

## **John F. Larkin QC, Attorney General for Northern Ireland**

John F Larkin QC was born in Belfast in 1963.

He was educated at St Mary's Christian Brothers Grammar School, Belfast and read law at Queen's University, Belfast.

He was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 1986 and later to the Bar of Ireland.

In 1989 he was appointed Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology in Trinity College, Dublin. In the 1990s he resumed full-time practice at the Northern Ireland Bar where he specialised in constitutional and administrative law, civil liberties and human rights. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2001 and for the ten years before his appointment as Attorney General for Northern Ireland his practice had been mainly in Constitutional and Administrative Law and Human Rights.

In May 2010, following the transfer of policing and criminal justice powers to Northern Ireland, the First Minister and deputy First Minister appointed him as Attorney General for Northern Ireland for a four year period. He is the first person to hold the office separately since its functions were assumed by the Attorney General for England and Wales in 1972. In May 2014 he was reappointed for a further term of two years, and in September 2015 his appointment was extended until May 2019. On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland re-appointed him as Attorney General for Northern Ireland until 30 June 2020.

Chief among his responsibilities as Attorney General is that of guardian of the rule of law. That responsibility informs his other statutory and non-statutory duties in fields as diverse as constitutional law,

international human rights standards, the law of charities, and devolution issues.