

# Press Notice

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## CPS Inspectorate Overall Performance Assessment of CPS Lincolnshire

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

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 Lincolnshire** was **Fair**.

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

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

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.

CPS Lincolnshire has produced some good casework results. There are impressive ineffective trial rates; excellent rates for successful outcomes; persistent young offenders are brought to justice well within the national 71 day target and the Area exceeded its target for confiscation of assets from convicted criminals. In addition the Area has made changes in readiness for

the CPS taking over responsibility for the initial decision whether to charge (at present a matter for the police).

However there are some aspects of performance, mainly relating to management on business support issues, which need to be strengthened. Resource management needs to be tightened as the Area has overspent its budget for the last two years.

The Area needs to ensure that it is effectively influencing the listing arrangements with the magistrates' court across the whole Area to ensure that it can gain the maximum advantage from its resources. Introducing a formal system to assess the results being produced from the charging initiative and to target improvement activity would benefit the Area.

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 CPS Areas, and CPS HQ, will use this information to address issues at local and national level where this is necessary.

Stephen Wooler CB, HM Chief Inspector, said:

**“Since the last inspection CPS Lincolnshire has overcome some considerable challenges and is starting to deliver sound results. The Area casework results speak for themselves.**

**However as the OPA results show the Area needs to improve on some aspects of its work. Area spending needs to be managed more effectively; work with partners to improve listing patterns needs to be grasped and implemented; and outcomes from the charging initiative need to be more systematically analysed to target resources and direct improvement activity.”**

For further information, please contact Michael Fogg, HMCPSI Communications Manager, on 020 7210 1143 or 07901 856 346.