About the Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is one of the largest government departments, employing around 70,000 people (including those working in HM Prisons and Probation Service and HM Courts and Tribunal Service), with a budget of approximately £9.5 billion. Our work spans criminal, civil and family justice, making new laws and safeguarding human rights.

The MoJ works to protect the public and reduce reoffending, and to provide a more effective, transparent and responsive criminal justice system for victims and the public. We also provide fair and simple routes to civil and family justice. The MoJ therefore has responsibility for all parts of the justice system – the criminal, civil and family courts, the tribunal system, legal services, legal aid, prisons and youth offender institutions and probation services.

We also work in partnership with the other government departments and agencies to reform the criminal justice system, to serve the public and support the victims of crime.

What Economists Do at the MoJ

Our economist resource has expanded significantly since the creation of the MoJ in 2007 - when we had 8 just economists - to around 30 economists. Economists at the MoJ work in a central Data & Analytical Services Directorate (DASD) alongside other analysts – operational researchers, statisticians, and social researchers – and many analytical teams are made up of staff drawn from each of these professions. There are around 300 analysts in the MoJ.

Many of our economists work in teams that support policy teams while others work alongside operational, finance, HR and other professional colleagues on a range of issues covering operational areas and internal MoJ management and planning.

Assistant Economists at the MoJ are given significant responsibility quite early on in their careers and have made significant contributions to our work in areas including:

Court and Tribunal Reform: We are working on a major process of courts and tribunal reform to make the civil, administrative, and family justice systems more efficient and accessible for all and to promote new ways of solving legal disputes.

Personal Injury Compensation Reform: We are working on reforms to the compensation received by people who suffer minor soft tissue (‘whiplash’) injuries resulting from road traffic accidents and with HM Treasury and the Government Actuary on reforms to the way compensation payments are calculated for people who sustain serious, life-changing injuries.

The Legal Services Market: We support policy to help ensure that private markets, such as those for legal services and insurance, work effectively and to promote the entry of new forms of service provider to increase competition and innovation. Economists and other analysts are also supporting the MoJ’s preparations for the UK’s exit from the EU.

Legal Aid Reform: We are working on how to translate changes to the benefits system into a mechanism to determine who should and who shouldn’t be making contributions to the legal aid fund when they need to draw on legally aided services.

Sentencing and Criminal Law Reform: We estimate the impact on the wider justice system of policies aimed at changing the structure of criminal sentencing and in assessing the impacts, both on the criminal justice system and wider society, of introducing new criminal laws.
**Estates:** We have led work on capital models and support work on estate optimisation models to examine how our large courts and prisons estate can be reconfigured to deliver improved operational running and value for money.

**Court and Tribunal Fees:** We work on re-designing tribunal and court fees to ensure that civil court and tribunal users who can afford to do so make a greater contribution to meeting the costs of the service and to better incentivise early dispute resolution.

**Training and Development**

- There is a training budget for economists which can also cover the costs of attending economic and non-economic courses as well as on the job training opportunities.
- Faststream Assistant Economists are allocated up to 15 training days per year.
- There are internal and external analytical seminars and conferences that MoJ economists attend.
- There is a regular economist forum where economists meet to discuss issues of interest.
- Faststream Assistant Economists also have a “buddy” for more personal support, and a more senior-level mentor to discuss wider career development issues.
- Each economist has a Personal Development Plan that is agreed with their Line Manager.
- MoJ Assistant Economists participate in a scheme with the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office which allows them to work in posts across the three departments.
- Assistant Economists can request loans to other departments after 2 years of service.

**Pay and Conditions**

- DASD staff within the MOJ are based at 10 South Colonnade (London Canary Wharf) or Leeds. There are also options for staff to work flexibly from 102 Petty France (London Victoria), from a number of commuter hubs around the country as well as from home for part of the week.
- Starting salary as of August 2019 for an Assistant Economist (Fast Stream) is £31,000.
- Annual Leave: Generous allowances for paid holiday starting at 25 days per year, and rising as your service increases. There is also a scheme to allow qualifying staff to buy or sell up to three days leave each year. Additional paid time off for public holidays and 1 privilege day. Leave for part-time and job share posts are calculated on a pro-rata basis.
- Pension: The Civil Service offers a choice of pension schemes, giving you the flexibility to choose the pension that suits you best.
- Flexible working hours.
- Training: The Ministry of Justice is committed to staff development and offers an extensive range of training and development opportunities.
- Gym, recreation rooms, café, access to sports and recreation clubs.
- Support:
  - A range of ‘Family Friendly’ policies such as opportunities to work reduced hours or job share.
  - Access to flexible benefits such as voluntary benefits, retail vouchers and discounts on a range of goods and services.
  - Paid paternity, adoption and maternity leave.
  - Free annual sight tests for employees who use computer screens.
**Routes in**

MoJ Faststream Assistant Economists must have completed both the Economic Assessment Centre (EAC) and the Civil Service Faststream Assessment Centre (FSAC), and therefore be members of both the Government Economic Service and the FastStream. There is an online application form, online aptitude tests, interviews, presentations, in-tray exercises and group and written exercises. It is possible to apply to be a provisional assistant economist through passing the EAC with the expectation of taking the FSAC within 12 months.

More experienced economists may apply to directly enter at Economic Advisor level as part of the cross government direct entry scheme.

The MoJ also regularly takes in economics students via the GES Summer Placement Scheme.

**Further Information**

For more information on how to apply for GES jobs including the Summer Placement Scheme, please visit the GES website: [http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/networks/ges](http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/networks/ges)

For further information on applying please to the Faststream see [www.faststream.gov.uk](http://www.faststream.gov.uk)

For further information on the Ministry of Justice, please see [www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)

If you would like to find out more about working as an economist at the MoJ, please contact Alex Wilks, the MoJ’s Chief Economist, at [Alex.Wilks@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Alex.Wilks@justice.gov.uk) who will be happy to answer your questions.