



## Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate Inspection of CPS South Wales

# The Inspectorate's report on CPS South Wales

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPISI) has today published its report on the inspection of CPS South Wales.

HM Chief Inspector, Michael Fuller QPM, said:

*"Whilst it is disappointing to note that South Wales' overall performance has declined since 2007, I am encouraged by the recent changes made and the new management team's determination to get to grips with the challenges that have been highlighted in our report.*

*Despite the overall rating of poor, the Area has had a measure of success in some aspects of work, such as improving the service provided in cases involving rape and violence against women and the quality of its contact with victims generally.*

*The Area must focus on improving both its Crown Court casework and preparation of magistrates' courts cases for trial, and we have made a number of recommendations to address the quality, as well as the timeliness, of preparing cases for court.*

*Budgetary control and efficiency remain a key challenge for the Area into the next financial year and beyond. We have made recommendations to address this issue and which, if implemented, will lead to savings."*

Summary of main inspection findings:

- the Area's level of engagement with the community it serves is good;
- in both the Crown Court and magistrates' courts, cases need to be prepared promptly and to a better standard;
- overall the quality of decision-making and casework varies across the Area and some is poor;
- relationships with some key criminal justice partners need to improve. Action is already being taken to address this;
- the Area is working with criminal justice partners to improve the service it gives in cases involving violence against women, and performance is improving;
- standards and expectations need to be set to ensure staff are managed consistently, and poor performance is addressed; and
- the Area faces significant budgetary challenges and needs to review its structures, and aspects of staff deployment including the way it deploys its crown advocates;

This press release should be read in conjunction with the report itself. A table of the detailed scores for each aspect of the inspection framework can be found at Annex A.

For any queries or interviews please call Anisha Visram on 0207 210 1187 or mobile: 07901 856 348

## 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 South Wales was the subject of an overall performance assessment in August 2007 which rated performance as fair. This inspection (2010) included detailed scrutiny of finalised case files and some current cases were observed at court. Inspectors considered a wide range of casework issues including decision-making and case handling together with the systems, management and structured monitoring of performance that underpin good casework.
3. The inspection team comprised legal and business management inspectors working closely together, with a lay inspector who helped examine the way in which the CPS relates to the public with dealing with witnesses and victims, its engagement with the community including minority groups, its handling of complaints and the application of the public interest test contained in the Code for Crown Prosecutors.
4. CPS South Wales is one of 42 CPS Areas, each of which has a chief crown prosecutor, and serves the area covered by South Wales Police.

## Annex A

### Summary of ratings from inspection report

Summary of judgements			
Critical aspects	OPA 2007	AEI 2010	Direction of travel
Pre-charge advice and decisions	Poor	Poor	Stable
Decision-making, preparation and progression in magistrates' courts cases	Fair	Poor	Declined
Decision-making, preparation and progression in Crown Court cases	Good	Fair	Declined
The service to victims and witnesses	Good	Good	Improved
Leadership and management <sup>1</sup>	Fair	Fair	Stable
<b>Overall critical assessment level</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	
The prosecution of cases at court	Good	Fair	Declined
Serious violent and sexual offences and hate crime	Good	Good	Stable
Disclosure of unused material	Poor	Poor	Improved
Custody time limits	Fair	Poor	Declined
Managing performance to improve	Fair	Fair	Stable
Managing resources	Good	Fair	Declined
Partnership working and community confidence <sup>2</sup>	Good	Good	Improved
<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Leadership and management now captures elements included formerly in 'Delivering Change' which has now been removed from the framework as a stand alone aspect.

<sup>2</sup> Some aspects of this section were previously included in 'Managing Performance to Improve' and a full like for like performance comparison cannot be made.