

# Press Notice

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## CPS Inspectorate Overall Performance Assessment of CPS Lancashire

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

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 Lancashire** was **Good**

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	Good
Ensuring successful outcomes	Good
Leadership	Good
The service to victims and witnesses	Good
Resource management	Fair
<b>Other Defining Aspects</b>	
Managing magistrates' courts cases	Good
Managing Crown Court cases	Good
Handling sensitive cases and hate crimes	Good
Custody time limits	Fair
Disclosure	Fair
Presenting and progressing cases at court	Fair
Delivering change	Good
Managing performance to improve	Good
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.

The Area was successful, with its criminal justice partners, in meeting its target for the number of offences brought to justice. Conviction rates in respect of both magistrates' courts and Crown Court cases were higher than the national average. Much work had been done to reduce the proportion of trials that are ineffective and national targets have been met. Statutory pre-

charge decision-making by the CPS was in place throughout Lancashire and most of the anticipated benefits were being realised. The Area provided a generally good service to victims and witnesses, and the Area's first witness care unit was having a positive impact on increasing the proportion of witnesses who came to court to give evidence.

Change was being well managed in the Area, and there had been a cultural shift towards proactive performance management, the benefits of which were being realised in improved performance.

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 CPS 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:

**“CPS Lancashire has addressed the key initiatives for the criminal justice system well, and is improving its performance systematically across a number of important aspects. The management team is focused on ensuring the provision of a good level of service to public, in all respects. ”**

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