

# Press Notice

Embargoed until 00:00 13 December 2005



## CPS Inspectorate Overall Performance Assessment of CPS Dyfed Powys

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

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 Dyfed Powys** was **fair**.

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

<b>Critical Aspects</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Pre-charge decision-making	Poor
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	Good
Handling sensitive cases and hate crimes	Fair
Custody time limits	Fair
Disclosure	Fair
Presenting and progressing cases at court	Good
Delivering change	Fair
Managing performance to improve	Fair
Securing community confidence	Good

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.

Dyfed Powys performs well in respect of a number of key aspects. The Area has a strong and committed leadership, and the review and processing of Crown Court and magistrates' courts cases is carried out to a high standard.

There is a clear commitment to working locally with other criminal justice partners, which is evidenced by the sound performance against a number of key targets. Improving the experience of victims and witnesses in the criminal justice system has become embedded in the ethos of the Area and the introduction of the Witness Care Unit under the No Witness No Justice Scheme is already demonstrating positive results.

However, the Area has made only limited progress on the provision of pre-charge advice to the police, and as a result the realisation of benefits and progress towards statutory roll out of this national initiative have been hampered. A revised timetable, with key milestones has now been agreed between all relevant agencies to ensure this key initiative is now taken forward.

Recent changes to Area planning and performance management have yet to become embedded, and improvements to budgetary monitoring systems should assist the Areas management of performance and resources. There has been significant improvement in reducing sickness levels.

The Area attends to the needs of the community it serves and, in particular, provides a good service to the Welsh-speaking residents. The Area has made good progress in initiating contact with representatives of minority communities.

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

Stephen Wooler, Chief Inspector of the CPS, said:

**“I am pleased to be able to report positively on the performance of CPS Dyfed Powys. The Area is an effective partner in the delivery of criminal justice throughout the counties it serves and has demonstrated positive results against key targets. “**

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