,085	12,085	12,378
Public Prosecution Services	79,110	79,110	77,553
Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation	2,609	2,609	2,959
Revenue from Others	30,790	30,790	30,790
Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions	50	50	50
Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties	70	70	70
Public Prosecution Services	20	20	20
Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation	30,650	30,650	30,650

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve improvement in the management of Crown legal risk and improved criminal justice, maintain strong legal institutions, and strengthen the influence of the rule of law.

How Performance will be Assessed for this Appropriation

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Quality			
The Attorney-General is satisfied with the services provided by Crown Law (see Note 1)	At least 3 out of 5	At least 3 out of 5	At least 3 out of 5

Note 1 - This performance measure is calculated based on the result of the annual Attorney-General's Satisfaction Survey. The survey asks the Attorney-General to provide a score out of five for several factors that contribute to their satisfaction with Crown Law's advice and representation. The budget standard is achieved if the average score is at least 3 out of 5.

What is Intended to be Achieved with each Category and How Performance will be Assessed

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Departmental Output Expenses			
Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions			
This category is intended to achieve safer communities, reduced impact of crime and related justice sector outcomes.			
Quantity - new matters			
Crown appeals	15 - 30	24	15 - 30
Accused appeals (see Note 1)	625 - 675	802	700 - 800

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
<i>Quality - effectiveness</i>			
Percentage of Crown appeals concluded in favour of the Crown	60%	80%	60%
Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties			
This category is intended to achieve increased trust in the justice system through the performance of the Principal Law Officers' constitutional and other duties.			
<i>Quantity - new matters</i>			
Applications processed on behalf of the Attorney-General	30 - 50	43	30 - 50
Advice on behalf of the Attorney-General	120 - 160	150	120 - 160
Litigation on behalf of the Law Officers (Attorney-General and/or Solicitor-General)	10 - 25	26	10 - 25
Criminal advice	5 - 10	5	5 - 10
Judicial reviews	5 - 10	3	5 - 10
Mutual assistance and extraditions	100 - 120	98	100 - 120
Criminal cases (other types) (see Note 2)	80 - 100	100	80 - 100
Requests for prosecution appeals and judicial reviews	70 - 110	74	70 - 110
<i>Timeliness</i>			
Ministerial correspondence on time (see Note 3)	100%	95%	100%
Responses to Parliamentary questions on time (see Note 3)	100%	100%	100%
Official Information Act 1982 and Privacy Act 1993 responses on time (see Note 3)	100%	100%	100%
Public Prosecution Services			
This category is intended to achieve safer communities, reduced impact of crime and related justice sector outcomes.			
<i>Quantity</i>			
New Crown prosecutions including appeals to the High Court from non-Crown prosecutions (see Note 4)	6,000 - 8,000	8,387	Measure removed
Crown prosecutions, including appeals to the High Court from non-Crown prosecutions, disposed of (see Note 1)	5,000 - 7,000	6,918	6,600 - 7,400
Hours of service provided by the Crown Solicitors Network (see Note 1)	340,000 - 380,000	322,197	313,000 - 349,000
Number of quality assurance reviews (full network is reviewed on rotation every three years) (see Note 5)	5 - 6	5	5 - 6
<i>Quality</i>			
Reviews, quality assessed as exceeding or meeting expected standards (see Note 5)	5 - 6	5	5 - 6
Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation			
This category is intended to achieve improved management of Crown legal risk and better policy decisions informed by legal implications, and enable the Crown to improve the value generated from the collective resources of the Government Legal Network.			

	2024/25		2025/26
Assessment of Performance	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>New matters</i>			
Advice (see Note 1)	300 - 400	278	250 - 350
Litigation (see Note 1)	250 - 300	216	200 - 250
Judicial review	80 - 100	91	80 - 100
Claims before Waitangi Tribunal (see Note 1)	50 - 70	110	50 - 100
Number of continuous professional development compatible hours delivered annually to the Government Legal Network	30	26	30
Number of reports submitted to the Attorney-General under the Government Legal Network Risk Reporting System (see Note 4)	2	2	Measure removed
<i>Quality</i>			
Responses to the client survey that consider the advice and services received overall are good to excellent	90%	90%	90%
Responses to the client survey that consider the responsiveness, relevancy, accuracy, and clarity of advice are good to excellent	90%	90%	90%
Written opinions and advice that are peer reviewed (see Note 1)	80%	100%	90%
Chief Legal Advisors consider Government Legal Network team engagement and communications are good to excellent	90%	90%	90%
Departmental lawyers who access System Advice agree it saves them time and/or improves the quality of their work (see Note 6)	New measure	New measure	Baseline standard to be determined
The Attorney-General is satisfied with the Government Legal Network Legal Risk Reporting System (see Note 4)	Yes	Yes	Measure removed
<i>Timeliness</i>			
Responses to the client survey that consider timeliness in responding to requests are good to excellent	85%	85%	85%
Written opinions/advice (final or draft) completed by the due date	85%	88%	85%
Litigation Management Plans completed by the due date	80%	87%	80%
<i>Value for money</i>			
Percentage of responses to the client survey that consider the service received represents value for money is good or excellent (see Note 7)	95%	95%	Measure removed

Note 1 - The budget standard for this performance measure has been updated based on a historical trend analysis and consideration of factors such as policy changes and recent events.

Note 2 - The criminal cases under this performance measure include stays due to death, consent to criminal prosecutions, immunities from prosecution and request to amend murder to manslaughter or other charge.

Note 3 - The timeframes for delivering Ministerial correspondence and Parliamentary questions are agreed with the Attorney-General's Office. Delivery of Official Information Act 1982 and Privacy Act 1993 responses are determined by legislative deadlines.

Note 4 - This performance measure has been removed in 2025/26 as it does not provide a meaningful account of performance.

Note 5 - The quality assurance reviews under this performance measure include in-depth and survey-based reviews. It does not account for special reviews which are conducted as needed.

Note 6 - This new performance measure for 2025/26 will be calculated based on the result of the Annual Network Survey. The new survey questions that relate to this performance measure will be introduced in 2024/25, which will then determine the budget standard for 2025/26.

Note 7 - This performance measure has been removed in 2025/26 because it is included as an indicator in the Strategic Intentions 2024-29.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Crown Law Office in the Annual Report.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2024/25 Final Budgeted \$000	2025/26 Budget \$000	2026/27 Estimated \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000
Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions						
Current Government						
Workforce Reduction	2024/25	(200)	(200)	(200)	(200)	(200)
Previous Government						
Public Sector Pay Adjustment - Crown Law Office Remuneration Cost Pressure	2022/23	528	528	528	528	528
Information System Strategic Plan Implementation - Ongoing Investment	2022/23	264	226	226	226	226
Cyber Security and Resilience Programme - Continued Improvement	2022/23	244	244	244	244	244
Crown Prosecution Services - Funding Sustainability	2022/23	1,971	1,971	1,971	1,971	1,971
Remuneration Pressures	2022/23	873	1,173	1,173	1,173	1,173
Increased Accommodation Requirements	2022/23	640	640	640	640	640
System Stewardship Role	2021/22	3,097	3,097	3,097	3,097	3,097
Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties						
Current Government						
Workforce Reduction	2024/25	(200)	(200)	(200)	(200)	(200)
Previous Government						
Shared Approach to Back-office Transformation	2024/25	(130)	(130)	(130)	(130)	(130)
Public Sector Pay Adjustment - Crown Law Office Remuneration Cost Pressure	2022/23	616	616	616	616	616
Information System Strategic Plan Implementation - Ongoing Investment	2022/23	284	244	244	244	244
Cyber Security and Resilience Programme - Continued Improvement	2022/23	264	264	264	264	264
Remuneration Pressures	2022/23	942	1,265	1,265	1,265	1,265
Increased Accommodation Requirements	2022/23	691	691	691	691	691
System Stewardship Role	2021/22	3,342	3,342	3,342	3,342	3,342

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2024/25 Final Budgeted \$000	2025/26 Budget \$000	2026/27 Estimated \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000
Public Prosecution Services						
Current Government						
Workforce Reduction	2024/25	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
Previous Government						
Justice Sector Resourcing - addressing the Impacts of the Delta COVID-19 Restrictions	2023/24	1,004	-	-	-	-
Public Sector Pay Adjustment - Crown Law Office Remuneration Cost Pressure	2022/23	352	352	352	352	352
Information System Strategic Plan Implementation - Ongoing Investment	2022/23	101	87	87	87	87
Cyber Security and Resilience Programme - Continued Improvement	2022/23	94	94	94	94	94
Crown Prosecution Services - Funding Sustainability	2022/23	24,544	24,544	24,544	24,544	24,544
Remuneration Pressures	2022/23	336	451	451	451	451
Increased Accommodation Requirements	2022/23	246	246	246	246	246
System Stewardship Role	2021/22	1,192	1,192	1,192	1,192	1,192
Improving the Justice Response to Sexual Violence Victims	2021/22	6,999	5,854	5,363	5,363	5,363
Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation						
Current Government						
Workforce Reduction	2024/25	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)
Previous Government						
Public Sector Pay Adjustment - Crown Law Office Remuneration Cost Pressure	2022/23	264	264	264	264	264
Information System Strategic Plan Implementation - Ongoing Investment	2022/23	51	43	43	43	43
Cyber Security and Resilience Programme - Continued Improvement	2022/23	47	47	47	47	47
Remuneration Pressures	2022/23	167	225	225	225	225
Increased Accommodation Requirements	2022/23	123	123	123	123	123
System Stewardship Role	2021/22	593	593	593	593	593

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The decrease in this appropriation for 2025/26 is mainly due to:

- a decrease of \$1.004 million in the amount appropriated for the Justice sector to address the impacts of the Delta COVID-19 restrictions
- a decrease of \$654,000 in the amount appropriated for the Budget 2019 Initiative of improving the justice response to sexual violence victims

- a decrease of \$200,000 in the amount appropriated due to an expense transfer of \$2 million from 2023/24 being allocated with \$800,000 to 2024/25, and \$600,000 each year to 2025/26 and 2026/27 respectively, and
- a decrease of \$100,000 in the amount appropriated for Crown Law's information system strategic plan implementation.

Partially offset by:

- an increase of \$796,000 in the amount appropriated for addressing remuneration pressures in Budget 2022.

Memorandum Account

	2024/25		2025/26
	Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Legal Advice and Representation			
Opening Balance at 1 July	(936)	(143)	(1,643)
Revenue	29,000	29,000	30,500
Expenses	(29,000)	(30,500)	(30,500)
Transfers and Adjustments	-	-	-
Closing Balance at 30 June	(936)	(1,643)	(1,643)
Processing of King's Counsel Application			
Opening Balance at 1 July	80	106	82
Revenue	16	16	16
Expenses	(40)	(40)	(40)
Transfers and Adjustments	-	-	-
Closing Balance at 30 June	56	82	58