



## Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate Inspection of CPS Nottinghamshire

# CPS Nottinghamshire rated as **FAIR** by Inspectors

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) has today published its report on the inspection of CPS Nottinghamshire.

HM Chief Inspector, Michael Fuller QPM, said:

*"The senior management team in CPS Nottinghamshire has invested a significant amount of time and energy into trying to improve the area's performance. Whilst this commitment and energy was evident, the hard work has yet to bear fruit across the full range of services provided by the area.*

*Overall we found that the area was fair, with strengths in decision making in cases involving the most complex types of crime, but room for improvement in the handling of less serious cases. The area needs to set rigorous and consistent management standards, and manage the expected standards more stringently.*

*We make a number of recommendations to help the area address the weaknesses identified in the report, and I am sure that given the commitment of the management team, the area can succeed in improving its performance and delivering better results."*

Summary of main inspection findings:

The area was rated as **FAIR**.

- There is sound decision making in the most serious cases.
- Overall, the quality of decision-making and casework varies significantly across the area and some is poor.
- There has been a decline in performance outcomes since 2007, with results in many key measures being worse than CPS national average.
- The quality of case handling and progression needs to be improved.
- Relationships with criminal justice partners are improving at both strategic and key operational levels; the area has worked hard to cultivate these. Recent work with the police has been used to drive up performance for those cases which go to the Crown Court.
- Standards and expectations need to be set to ensure staff are managed consistently and poor performance is addressed.
- The Chief Crown Prosecutor has developed the right vision to take the area forward which is shared by senior managers but needs to be communicated more effectively to staff to ensure they understand why priorities have been set.

A table of the detailed scores for each aspect of the inspection framework can be found at Annex A.

This press release should be read in conjunction with the report itself and the executive summary which is integral to it and also available separately. Copies of the full inspection report can be obtained from the HMCPSI website in the Press section using the username MEDIA99 and password NTS10

For any queries or interviews please call Anisha Visram on 0207 210 1188

## Notes to editors

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate is an independent statutory body established by the Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate Act 2000, which came into force on 1 October 2000. The Chief Inspector is appointed by, and reports to, the Attorney General.

CPS Nottinghamshire was the subject of an overall performance assessment in July 2007 which rated performance as fair. This inspection included detailed scrutiny of finalised case files and some current cases were observed at court. Inspectors considered a wide aspect of casework including decision-making and casework handling together with the systems, management and structured monitoring of performance which underpin good casework.

The inspection team comprised legal and business management inspectors working closely together, with a lay inspector who helped examine the way in which the CPS relates to the public with dealing with witnesses and victims, its engagement with the community including minority groups, its handling of complaints and the application of the public interest test contained in the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

CPS Nottinghamshire is one of 42 CPS areas, each of which has a chief crown prosecutor, and serves the area covered by Nottinghamshire Police.

## Annex A

### Summary of ratings from inspection report

Critical aspects	OPA 2007	AEI 2010	Direction of travel
Pre-charge advice and decisions	Fair	Poor	Declined
Decision-making, preparation and progression in magistrates' courts' cases	Poor	Poor	Stable
Decision-making, preparation and progression in Crown Court cases	Good	Fair	Declined
The service to victims and witnesses	Fair	Fair	Stable
Leadership and management <sup>1</sup>	Good	Fair	Declined
<b>Overall critical assessment level</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Fair</b>	
The prosecution of cases at court	Fair	Fair	Stable
Serious violent and sexual offences and hate crime	Good	Fair	Declined
Disclosure of unused material	Fair	Fair	Stable
Custody time limits	Excellent	Fair	Declined
Managing performance to improve	Fair	Fair	Stable
Managing resources	Good	Good	Stable
Partnership working and community confidence	Good	Good	Stable
<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Leadership and management captures elements included formerly in "Delivering change" which has now been removed from the framework as a stand alone aspect.