



Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate Inspection of CPS Yorkshire and Humberside Group

Decision-making needs to improve

Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPPI) has today published its report on the inspection of CPS Yorkshire and Humberside Group.

The inspection assessed the overall governance of the Area, the operation of the Area's complex casework unit and the quality of casework decision-making and efficiency in West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.

HM Chief Inspector, Michael Fuller QPM, said:

"The Area has rightly identified the need to improve the quality of decision-making across many aspects of its casework in West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire. Good performance management at the Area level needs to be replicated at the individual level to ensure high quality and timely decision-making at all stages. I am pleased to find strong governance at the senior management level which is reflected in sound financial controls and effective communications. Initiatives to improve the case building process in parts of the Area should make an important contribution to improving the overall quality of work and the service to the residents of Yorkshire and Humberside."

Summary of main inspection findings:

- The quality of work for the most serious cases dealt with by the Complex Casework Unit is of a good standard.
- There is a need to improve aspects of casework handling and decision-making at the charging stage and throughout the life of cases.
- Case progression could be improved. None of the case progression units were functioning fully effectively.
- There are extensive performance management arrangements, but these need to be strengthened at the individual level to ensure an improvement in outcomes.
- There is an effective collegiate approach by senior managers at Group level.
- Budget controls and mechanisms are sound.

For any queries or interviews please call Anisha Visram on 020 7210 1148 or mobile: 07901 856 348.

Notes to editors

1. HMCPSI 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.
2. 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.
3. CPS Yorkshire/Humberside comprises North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Humberside. This inspection considered CPS South Yorkshire and CPS West Yorkshire as well as a set of Group functions. The inspection report sets out an assessment of performance against specific criteria and scores individual aspects of performance for both Group and Area functions.
4. In the early stages of the inspection the CPS announced that the national structure was to be revised with effect from 1st April 2011. The existing Group structure (each of which contained one or more geographical areas aligned to police force boundaries) was replaced by 13 CPS Areas, each of which is now headed by a Chief Crown Prosecutor assisted by a Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor. The geographical boundaries of the new Areas remain unchanged from those of the previous Groups and incorporate the previous 42 Areas.