

Press Notice

21 October 2013

Inspectors check progress at Serious Fraud Office

Inspectors will this week start looking at whether the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has made improvements to the way it works following a report published last year.

The 2012 inspection by Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) found significant process failures and other weaknesses, which the agency needed to address to improve performance. The Inspectorate also identified strengths, for example in analysis and presentation of evidence.

HMCPSI is reviewing progress made against eight recommendations it made last year, at the invitation of SFO Director David Green QC.

HM Chief Inspector, Michael Fuller QPM, said:

"The follow up process is essential to drive improvement and make sure improvements are made. It also gives the organisations we inspect, such as the SFO an independent assessment of their work."

A team of eight inspectors will be speaking to individuals and organisations with a clear interest in SFO performance, looking at its casework and speaking to managers and staff. The on-site visit is expected to last for four weeks in November and the report will be published in the first half of 2014.

ends

Notes to editors:

1. Media enquiries: 020 7271 2484 or russell.hayes@attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk
2. The [2012 report](#) was commissioned by the Attorney General Dominic Grieve.
3. 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.

4. Unlike the Crown Prosecution Service, there is no statutory basis for the SFO to be subject to inspection. Therefore it was inspected by agreement with the Attorney General and at the invitation of the former Director Richard Alderman. There is no formal requirement to publish; the report was made to the Attorney General, who confirmed to Parliament in July 2012 his intention to do so.
5. It is standard practice for HMCPSI to follow-up its inspections to ensure that the recommendations the inspectorate has made are being followed through.