

PRESS RELEASE

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REVIEW OF BUSINESS PLANNING WITHIN THE CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

A report published today concludes that strengthened arrangements for business planning and accountability should underpin the drive by the Crown Prosecution Service for continuous improvement in its performance. The service has, in common with all criminal justice agencies, been set some stretching targets under the 2003–2006 Public Service Agreement (PSA).

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has today published the report of a thematic review “Business Planning within the CPS”. The review assessed arrangements for business planning in the CPS against a framework for planning in the public sector recently established to improve public sector services and productivity, as well as good planning practice.

The main findings for the review included:

- * although there was commitment to the production of business plans, the purpose of business planning was not clearly understood across the organisation, particularly in relation to the development and implementation of initiatives that arose outside the normal planning cycle or timetable;

- * central structures and responsibilities for planning did not support planning across the organisation;
- * consideration needed to be given to the development of a consistent approach to planning at strategic and business level - with key aspects of planning being brought forward in the planning year and better synchronised;
- * the CPS has already recognised the need to improve its planning processes. Senior managers are now involved in a collaborative approach to planning for delivery of PSA targets.
- * the CPS is also establishing clearer accountabilities in relation to its plans. There will be greater emphasis in risk management. The DPP and the Chief Executive have put in place new arrangements for internal management of performance which are designed to support this. They will be assisted by the newly appointed Director of Business Development.

A copy of the Executive Summary is attached. An electronic version of the report may be obtained (subject to the same embargo as the press release) by e-mailing a request to: Office@hmcpsi.gov.uk.

Notes to Editors:

1. Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate was established by the Crown Prosecution Act 2000, which came into effect on 1 October 2000 as an independent statutory body. The Inspectorate had, previously, been a unit within the CPS Headquarters. The Chief Inspector is appointed by and reports to the Attorney General.
2. For further information, please contact either Anisha Visram at HMCPSI (tel: 020 7210 1187; e-mail: Anisha.Visram@cps.gsi.gov.uk) or Jane Holman at CPS Press Office (tel: 020 7796 8106).