Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation

Youth offending services inspection

Selection criteria

Introduction

HM Inspectorate of Probation undertakes inspection activity in YOTs across England and Wales. The inspection programme consists of single inspections conducted only by HM Inspectorate of Probation and joint inspections which are undertaken alongside partner inspectorates. YOTs are selected for inspection on the basis of selection criteria.

Selection Criteria

HM Inspectorate of Probation takes a risk -based and non-predictable approach in deciding where to inspect. The following five factors are taken into consideration:

1. the volume and nature of the YOT's caseload
2. previous inspection results
3. data and information on performance
4. intelligence received from any source
5. time elapsed since last inspection.

There is no specific weighting applied to these factors. HM Inspectorate of Probation does not provide detailed explanation of why an individual inspection decision has been made, beyond confirming that these criteria have been applied.

HM Inspectorate of Probation wishes to maximise the impact of inspection activity. It considers that inspections in areas with more children and young people on the caseload should necessarily lead to improvement in services for more children and young people.

Single and Joint Inspection

The selection criteria apply to both single and joint inspections. For joint inspections the decision is normally taken by the Youth Justice Inspection Group (YJIG). This is a multi- inspectorate group consisting of all the inspectorates in England & Wales responsible for the statutory members of the youth offending partnership. It enables decisions on joint inspections, which are necessarily more resource intensive, to also take account of wider partner inspectorate considerations.

YJIG may also advise on whether a joint or single inspection is most appropriate, and may recommend areas where a single inspection should be a priority. Final decisions on selection are made by HM Inspectorate of Probation.