

2 May 2012

Mr. Alan Plummer,  
Implementation Body Secretariat,  
7-9 Merrion Row,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Alan,

Attached in respect of the second Annual Review of Savings and Progress under the Public Service Agreement (PSA) please find information on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Chief State Solicitor and the Law Reform Commission.

The two documents attached are:

- i) A Savings Report setting out the savings achieved by the organisations, and
- ii) A Progress Report identifying progress being made under our PSA Action Plan.

Both documents are in the prescribed formats and cover the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 as requested.

In relation to the savings reported I will point out, as I have previously, that the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Chief State Solicitor do not operate programmes or similar that can be discontinued to achieve savings. Instead the Offices provide a very focussed core of legal services to the Government and Departments that cannot be reduced or scaled back unilaterally. The Law Reform Commission will continue to complete its current law reform programme notwithstanding the fact that a further reduction of 10% in the Commission's 2012 budget will have serious implications for maintaining the level of outcomes at an efficient cost. Additionally, compared to many State organisations our budgets are relatively small. Thus for these reasons our scope for savings is quite modest.

Also requested is a bulleted summary of key progress achieved during the period. In this I would refer you to the highlights at the front of the Progress Report which set out examples of tangible progress including the reduction in fees paid to counsel of 15% in 2011 compared to 2010 but of 42% when compared to 2008. In the three years 2009, 2010 and 2011 this represents savings of €14.37m to the State.

Finally, a short note on productivity achievements is also required. In particular, the Implementation Body is interested in understanding the full extent to which increased demand for public services is being met with reduced staffing and other resources. As the Body is aware none of our three organisations provide direct services to the public. Our contribution while critical is indirect. However, as stated above we are demand-led and notwithstanding reductions in staff and overall cost to the State, we have been able to meet all demands placed on us throughout the period. In no small part has this been due to staff showing flexibility as well as working longer and, frequently, very unsocial hours. In terms of statistics, collectively the three organisations have since 2008 reduced their staff numbers by 10.45% and in the same period the cost to the State of the services provided has been reduced by 19.62% (€12.853m). The breakdown of these figures is attached at appendix A.

Feel free to contact me if you require additional information or clarification on any of the information we have provided.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Padraig McMahon,**  
**Head of Administration.**

## Appendix A

|                                 | <b>AGO</b> | <b>CSSO</b> | <b>LRC</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Sanctioned Staff Numbers</b> |            |             |            |               |
| 2008                            | 140        | 249         | 32         | <b>421</b>    |
| 2009                            | 140        | 249         | 30         | <b>419</b>    |
| 2010                            | 140        | 230         | 24         | <b>394</b>    |
| 2011                            | 127        | 228         | 19         | <b>374</b>    |
| 2012                            | 129        | 229         | 19         | <b>377</b>    |
| <b>Gross Budget (€000)</b>      |            |             |            |               |
| 2008                            | 19,559     | 41,783      | 4,162      | <b>65,504</b> |
| 2009                            | 18,233     | 39,327      | 3,581      | <b>61,141</b> |
| 2010                            | 15,801     | 36,415      | 2,385      | <b>54,601</b> |
| 2011                            | 15,148     | 36,048      | 2,191      | <b>53,387</b> |
| 2012                            | 15,785     | 34,812      | 2,054      | <b>52,651</b> |

{pncm250412.doc}