

## Consultation on proposed joint criminal justice inspections for 2023-25

The Criminal Justice Joint Inspectorates have a statutory duty to deliver a joint inspection programme and to undertake formal consultation on it.

The consultation helps us ensure that our inspection programme is focused on the right topics, is balanced and does not duplicate activity conducted by other inspectorates.

We work to a two-year planning timescale, which allows us to include suitably timed research and investigation of work to better inform future inspections. The table below contains a list of proposed joint thematics which aim to reflect the breadth and depth of issues facing the criminal justice system. We may not be able to do all of these during 2023-25; the amount of joint inspection work we are able to carry out is dependent on resources and is in addition to our core inspection programmes.

### Proposed list of joint inspections for 2023-25 for consultation:

| Subject  | Lead inspectorate           | Potential other inspectorates involved |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Experiences of women on community orders and on release from prison</b></p> <p><i>Since this topic was last inspected, the government has developed a women's strategy which includes the planned development of four women's residential centres, as an alternative to custody. A thematic focused on women would enable us to take a closer look at the progress against, and impact of, the strategy. It will also consider the experience of women in custody through to resettlement in the community</i></p> | <p><b>HMI Probation</b></p> | <p>HMI Prisons</p>                     |
| <p><b>Drug offences in the criminal justice system</b></p> <p><i>Assessing criminal justice agencies' understanding of drug supply, consumption and levels of dependency in their areas; and how effective the response is across the criminal justice system</i></p>  | <p><b>HMICFRS</b></p>       | <p>HMI Prisons<br/>HMICPSI</p>         |
| <p><b>Use of science and technology in policing and the criminal justice system</b></p> <p><i>Capability, capacity and resilience for policing cyber-crime and the use of new</i></p>  | <p><b>HMICFRS</b></p>       | <p>HMI Prisons<br/>HMICPSI</p>         |

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| <i>technologies across the criminal justice system</i>   |                      |  |
| <p><b>Children on remand</b></p> <p><i>A joint thematic inspection of custodial remand in the youth justice system of England and Wales</i></p> <p><i>Note that this inspection has been scoped ready for fieldwork in 2023</i></p>  | <b>HMI Probation</b> | HMI Prisons<br>Ofsted                  |
| <p><b>Look across the criminal justice system at efficiency</b></p> <p><i>From start to end of the criminal justice journey, including looking at the support provided to defendants (including children) and the effects of recruitment and retention of staff</i></p>  | <b>HMICPSI</b>       | HMI Probation<br>HMI Prisons<br>HMCPSP |
| <p><b>Experiences of victims of child sexual abuse of the criminal justice system</b></p> <p><i>The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has recommended a joint inspection of compliance with the Victims' Code in relation to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse</i></p>   | <b>HMICFRS</b>       | HMCPSP<br>HMI Probation                |
| <p><b>Prosecution team case building</b></p> <p><i>Carried forward from the 2021-23 Business Plan but with a specific focus on prosecution team culture and how strong cases are built, including communication between agencies</i></p>   | <b>HMCPSP</b>        | HMICFRS                                |
| <p><b>Foreign National offenders in the criminal justice system</b></p> <p><i>Building on HMI Prisons recent report on immigration detainees held in prisons, this inspection will consider the quality of pre and post release work with foreign national prisoners. The review will consider inter-agency working between prisons, probation and Home Office immigration staff</i></p> | <b>HMI Probation</b> | HMI Prisons                            |
| <p><b>Disclosure</b></p> <p><i>The Director's Guidance on Charging 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Attorney General's Guidelines on Disclosure 2020 and the revised CPIA Code of Practice came into force 31 December 2020. This inspection will consider the operation of disclosure in volume magistrates' court and Crown Court</i></p>   | <b>HMCPSP</b>        | HMICFRS                                |

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| <i>casework following these changes and assessment whether there has been improvement since the last joint report on disclosure in 2017</i>   |               |         |
| <b>Young Witness Protocol</b><br><i>A joint thematic inspection to assess the operation of and compliance with the young witness protocol. Given the current court backlogs this inspection would consider whether the mandatory timescales as set out in the protocol are adhered to, whether there is a proactive assessment of need by the police and the CPS and how local relationships across the CJs including the courts are working to ensure that there is compliance with the protocol</i> | <b>HMCPsi</b> | HMICFRS |

Of those inspection topics we take forward, some will be fully joint inspections, some may combine findings from across our single-agency inspections and others may take a different approach.

We will consider the impact of our work on the experience of victims, either through the inspection topic or by driving improvement in the wider criminal justice system.

Alongside the work programme, our 2023-25 Business Plan will also set out our intention to:

- Develop how we collaborate and share more information to work more intelligently.
- Publish 'Spotlight' reports, based on topics of relevance across the criminal justice system.

**We ask that you send us any comments about our proposed list of joint inspections, in particular:**

- 1. Which of the proposed thematics should be prioritised? Please provide rationale.**
- 2. Are there any other areas which you believe warrant inclusion in our criminal justice joint inspection programme? Please provide rationale.**
- 3. Do you have any other comments on our proposed list of joint inspections?**

All contributions to this consultation are welcome. Please provide them by emailing them to [Sophie.Riley@hmiprison.gov.uk](mailto:Sophie.Riley@hmiprison.gov.uk) by **3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**. We will then consider all responses before publishing our 2023-25 Business Plan by **1<sup>st</sup> April 2023**.