

# *Vote Attorney-General*

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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 2026/27 financial year, covering the following:

- a total of nearly \$137 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 \$225,000 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	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
<b>Departmental Capital Expenditure</b>			
<b>Crown Law Office - Capital Expenditure PLA (M5) (A2)</b> 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.	1,086	1,086	225
<b>Total Departmental Capital Expenditure</b>	1,086	1,086	225
<b>Non-Departmental Other Expenses</b>			
<b>Stafford Litigation Settlement Costs (M5) (A2)</b> This appropriation is limited to Crown settlement costs as part of the Stafford v Attorney-General litigation.	422,500	422,066	-
<b>Total Non-Departmental Other Expenses</b>	422,500	422,066	-
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure</b>			
<b>Law Officer Functions MCA (M5) (A2)</b> 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.	133,107	130,607	<b>136,616</b>
<i>Departmental Output Expenses</i>			
<i>Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions</i> This category is limited to conducting appeals arising from Crown prosecutions.	11,177	11,177	11,177
<i>Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties</i> 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.	9,748	9,748	13,748
<i>Public Prosecution Services</i> This category is limited to the provision and supervision of a national Crown prosecution service and oversight of public prosecutions.	77,573	77,573	77,082
<i>Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation</i> This category is limited to leading and developing the collective strength of government lawyers and providing legal advice and representation to State Sector entities.	34,609	32,109	34,609
<b>Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure</b>	133,107	130,607	136,616
<b>Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations</b>	556,693	553,759	136,841

## Capital Injection Authorisations

	2025/26		2026/27
	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

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		2026/27		2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
	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
<b>Appropriations</b>												
Output Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	422,500	422,066	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	404	314	8,115	71	1,086	1,086	225	-	225	215	500	997
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)												
<i>Output Expenses</i>	81,748	111,258	129,597	129,150	133,107	130,607	136,616	-	136,616	134,216	134,216	133,516
<i>Other Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	82,152	111,572	137,712	129,221	556,693	553,759	136,841	-	136,841	134,431	134,716	134,513
<b>Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts</b>												
Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	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.

#### *Other Expenses*

A non-departmental other expenses appropriation was established in 2025/26 to process a one-off Crown settlement for the Stafford v Attorney-General litigation.

#### *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 increase in the multi-category appropriation for 2026/27 is mainly due to a one-off funding transfer from 2025/26 for supporting implementation of a digital transformation project.

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, and
- 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*

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Forests/Agricultural	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,086	1,086	225
Intangibles	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>225</b>

##### *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*

	2025/26		2026/27
	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 decrease in this appropriation for 2026/27 is mainly due to the completion of the scheduled replacement of computer hardware in 2025/26.

*Capital Injections and Movements in Departmental Net Assets***Crown Law Office**

Details of Net Asset Schedule	2025/26 Estimated Actual \$000	2026/27 Projected \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2026/27
Opening Balance	9,547	9,847	
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)	-	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>9,847</b>	<b>10,147</b>	

# 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*

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>133,107</b>	<b>130,607</b>	<b>136,616</b>
<b>Departmental Output Expenses</b>			
Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions	11,177	11,177	11,177
Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties	9,748	9,748	13,748
Public Prosecution Services	77,573	77,573	77,082
Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation	34,609	32,109	34,609

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
<b>Funding for Departmental Output Expenses</b>			
<b>Revenue from the Crown</b>	<b>101,317</b>	<b>101,317</b>	<b>104,826</b>
Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions	11,127	11,127	11,127
Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties	9,678	9,678	13,678
Public Prosecution Services	77,553	77,553	77,062
Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation	2,959	2,959	2,959
<b>Revenue from Others</b>	<b>31,790</b>	<b>29,290</b>	<b>31,790</b>
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	31,650	29,150	31,650

### *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*

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
<b>Quality</b>			
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*

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
<b>Departmental Output Expenses</b>			
<b>Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions</b>			
This category is intended to achieve safer communities, reduced impact of crime and related justice sector outcomes.			
<i>Quantity - new matters</i>			
Crown appeals	15 - 30	24	15 - 30
Accused appeals (see Note 1)	700 - 800	994	750 - 850
<i>Quality - effectiveness</i>			
Percentage of Crown appeals concluded in favour of the Crown	60%	69%	60%
<b>Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties</b>			
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	67	30 - 50
Advice on behalf of the Attorney-General	120 - 160	106	120 - 160
Litigation on behalf of the Law Officers (Attorney-General and/or Solicitor-General)	10 - 25	9	10 - 25
Criminal advice	5 - 10	7	5 - 10
Judicial reviews	5 - 10	7	5 - 10
Mutual assistance and extraditions	100 - 120	117	100 - 120
Criminal cases (other types) (see Note 1 and Note 2)	80 - 100	125	90 - 110
Requests for prosecution appeals and judicial reviews	70 - 110	77	70 - 110
<i>Timeliness</i>			
Ministerial correspondence on time (see Note 3)	100%	100%	100%
Responses to Parliamentary questions on time (see Note 3)	100%	97%	100%
Official Information Act 1982 and Privacy Act 2020 responses on time (see Note 3)	100%	99%	100%
<b>Public Prosecution Services</b>			
This category is intended to achieve safer communities, reduced impact of crime and related justice sector outcomes.			
<i>Quantity</i>			
Crown prosecutions, including appeals to the High Court from non-Crown prosecutions, disposed of (see Note 1)	6,600 - 7,400	7,110	7,100 - 7,900
Hours of service provided by the Crown Solicitor Network (see Note 1)	313,000 - 349,000	321,081	313,000 - 343,000
Number of quality assurance reviews (full network is reviewed on rotation every three years) (see Note 4)	5 - 6	7	5 - 6

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
<i>Quality</i>			
Reviews, quality assessed as exceeding or meeting expected standards (see Note 4)	5 - 6	7	5 - 6
<b>Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation</b>			
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.			
<i>Quantity - new matters</i>			
Advice	250 - 350	249	250 - 350
Litigation (see Note 1)	200 - 250	266	250 - 300
Judicial review	80 - 100	101	80 - 100
Claims before the Waitangi Tribunal	50 - 100	84	50 - 100
Number of continuous professional development compatible hours delivered annually to the Government Legal Network	30	30	30
<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	90%	90%	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	75%	75%	75%
<i>Timeliness</i>			
Responses to the client survey that consider timeliness in responding to requests are good to excellent (see Note 1)	85%	85%	90%
Written opinions/advice (final or draft) completed by the due date	85%	88%	85%
Litigation Management Plans completed by the due date	80%	77%	80%

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 2020 responses are determined by legislative deadlines.

Note 4 - 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.

## 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	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
<b>Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions</b>						
<b>Current Government</b>						
Workforce Reduction	2024/25	(200)	(200)	(200)	(200)	(200)
<b>Previous Government</b>						
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	226	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	1,173	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
<b>Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties</b>						
<b>Current Government</b>						
Workforce Reduction	2024/25	(200)	(200)	(200)	(200)	(200)
<b>Previous Government</b>						
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	244	244	244	244	244
Cyber Security and Resilience Programme - Continued Improvement	2022/23	264	264	264	264	264
Remuneration Pressures	2022/23	1,265	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	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
<b>Public Prosecution Services</b>						
<b>Current Government</b>						
Workforce Reduction	2024/25	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
<b>Previous Government</b>						
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	87	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	451	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
<b>Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation</b>						
<b>Current Government</b>						
Workforce Reduction	2024/25	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)
<b>Previous Government</b>						
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	43	43	43	43	43
Cyber Security and Resilience Programme - Continued Improvement	2022/23	47	47	47	47	47
Remuneration Pressures	2022/23	225	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 increase in this appropriation for 2026/27 is due to:

- an increase of \$4 million in the amount appropriated resulting from an expense transfer of \$2.7 million from 2025/26 to fund the implementation and three years of licencing costs associated with the legal practice management system and the financial management information system, with \$1.3 million being allocated to 2026/27, and \$700,000 each for 2027/28 and 2028/29 respectively, offset by
- a decrease of \$491,000 in the amount appropriated for the Budget 2019 Initiative of improving the justice response to sexual violence victims.

*Memorandum Account*

	2025/26		2026/27
	Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
<b>Legal Advice and Representation</b>			
Opening Balance at 1 July	(1,643)	(17)	(17)
Revenue	30,500	29,000	31,500
Expenses	(30,500)	(29,000)	(31,500)
Transfers and Adjustments	-	-	-
Closing Balance as 30 June	(1,643)	(17)	(17)
<b>Processing of King's Counsel Application</b>			
Opening Balance at 1 July	82	105	85
Revenue	16	12	12
Expenses	(40)	(32)	(32)
Transfers and Adjustments	-	-	-
Closing Balance as 30 June	58	85	65