

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

For the Minister: Lord Chancellor's Department Note

CHANGES TO LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

The responsibilities of the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) for the Court Service, the Magistrates' Courts and associated policy functions are being transferred to the Home Office to enable accountability for the running of the criminal justice system to be located in one department.

Ministers

A Ministerial team of four (or three given the reduced workload?)

Lord Chancellor

Three Parliamentary Secretaries, one in the Lords

Responsibilities

The LCD will retain responsibility for judicial appointments and other judicial matters, legal aid and the Criminal Defence Service and will continue as now to administer some tribunals including the immigration appeals tribunals. The responsibilities of the Department for civil justice policy, civil rights and constitutional matters will be strengthened by the inward transfer of many of the Home Office's constitutional responsibilities including Freedom of Information, human rights, the Channel Islands, and Royal and Church matters (see note 3).

8 June 2001

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