

FAQs

1. What is the Law and Prosecution Department?

The Law and Prosecution Department is responsible for providing legal advice to the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, conducting and coordinating government litigation and prosecution matters, assisting in legislative affairs, and dealing with other legal and judicial matters assigned to the Department.

2. When was the Law and Prosecution Department established?

Prior to 2006, the Department was part of the Home and Services Department. It subsequently developed as a separate department dealing with legal and prosecution matters.

3. What is the Legal Advisory Service (LAS)?

The Legal Advisory Service (LAS) provides the institutional framework for the Department's legal advisory functions. Rules governing the LAS were framed in 2014, and the Recruitment Rules were further amended in 2025.

4. What kind of legal advice does the Department provide?

The Department provides legal opinions and advice to Government departments on legal matters, including the interpretation of laws, rules, orders and other instruments having the force of law.

5. Does the Department handle litigation on behalf of the Government?

Yes. The Department deals with Government litigation, including appeals and applications for enhancement of sentences and convictions, as well as the filing and defence of civil suits involving the Government and public servants.

6. Who appoints Government Law Officers and Public Prosecutors?

The Department deals with matters relating to the appointment, transfer, leave, fees and other service-related matters of Government Law Officers, Public Prosecutors, Government Pleaders and Special Counsels, in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures.

7. Does the Department deal with matters concerning legal practitioners?

Yes. The Department deals with matters relating to legal practitioners in accordance with the applicable laws, rules and procedures.

8. What is the Department's role in legislation?

The Department examines and vets draft Bills before their presentation to the Cabinet, Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly, Council or the Federal Government, as applicable.

9. What happens after a Bill is passed by the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly?

The Department initiates the necessary process for presenting Bills to the Governor for assent through a summary, in accordance with the applicable procedure.

10. Does the Department deal with the adaptation and circulation of laws?

Yes. The Department deals with notifications regarding the adaptation of laws and the circulation of laws passed by the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly, the Prime Minister and the Federal Government, as applicable.

11. What is the Department's role in amendments to the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018?

The Department prepares and submits draft proposals to the Federal Government regarding amendments to the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018.

12. What is the Department's role regarding the Gilgit-Baltistan judiciary?

The Department coordinates matters concerning the Gilgit-Baltistan Judiciary and the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, including matters requiring consideration or action at the Government level.

13. Does the Department deal with the appointment of judges?

Yes. The Department initiates summaries concerning the appointment of Judges of the Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court, Supreme Appellate Court and Special Courts, in accordance with the applicable constitutional and legal framework.

14. Does the Department deal with the appointment of members of the GB Service Tribunal?

Yes. The Department initiates summaries concerning the appointment of the Chairman and Members of the Gilgit-Baltistan Service Tribunal, as well as other appointments falling within its assigned functions.

15. What is the Department's role regarding the Advocate General?

The Department initiates the necessary summary regarding the appointment of the Advocate General, in accordance with the applicable procedure.

16. Does the Department deal with the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner?

Yes. The Department initiates the summary for appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

17. What is the Department's role concerning the Gilgit-Baltistan Election Commissioner?

The Department coordinates matters concerning the Gilgit-Baltistan Election Commissioner and the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan.

18. What is the Department's role concerning the summoning of the GB Assembly?

The Department initiates the summary for summoning a session of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

19. Can the Department delegate magisterial powers?

The Department deals with matters relating to the delegation of magisterial powers to Executive Magistrates, Forest Officers, Excise & Taxation Officers and Registrars of Cooperative Societies, in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

20. Does the Department deal with Notaries Public?

Yes. The Department deals with matters relating to the notification of Notaries Public among eligible lawyers, in accordance with the applicable law and procedure.

21. Does the Department deal with Special Courts?

Yes. The Department deals with matters relating to Special Courts, including matters concerning NAB, Customs and Banking Courts, as assigned under the applicable legal and administrative framework.

22. How can a Government department seek a legal opinion?

A Government department may refer a legal matter to the Law and Prosecution Department through the prescribed official channel, providing the relevant facts, documents, applicable legal provisions and the specific question on which legal advice is required.

23. Does the Department provide legal opinions to members of the public?

The Department's legal advisory function primarily concerns the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan and its departments. It does not ordinarily provide legal advice on private disputes or individual legal matters.

24. What is the Department's overall role?

The Department serves as an important legal and institutional link between the Government, legislature, judiciary, prosecution system and other legal institutions, while providing legal advice and facilitating the Government's legislative, litigation and related legal functions.

Affiliated Departments

Advocate General's Office:

- 1- Advocate General is chief law officer of the province of GB.
- 2- Under Article 45 of GB Order 2018, the Governor of Gilgit Baltistan on the advice of the Chief Minister appoints an advocate general.
- 3- It shall be the duty of the Advocate General to give advice to the government upon such legal matters and perform such other duties of a legal character as may be referred or assigned to him by the government.
- 4- Appear for government of GB in Supreme Appellate Court and Chief Court and any other court, to conduct different all cases where government is a party.
- 5- He has the right to speak and take part in proceedings of the GB Assembly but no right to vote.

Prosecutor General's Office:

Under the GB Prosecution (Powers and Functions) Act, 2019

- 1- The Prosecutor General is the head of prosecution in Gilgit Baltistan.
- 2- Appear and conduct prosecution in criminal cases before Supreme Appellate Court GB and Chief Court GB.
- 3- Overall Command and supervision of the entire prosecution service in GB, all District Public Prosecutors, DDPPs, ADDPPs, works under.
- 4- Tender legal opinions to state in criminal matters.
- 5- Filing of criminal appeals, provisions on behalf of the state.

GB Judicial Academy

The Gilgit-Baltistan Judicial Academy is an agency of the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan in Gilgit for legal training established in 2021. The Academy provides pre-service and in-service training to the judicial officers and court personnel. The management and administration of the Academy are run by the board under the leadership of the Chief Justice of Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court and an appointed Director-General. The GB Assembly passed GB Judicial Academy Act, 2023. The bill has not hitherto been signed by the Governor of GB.

Election Commission of Gilgit Baltistan

The Commission prepares electoral rolls for election and conducts election to the Provincial Assembly. Under Article 97 of the GB Order, 2018 the Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by the Prime Minister on the advice of the Governor on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.