



## Media Release

December 12 2006

### **Review of cases conducted by Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor Dr Patrick Power SC**

In order to ensure there was no inappropriate speculation about Dr Power's carriage of matters as a prosecutor, the ODPP voluntarily undertook a review of the 381 matters in which Dr Power had been involved.

The purpose of this review was not to question the validity of the outcome of any proceedings, but to ensure that there were no grounds for allegations of impropriety in the conduct of any matter. Verdicts are decided by juries and sentences are imposed by judges. Retrials are subject to applications to the court and will only be ordered in instances of miscarriage of justice or failure in procedure.

As a matter progresses, the course of each prosecution – including correspondence and file notes, briefs and court records – is routinely checked by two or three members of staff. Each of these records was checked again in each of the 381 files.

The review has disclosed that every matter was undertaken by Dr Power with strict adherence to the law and within the Prosecution Guidelines (available on the ODPP website). No grounds for concern or any impropriety were revealed.

The review and its outcome were endorsed by the ODPP Executive Board, which includes two independent board members, Mr John Hunter and Dr Sandra Egger, on 23 November 2006 and the Attorney General was notified. No further action was or is considered necessary.

The review is now complete, although any person with a concern about a prosecution conducted by the ODPP is entitled at any time to make representations to the Director.

Each case examined is confidential and the report of the review contains references to matters that are subject to non-publication orders. Because of the confidential nature of the material archived in each matter, no further detail will be provided or comment made.