



**Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate
Follow-up inspection of CPS Leicestershire and Rutland**

CPS Leicestershire and Rutland makes good progress

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) has today published its follow-up inspection report on the inspection of CPS Leicestershire and Rutland.

HM Chief Inspector, Michael Fuller QPM, said:

"CPS Leicestershire has continued to move forward since the inspection in 2009. There has been significant progress in implementing our recommendations and it is a credit to staff that progress has been made in this way."

Summary of main inspection findings:

- The area had made substantial progress in implementing 3 out of 4 recommendations made in the 2009 inspection and fully achieved the fourth.
- The quality of work going to the Crown Court has improved as the area has worked to address our recommendations.
- The area has worked with the police to ensure that staff in the Witness Care Unit are better trained,
- The area has made good progress in addressing the aspects for improvement that were also identified, although more progress needs to be made to ensure lessons from casework are learned.
- The strengths that were identified during the 2009 inspection have been maintained.

A table of the assessment of progress against recommendations and aspects for improvement can be found at Annex A

This press release should be read in conjunction with the report itself. The full inspection report is available from the HMCPSI website.

Notes to editors

1. HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate 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. CPS Leicestershire and Rutland was the subject of a full area effectiveness inspection in 2009. The inspection rated performance as fair. A follow-up inspection took place in July 2010.

3. The purpose of the follow-up visit was to assess the progress made against the recommendations and aspects for improvement contained in the 2009 report. We also evaluated whether the strengths in performance remained.

4. The inspection team comprised a legal and business management inspector.

5. CPS Leicestershire is one of 42 CPS areas, each of which has a chief crown prosecutor, and serves the area covered by Leicestershire Police.

Annex A

Progress against recommendations

	Recommendation	Rating as at July 2010
1	Area managers take the necessary action to ensure case progression in Crown Court cases is improved	Substantial progress
2	Area managers ensure the quality of instructions to advocates is improved	Substantial progress
3	Area managers ensure that the disclosure record sheet is completed in every case so that it provides a complete audit trail of all disclosure actions and events	Substantial progress
4	The area, working with police partners, should ensure that WCU staff are trained to use WMS appropriately, understand their roles and why it is important to capture information	Achieved

Progress against aspects for improvement

	Aspect for Improvement	Rating as at July 2010
1	The dissemination of learning points effectively across the area	Substantial progress
2	The area should further develop the sharing of lessons learned to help inform future charging decisions and enhance understanding of Crown Court practice	Limited progress
3	The area needs to ensure a consistent approach when checking standards across the area	Achieved
4	Controls on prosecution costs and graduated fee scheme payments should be improved	Limited progress
5	The area needs to ensure there are sufficient opportunities for crown prosecutors to undertake magistrates' courts trial advocacy	Substantial progress