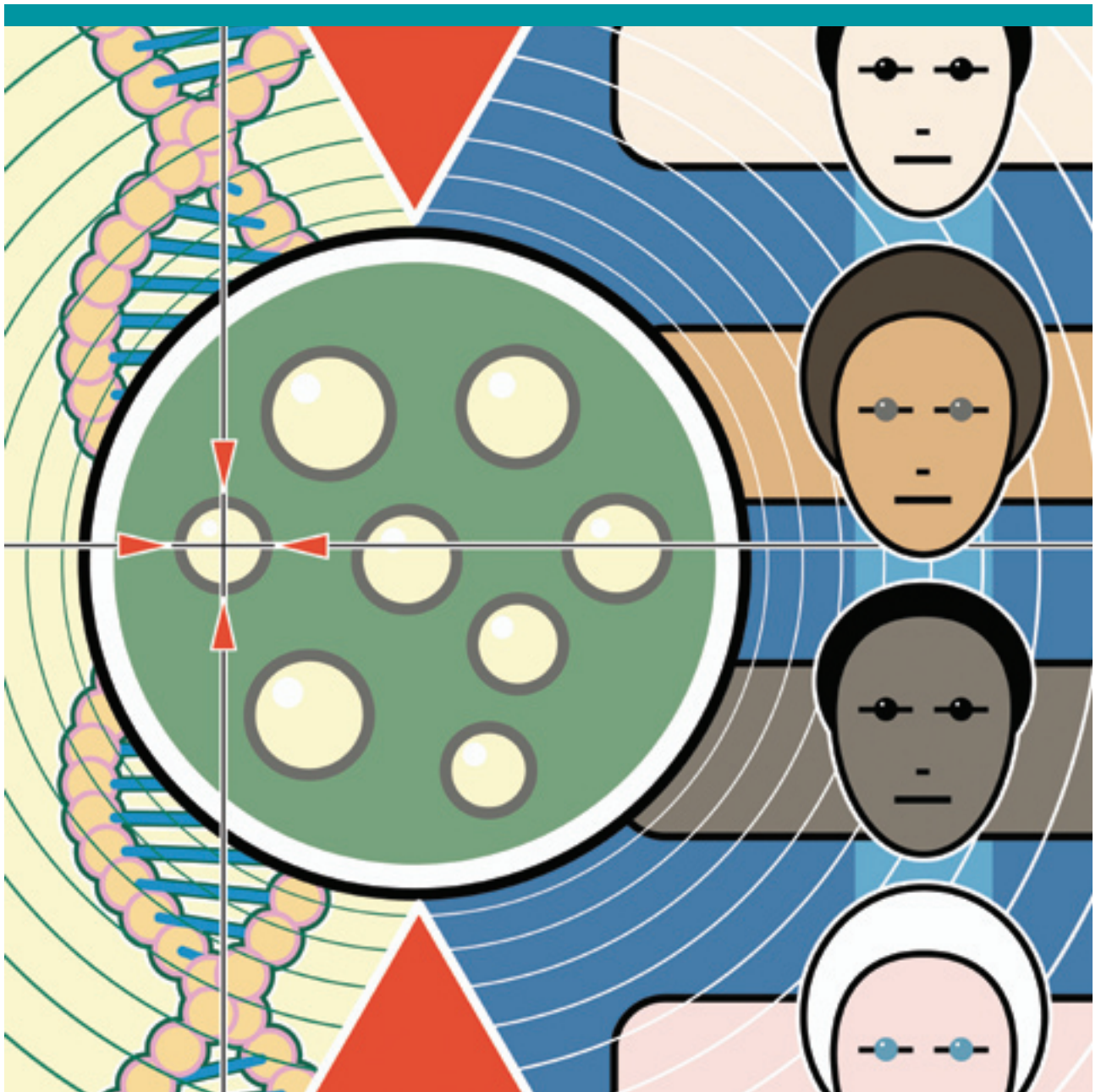


Ministry of Justice Agencies and Other Offices



8.01 In this chapter we have included:

HM Courts Service
HM Prison Service
The Tribunals Service
The Legal Services Commission
The Youth Justice Board

8.02 The full list of the organisations that are sponsored by the MoJ can be found on our website at: www.justice.gov.uk/about/organisationswesponsor.htm

Her Majesty's Court Service

8.03 Interim Chief Executive: Neil Ward

Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice and is responsible for managing magistrates' courts, the Crown Court and county courts in England and Wales. It also manages the Royal Courts of Justice, where the majority of High Court and Court of Appeal cases are heard.

8.04 HMCS has a strategic goal: "All citizens according to their differing needs are entitled to access to justice, whether as victims of crime, defendants accused of crimes, consumers in debt, children in need of care, or business people in commercial disputes. Our aim is to ensure that access is provided as quickly as possible and at the lowest cost consistent with open justice and that citizens have greater confidence in, and respect for, the system of justice."

Objectives and performance – delivering better public services

8.05 The key objectives for HMCS in 2007/08 are defined within the 'Breakthrough' commitments, published in March 2007. In summary, these are:

- give greater priority and urgency to public law (family) cases
- simplify and speed up criminal cases in the magistrates' courts
- embed the underlying principles behind community justice in all magistrates' courts
- encourage more families to resolve issues themselves
- ensure that the vast majority of civil business is initiated online
- provide a simpler and quicker service in the county courts
- reduce the time taken to deal with cases in the Crown Court
- provide a knowledgeable, personalised and readily accessible service.

8.06 As an executive agency of the MoJ, HMCS also contributes towards the Ministry's Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets. The contribution of HMCS is monitored by a series of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Supporting Measures. More detail on the 'Breakthrough' Commitments and the KPI's is available in the HMCS Business Plan for 2007/08:

http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/cms/files/businessplan_2007_2008.pdf

8.07 Measurement of progress towards the Breakthrough objectives, together with more information on HMCS's performance against its KPIs, will be published in the HMCS Annual Report and Accounts in July 2008.

Management of resources

8.08 HMCS continues to strive for best value for money in delivering its services. We have set ourselves the challenge of simplifying our systems and processes, both for staff who use our services and for staff, whilst improving performance. This will in turn bring down our operating costs.

Contact details

Her Majesty's Courts Service	T: 020 7210 1373
Selborne House	F: 020 7210 1459
54-60 Victoria Street	www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk
London SW1E 6QW	

Her Majesty's Prison Service (Public Sector Prisons)

Chief Officer: Phil Wheatley CB

8.09 In May 2007 the Prison Service, along with the rest of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) became part of the new Ministry of Justice (Moj). The Prison Service contributes to the NOMS purpose and aims as well as the Moj's strategic objectives, PSAs and PSA Standards and commitments in the Strategic Plan for Criminal Justice 2008-2011, *Working together to cut crime and deliver justice*. Lord Carter of Coles Review of Prisons (December 2007) identified that the existing structures and business operating model led to considerable duplication of work within NOMS and the Prison Service, with each operating their own systems to administer the processes. From 1 April and as part of the restructure of the Moj a single NOMS delivery organisation, led by Phil Wheatley, previously Director General of the Prison Service, has been created to join together and deliver prison and probation services more effectively. It is expected that this delivery arm will become an Executive Agency.

Prison Service Statement of Purpose

8.10 HMPS serves the public by keeping in custody those committed by the courts. Our duty is to look after them with humanity and help them lead law-abiding and useful lives in custody and after release.

Objectives for 2007/08

- Decency
- Diversity and Equality
- Maintaining Order and Control
- Organisational Effectiveness
- Public Protection
- Reducing Re-offending
- Security

Performance for 2007/08

8.11 Latest position reported is that HMPS is on course to meet nine of its 12 delivery targets

8.12 We also developed a portfolio of interlocking change programmes designed to secure delivery of particular themes. HMPS has met its efficiency and headcount targets and is likely to record a small under-spend for the year.

Contact details

HM Prison Service,
Cleland House, Page Street,
London SW1P 4 LN

T: 020 7217 6000
F: 020 7217 6403
www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

The Tribunals Service

Chief Executive: Peter Handcock CBE

8.13 The purpose of the Tribunals Service (TS) is to:

- provide a more responsive and efficient Tribunals Service and administration
- promote and protect the independence of the judiciary
- contribute to the improvement of the quality of original decision making across Government
- reform the tribunals' justice system for the benefit of users and the public.

Objectives for 2007/08

- to deliver a high quality and effective service underpinned by a move to a regionally structured multi-jurisdictional business model
- to improve continuously the way we provide access to services by focusing on, and meeting the diverse needs of, our users and the wider community
- to work to make the best possible use of resources both to drive reform and to maintain a quality service for users
- to develop our capability to deliver reform by unlocking our people's potential - improving leadership and developing our people's skills
- to work effectively and continuously with the Judiciary, initial decision makers and other relevant bodies to improve services and efficiency.

Performance for 2007/08

8.14 The Tribunals Service has 3 key performance indicators:

- speed of service: at the time of writing, the TS is on course to meet its aim of

dealing with 75 per cent of tribunal applications within target time

- user satisfaction: a survey was completed in February 2008 to baseline levels of satisfaction. An improvement in outcomes will be targeted for 2008/09
- efficiency: the TS met its aim of delivering an annual reduction of 1.1 per cent in its operating costs (in real terms) during 2007/08.

Delivering better public services

8.15 During 2007/08, the following milestones were achieved:

- the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 was passed, leading to a new legislative framework for Tribunals headed by Lord Justice Carnwath as Senior President
- a new Tribunals Service senior management team was appointed and a new regional operational structure established
- plans to move to a new delivery model centred on a network of multi-jurisdictional hearing centres and 'back office' centres were set in train
- rationalisation of the Tribunals Service estate has begun
- removal of unnecessary management overheads has begun, concentrating staff on front line services, where feasible moving work out of London
- joint working with the Judiciary has been strengthened by the introduction of a joint senior management board and by leadership forums at area level.

Management of resources

8.16 The Tribunals Service has an annual budget of £290m and employs around 2,750 staff. Its CSR2007 settlement

includes investment of £27m to support a programme of change that will realise savings of £55m over the four-year period,

and ongoing annual savings of £22m. In 2007/08 the TS delivered its efficiency target of £2.2m.

Contact details

Tribunals Service
Communications Unit
5th Floor, Fox Court
14 Grays Inn Road
London WC1X 8HN

T: 020 7712 2644
E: TSCommsUnit@tribunals.gsi.gov.uk
www.tribunals.gov.uk

Contact details for other TS offices are listed in the 2007/08 Annual Report and Accounts

Legal Services Commission

Chief Executive: Carolyn Regan

8.17 The Legal Services Commission (LSC) funds legal aid and advice in England and Wales through two schemes: Community Legal Service (CLS) and the Criminal Defence Service (CDS). Delivered through dedicated service providers, its work helps to maintain the fair, efficient and effective operation of the civil and criminal justice systems.

8.18 It is a public body sponsored by the MoJ. The Justice Secretary, the Right Honourable Jack Straw MP, is accountable to Parliament for its activities and performance.

8.19 A board of non-executive commissioners oversees its work, which is responsible for guiding and monitoring the overall strategic direction of the LSC. The organisation is divided into four areas of responsibility.

- policy
- corporate services
- service delivery
- transformation.

More information on our work is available at www.legalservices.gov.uk

Objectives for 2007/08

8.20 The LSC has four strategic objectives for 2007/08:

- an affordable scheme delivered within the resources available and that demonstrates effective financial control
- a transformed organisation that enables the delivery of objectives and excellence in all it does

- clients have access to quality services that meet their needs
- providers deliver quality, value for money and client focused services.

Performance for 2007/08

8.21 The legal aid reform programme is progressing and remains on track to achieve its important goal of continuing to help the greatest number of people possible within a budget that is necessarily limited.

8.22 The LSC continues to reform the way it funds legal services; during 2007/08 the LSC has introduced standard, fixed or graduated fees for:

- magistrates' courts (April 07)
- Crown Court advocates (April 07)
- civil legal help (October 07)
- childcare proceedings (October 07)
- family law private (October 07)
- immigration and asylum (October 07)
- mental health (January 08)
- police stations (January 08),
- Crown Court litigators (January 08)

8.23 While reforming the way it funds legal services the LSC has maintained its 100 per cent coverage of duty solicitors in magistrates courts and provided legal aid to some of the most vulnerable people in society.

8.24 More information on the LSC's performance in 2007/08 will be available in the LSC annual report.

Delivering better public services

8.25 The LSC has worked closely with the MoJ to give effect to the proposals set

out in *Legal Aid Reform: The Way Ahead*, by developing and consulting on a wide range of policies and initiatives in both criminal and civil legal aid. The package of legal aid reforms aims to offer improved services for clients, better value for taxpayers and more certainty for legal aid providers. Full details are set out in chapter 4.

Management of resources

8.26 Legal aid is a major area of expenditure. The Commission's budget in

2007/08 was £116.8m for administration and just under £2.02bn for the CLS Fund and CDS. Year-end expenditure will be reported in the LSC annual report 2007/08.

8.27 The structure of the LSC is evolving as the organisation responds to changing business needs. The Commission is transforming the way it engages with legal aid users, stakeholders and service providers.

Contact details	
85 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8TX	T: 020 7759 0000 F: 020 7759 0433 E: Carolyn.Regan@legalservices.gov.uk www.legalservices.gov.uk

Youth Justice Board

Chief Officer Ms Ellie Roy

8.28 The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) is a non-departmental public body created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The YJB is jointly sponsored by the MoJ and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The YJB chair and board members are appointed by the Justice Secretary and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. YJB oversee the youth justice system in England and Wales. It works to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18, and to ensure that custody for them is safe, secure and addresses the causes of their offending behaviour.

8.29 It is a statutory requirement that the YJB produce an annual report and accounts to report on their functions. The YJB also produce an annual corporate and business plan and annual statistics.

8.30 MoJ funded the YJB for £423.86m in 2007/08. The YJB also received funding of £23m from DCSF and £31m from the Home Office. There are approximately 223 staff employed within the YJB (including regional offices).

Objectives for 2007/08

8.31 The YJB

- advise the Justice Secretary and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the operation of, and standards for the youth justice system
- monitor the performance of the youth justice system
- purchase places for, and place

children and young people remanded or sentenced to custody

- identify and promote effective practice
- make grants to local authorities or other bodies to support the development of effective practice
- commission research and publish information.

Performance for 2007/08

8.32 YJB are working towards achieving six targets in 2007/08. These are:

- prevention - fewer first time entrants
- reducing re-offending
- reducing the use of custody
- improving assessment and access to services
- race equality - reducing local differences
- secure estate - separate provision.

8.33 More information on the YJB's performance in 2007/08 will be available in the YJB annual report

Delivering better public services

8.34 The Machinery of Government changes in July 2007 brought youth justice under the joint sponsorship of the MoJ and the DCSF. The new joint sponsorship arrangements are a positive development for the youth justice sector which will enable the YJB to more effectively meet the challenges of reducing offending by children and young people.

8.35 Frances Done CBE began her role as the new YJB Chair on 1 February 2008.

Management of resources

8.36 In 2007/08 the YJB had a total budget of £501m (£477m resource and £24m capital. The £477m resource budget was derived from NOMS £423m,

DCSF £23m and the Home Office £31m. The £24m capital budget was provided by NOMS. The forecast outturn is £2m within budget (more than one per cent).

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