



CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH, MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
CROWN COUNSEL POLICY MANUAL

Fair and effective prosecutions are essential to the rule of law. The justice system is enhanced by well developed policy guidelines which assist Crown Counsel in the difficult decisions which they must make in the public interest.

The Criminal Justice Branch Performance Plan 2002/03 – 2004/05 has an objective that policies should be “necessary, relevant and written in a consistent manner”. The policies in this manual have been updated and revised to include only necessary statements of policy, eliminate repetition and provide broader, less restrictive guidelines on the exercise of prosecutorial discretion where possible. The policies take into account the changing environment that renders prosecutorial duties increasingly complex and challenging.

The Policies and Procedure Subcommittee of Branch Management Committee, consisting of a number of very experienced Crown Counsel, and also Branch Management Committee itself, have reviewed every revised policy in detail. This process has ensured that the Branch policies are as relevant as possible to the needs of Crown Counsel.

I wish to thank all persons who assisted in the preparation of this manual. The number of policies has been reduced from 117 to 66, a sure indicator of a successful enterprise. As public documents, these concise, well written policies will assist not only Crown Counsel but also the public in understanding how prosecutorial services are provided in the public interest.

I am pleased to present this revised policy manual in support of the vitally important work of Crown Counsel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RWG Gillen".

November 18, 2005

Robert W. G. Gillen, Q.C.