

EFFECTIVE EARLY ADVICE FOR PROSECUTORS

COURSE INFORMATION

Whilst Early Advice has been in place for many years, it's value can be open to interpretation. The dangers of not complying risks cases being withdrawn or discontinued after many years. The impact on public confidence causes significant reputational damage. Most importantly it means that victims of crime lose confidence in the criminal justice system. Further, suspects face significant delays, in some cases, many years before they know if they are to face criminal prosecution. Across both this delay can be devastating to those directly involved and their families. All of which can be significantly reduced by proper application of the tools available.

This course provides best practice in delivering timely, focused, and outcome-driven investigative advice in alignment with the DPP's Charging Guidance and the Code for Crown Prosecutors. Focused early engagement, collaborative decision-making, and evidential integrity, it enables delegates to focus investigations from the outset.

Delegates will look the roles and responsibilities under the DPP's Charging Guidance, application of the Full Code Test and Threshold Test in early advice, identifying reasonable lines of enquiry and evidential gaps, proportionality, efficiency, and accountability, building strong prosecutor-investigator relationships.

Building effective partnership working involves not only managing expectations but driving progress to avoid potential abuse of process applications. Delegates will look at how to avoid barriers to prosecution and methodologies to maintain grip to achieve positive criminal justice outcomes.

The need to balance provision of effective early advice and maintaining independence is a crucial role of the Prosecutor. Delegates will be given toolkits for ensuring that early advice is structured, effective and retains this position.

Delegates will take part in practical scenarios which will focus on the quality of incoming and outgoing MG3s. Best practice standards and practical tips for ensuring high quality submissions for clear audit trails of decision making designed to give the Prosecutor confidence in delivery.

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AUDIENCE

Targeted at prosecutors working across all levels of complexity, the course encourages confident early interventions that improve case quality, reduce delay, and enhance justice outcomes.

COURSE LENGTH AND DELIVERY METHODS

This is a one-day course and can be delivered virtually or in-person.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Discharge roles and responsibilities under the DPP's Charging Guidance and Code for Crown Prosecutors.
- Build effective partnership strategies.
- Identify reasonable lines of enquiry and evidential gaps.
- Provide structured advice to maintain grip and progression.
- Deal confidently with challenges in provision of early advice.
- Deliver positive criminal justice outcomes.