

A little legal empire?

We recently submitted a Freedom of Information request concerning the number of lawyers working at the Isle of Man Attorney General's Chambers and the annual cost of running such legal body.

The Attorney General's Chambers provides legal advice and support to the IOM Government including drafting bills, prosecuting criminal offences and representing Departments in litigation disputes.

By a FOI reply dated 20th September 2023 the AG's Chambers confirmed the following:-

- i) There are **36** lawyers currently employed at the AG's Chambers.
- ii) In addition, a further 45 persons are employed as support staff (giving a total of 81 employees).
- iii) No rent of premises is paid by the AG's Chambers.
- iv) Chambers has refused to provide information as to its overall yearly running costs (including salaries paid to lawyers).

We also note that as of today (4th October 2023) there is a job advert for yet another lawyer at the AG's, in the newly created role of Senior Legal Officer (AML & financial crime), see link below. The number of Government lawyers has increased markedly in recent years.

But is employing 36 (soon to be 37) State employed lawyers really a necessary and proportionate use of Manx taxpayers' money (particularly when £200 million has had to be drawn down from Treasury reserves this year to fund public spending)?

Or is this organisational growth a startling case of *empire building*?



Even King Kong didn't like Empire State buildings!

See link below to FOI reply from AG's dated 20th September 2023.

<https://www.ik.im/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/20.09.23-36-lawyers-employed-at-AGs-Chambers.pdf>

Click [here](#) to job advert at AG's.