



Who are OAG? The UK Government's Scottish Legal Team

Do you have litigation in Scotland, provisions in a Bill that extends to Scotland, an interest in legislation in the Scottish Parliament, a question about the devolution settlement or a need for advice on Scots law? If so, you need to get in touch with OAG.

Office of the Advocate General (OAG)

- OAG is a UK Government department with approximately 50 lawyers and support staff based in Edinburgh and London. The majority of OAG staff are lawyers with Scots law qualifications and expertise.
- The Director and Solicitor to the Advocate General for Scotland (AGS) is Neil Taylor.
- The AGS is supported by a Private Office team led by Caoimhe McElduff.

Divisions of OAG

Legal Secretariat (LSAG)

Supports the AGS in her role as a UK Government Law Officer including in relation to her statutory functions and Ministerial responsibilities.

Division Head: Jim Gaughan

Litigation

Provides Scots Law advice and support in respect of any action raised against a UK Government department in the Scottish Courts and tribunals.

Division Head: Leigh Anne Clarke

HMRC

Handles tax and national minimum wage litigation in the Scottish Courts and Tribunals, including appeals from them to the Supreme Court, as well as providing Scottish Legal advice to HMRC.

Division Head: Michael Carey

Advisory and Legislation

Provides Scots law and Scottish devolution advice to UK Government departments, provides advice on the legislative competence of Scottish Parliament Bills and considers orders under the Scotland Act 1998.

Division Head: Victoria MacDonald

Business Support Team

Supports all divisions by carrying out admin, finance and IT functions, and driving forward business strategy to ensure the office is operating effectively and efficiently.

Business Manager: Craig Anderson



Office of the Advocate General – Dover House (Whitehall) and Queen Elizabeth House (Edinburgh)

Who is the Advocate General for Scotland?

- The AGS is a Minister of the Crown and one of the **UK Government Law Officers**.
- The office of AGS was created in 1999 upon devolution by the Scotland Act 1998.
- Since August 2024, the AGS has been Baroness Smith of Cluny KC, who sits as a member of the House of Lords.



Functions of the AGS

- Chief legal adviser to the UK Government on Scots law.
- Provision of Law Officer advice to the UK Government (alongside the Attorney General and Solicitor General for England and Wales).
- Statutory functions relating to devolution under the Scotland Act 1998.
- Representing the UK Government in litigation in the Scottish courts.