

# Press Notice

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## CPS Inspectorate Overall Performance Assessment of CPS Derbyshire

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HM CPSI) has today published their Overall Performance Assessment (OPA) of **CPS Derbyshire**.

The OPA process provides a benchmark for each CPS Area's performance in fourteen key aspects of work. Each of the aspects is assessed as being excellent, good, fair or poor. The Area is then assessed on its overall performance in the light of these markings.

The overall performance assessment of **CPS Derbyshire** was **fair**.

The table below provides a breakdown of the assessed level of performance against the fourteen aspects:

<b>Critical Aspects</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Pre-charge decision-making	2
Ensuring successful outcomes	3
Leadership	3
The service to victims and witnesses	2
Resource management	2
<b>Other Defining Aspects</b>	
Managing magistrates' courts cases	2
Managing Crown Court cases	2
Handling sensitive cases and hate crimes	3
Custody time limits	2
Disclosure	2
Presenting and progressing cases at court	2
Delivering change	3
Managing performance to improve	3
Securing community confidence	3

Some aspects have been categorised as critical, and these aspects are weighted differently to the other aspects in determining the overall performance of an Area. This is due to the significant impact that these aspects will have on the overall performance of a CPS Area.

The Area is progressing cases more expeditiously and its casework outcomes are good. Performance monitoring is commendably comprehensive and there are now positive trends.

The Area's handling of sensitive cases and hate crimes is good. However, some aspects of casework performance have weaknesses. The level of compliance with the disclosure regime has been improved although it needs to be strengthened further. Cases are generally prepared promptly but the timeliness and thoroughness of the preparation of some committals for the Crown Court need to be worked on. Although the quality of letters to victims explaining decisions is good, the Area is not identifying a significant proportion of cases in which letters should be sent.

The Area has collaborated successfully with criminal justice system partners in progressing important initiatives such as No Witness No Justice, the Effective Trial Management Programme and the statutory charging scheme. There is a clear commitment towards achieving fairness and equality of opportunity for staff and the Area has actively pursued value for money.

The inspectorate has visited all 42 CPS Areas over a six month period in order to provide a benchmark from which future work can be informed. The inspectorate will use this information to determine where best to focus its resources in order to promote improvement within the CPS and the criminal justice system as a whole. It is also hoped that the CPA Areas, and CPS HQ, will use this information to address issues at local and national level where this is necessary.

Stephen Wooler CB, Chief Inspector of the CPS, said:

**“CPS Derbyshire achieves good case outcomes and its handling of sensitive cases and hate crimes is strong. Although some aspects of casework require attention, there is a real commitment towards progressing and achieving the benefits from initiatives aimed at improving the criminal justice system. The Area now needs to apply its improved performance monitoring systems in order to raise standards in the specific respects that we have identified.”**

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