



**APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COUNSEL TO
THE REVENUE AND CUSTOMS PROSECUTIONS OFFICE (RCPO)
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM (BERR)**

The Attorney General maintains a list of panel counsel to undertake both civil and criminal work for participating government departments in London and the regions. In addition, she appoints Standing Counsel to departments as required.

Standing Counsel are expected to fulfil the following roles:

- To act as advocates for their instructing departments in the most complex cases;
- To give strategic advice on issues emerging in departmental cases;
- To deliver training; and
- To act as a resource for their instructing department and also for panel counsel.

Vacancies

RCPO has 9 vacancies for Standing Counsel (Criminal) - 2 in the Northern Circuit; 2 in the North Eastern Circuit; 2 in the Wales and Chester Circuit; 2 in the Midland Circuit; and 1 in the Western Circuit. BERR has 2 vacancies for Standing Counsel (Criminal) in the South Eastern Circuit.

Eligibility

Applications are welcome from barristers with a tenancy, and solicitors with a higher court advocacy qualification, in the above circuit areas. Appointments are generally made to applicants who have been in practice for at least 10 years.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate:

- Extensive experience as an advocate in serious and complex criminal cases;
- Proven ability to provide timely first class advice;
- Strong drafting skills;
- Academic strength or compensating strengths covered in the application; and
- Experience of working for or against government departments and an appreciation of the special demands of government litigation.

The appointments will be for an initial period of two years, with the possibility of an extension up to a further five years at the discretion of the Attorney General.

Application

Applicants will be required to complete an application form and provide references commenting on their court skills. The Attorney General may consult the applicant's Circuit Leader, the Director of RCPO and/or BERR. The Selection Board may hold interviews and will recommend for appointment those applicants who appear to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion, age or disability.

An application pack or further information may be obtained by writing to Bill Wheeldon, at RCPO, 4th Floor, New King's Beam House, 22 Upper Ground, London SE1 9BT or by email to attorney.generalslist@rcpo.gsi.gov.uk. Completed application forms must be returned by 25 April 2008. Appointments are made by the Attorney General and are likely to be announced in May 2008.