



**Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland**
a better justice system for all



THE Spec

NEWSLETTER OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION

December 2014

New era begins as CJI relocates to new office accommodation

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) has relocated to new office premises within the Stormont Estate.

The move from Belfast city centre where CJI has been based since it was established in 2004 took place in early December 2014.

“CJI’s timely relocation to a new base within independent accommodation located at Block 1, Knockview Buildings, has enabled the Inspectorate to cut its future office accommodation costs and ensure the necessary level of financial resources remain available to support core business and the delivery of a wide-ranging inspection programme,” said James Corrigan, CJI’s Chief Executive.

“CJI is mindful of the current financial pressure being faced across the public sector and has always prided itself in being an innovative, forward thinking organisation which is keen to achieve value and the best use of public money at every opportunity.



Brendan McGuigan and James Corrigan pictured with CJI staff in its new accommodation.

“The new suite of offices features a separate entrance on the right hand side of the Knockview Buildings complex. It is also segregated from the other parts of the building reinforcing CJI’s position as an independent organisation.

“CJI remains close to key criminal justice organisations located within the Belfast area and with strong road links to the Stormont Estate, the Inspectorate continues to be accessible to those organisations and individuals which it inspects and works closely with in carrying out its inspection work,” said James.

“We look forward to welcoming visitors to CJI’s new accommodation from the New Year,” said the Chief Executive.

CJI’s new address and contact details are:

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CJI management meets Brazilian academic

On 27 October 2014, CJI's Chief Inspector and Deputy Chief Inspector met with Dr Ignacio Cano, an Associate Professor of Sociology and Lead Researcher in the Laboratory for the Analysis of Violence (LAV) in the Department of Social Sciences at Rio State University (UERJ).

Dr Cano has published widely on public security and police human rights abuses in Brazil, and is a consultant on public security measures in several Latin American countries. He is also interested in issues of police accountability and wanted to meet relevant people involved in this field in Northern Ireland.

Dr Cano explained the complex history and nature of policing in Brazil which includes civil and military police forces and the increasing public and political demands for more effective anti-corruption operations within policing.

CJI's Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan outlined the significant police reform programme that has taken place in Northern Ireland.

Mr McGuigan also referred to the development of a police code of ethics and the role of Professional Standards Department within policing, together with a fully independent Police Ombudsman's Office which investigates complaints against the police and how these mechanisms were improving public confidence in policing.

Mindanao Human Rights Commission visit CJI

CJl's Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan hosted a visit from nine members of the Regional Human Rights Commission of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Wednesday 29 October 2014.

Mindanao is the second largest and southernmost major island in the Philippines. It is also the name of one of the three island groups in the country. As of the 2010 census, the island's population itself is 20,281,545 people, while the Mindanao island group has 21,968,174 inhabitants. The Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao is located in south-

western Mindanao and is home to a sizeable Muslim population making the island the only area of the Philippines with significant Muslim presence.

The group were on a visit funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and were keen to hear about the reforms that had been made to the criminal justice system in

Northern Ireland over the past 10 years.

The group were interested to hear how prisoner's rights were being protected in both prison and police custody, and the role of CJI in conducting announced and unannounced visits to places of detention.

The Chief Inspector also outlined the important role of the Independent Monitoring Boards within prisons and the Independent Custody Visitors to police custody suites. ■

Independent inquiry on Child Sexual Exploitation published

Following its submission to the Ministers for Health, Justice and Education on 13 November 2014, the report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland was published on 18 November 2014. The Inquiry was supported and assisted by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA), by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) and by Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI).

The Inquiry noted that child sexual exploitation is not new, but it has become a more significant threat to a greater number of children and young people with ready access to the internet. It was further noted that while it is difficult to assess the extent of child sexual exploitation, the indications are that it is widespread and growing. It is not an issue which is restricted to children in care.

The Inquiry made 17 key recommendations. They included:

- The Public Health Agency to undertake a public health campaign on child sexual exploitation related issues.
- A continued and reinforced commitment to improving the response of the criminal justice system to reports of child abuse/child sexual exploitation.
- A strategic approach - a regional child sexual exploitation strategy that links in with and builds upon related strategies, for example, trafficking, domestic violence, early intervention, drugs and alcohol.
- Health and education personnel to be recognised as significant partners in tackling child sexual exploitation, and the role of schools to be acknowledged and resourced.
- An inter-agency forum to examine how changes in the criminal justice system can achieve more successful prosecutions of perpetrators.



Prof. Kathleen Marshall independent chair of the Child Sexual Exploitation inquiry.

- Improved joint working arrangements between the agencies responsible for preventing, identifying and disrupting child sexual exploitation.
- Better support services for victims of child sexual exploitation.

The Inquiry lead, Professor Kathleen Marshall, on publication of the report stated: "Awareness of child sexual exploitation has increased in Northern Ireland, and the response to it has improved. There are examples of excellent and dedicated work by a range of professionals and voluntary agencies, and the beginnings of an improvement in data collection, but much more remains to be done. In taking the Inquiry's recommendations forward, it will be essential that children, young people and parents are fully engaged."

The full report can be accessed via this link <http://www.cjini.org/TheInspections/Inspection-Reports/Latest-Publications.aspx?did=1425> or via the CJI website www.cjini.org

Rotherham report findings increases knowledge of Child Sexual Exploitation challenges

CJI's Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan attended a briefing at the end of September by Professor Alexis Jay to discuss the Report on Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham.

The findings of the report made for grim reading, however alongside other reports it is adding to our growing knowledge of Child Sexual Exploitation and the challenges in responding to it.

Although the abuse that Professor Jay focused on in Rotherham has been associated with a particular group of perpetrators, it would be a mistake to think that there are not lessons relevant to Northern Ireland.

Her visit to Northern Ireland provided a unique opportunity to learn firsthand about her findings from the report. The event was well attended by Department of Health officials and PSNI officers involved in child protection. ■

New relationship with local universities

Since April 2014 CJI has been engaged in discussions with both the University of Ulster (UU) and Queens University Belfast (QUB) with a view to establishing mutually beneficial links with students and due to staff having an interest in CJI's work.

James Corrigan and Bill Priestley met senior staff from both universities, including Professor Paul Carmichael, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at UU, and Professor Shane O'Neill, Dean of QUB Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Further meetings with a range of staff from UU resulted in a pilot scheme, devised to enable four post-graduate criminology students from the University of Ulster Jordanstown (UUJ) to conduct research relevant to forthcoming CJI inspections.

The scheme will commence in January 2015 and students will be temporarily attached to CJI as interns. Nominated staff from UUJ and CJI will jointly supervise the students during their internship. Participant feedback on the pilot scheme will be used to make improvements with a view to building upon it and expanding the scope of its operation. ■

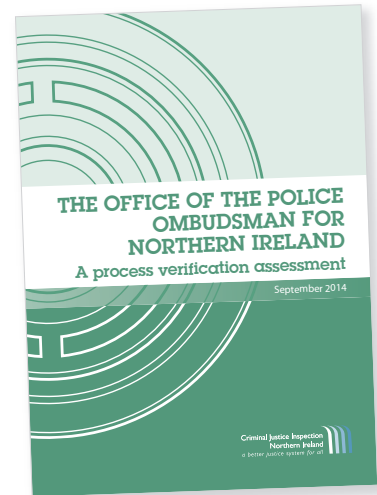


OPONI verification report

CJI has published its latest independent review of processes within the Office of Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI) for the investigation and publication of reports on historical cases. CJI found the independence of the Office had been fully restored.

Work by the OPONI into complaints involving historic cases had ceased in 2011 following an adverse CJI report published in September of that year. A subsequent follow-up review in January 2013 stated that an assessment of whether full independence had been restored would only be possible following the publication of a number of public statements.

Following the publication by the OPONI of three public statements, CJI conducted a verification visit during July 2014. Inspectors found that the revised processes introduced in 2013 had been applied consistently to the cases examined. The quality assurance regime had produced investigation reports and public statements that had withstood challenge, internally and externally, whilst scrutiny of both investigative processes and the preparation of



public statements were evident at each stage. The OPONI senior management team was cohesive in its aspiration to produce thorough, accurate and high quality public statements.

The provision of sensitive information to the OPONI by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) had operated according to protocol in the completed cases examined. However, more recent difficulties had resulted in legal action being instigated by the Police Ombudsman against the PSNI. This issue had largely been addressed by the time of publication, although the results had yet to be seen in ongoing cases. Based on a range of evidence Inspectors concluded that the independence of the OPONI had been restored.

The report was published on 30 September 2014. ■

Serious and Organised Crime

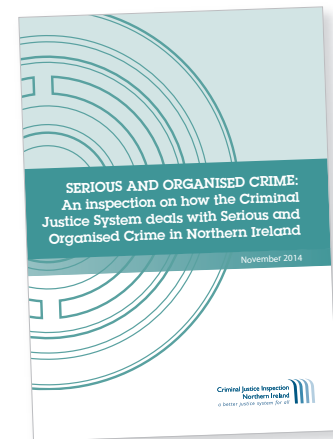
An inspection report on how the criminal justice system deals with serious and organised crime in Northern Ireland has been published by CJI.

It found that the criminal justice agencies, and in particular the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), have invested heavily in responding to the threats which are posed by serious and organised crime.

Inspectors found there was a wealth of good work and evidence of significant impact arising from the work of the criminal justice agencies in their responses to serious and organised crime. There was, for example, very strong evidence of partnership working, of focus and determination and indeed of positive outcomes in many areas. Inspectors considered the significant benefits of the current arrangements in Northern Ireland included the unitary nature of the jurisdiction with, for example, a single police service and secondly, the existence and value added by the structures of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF).

One of two strategic recommendations made by Inspectors concerned the need for the OCTF to develop a more specific attention and focus on effective activities and outcomes. The second strategic recommendation, directed to the PSNI, was that its response to serious and organised crime should be established as a core activity across the PSNI. Inspectors found that the strategic focus in this area was less strong at local district levels and that more ownership and responsibility, coupled with support, needs to be provided.

Inspectors also highlighted a range of areas for improvement in their report, specifically in the sphere of delivery. These included strengthened business processes including supporting structures and/or policies in areas such as kidnap and extortion and cyber crime. Inspectors also identified that improvements were required in terms of



the delivery capability and capacity in the e-crime and in the murder review functions.

While there was evidence of some significant achievement, Inspectors also highlighted that better performance management within the PSNI should be addressed through the setting of clearer measures and performance indicators.

Finally, the recommendations and the areas for improvement were said by Inspectors to represent the need for incremental and continuous improvements, rather than any need for fundamental change. ■

CJI publishes 2013-14 Annual Report

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2013-14 in July 2014.

The report, which was approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General of the Northern Ireland Audit Office, outlines the work undertaken by the Inspectorate during the course of the last financial year.

“I have pleasure in submitting this report to the Northern Ireland Assembly, and placing on record the valuable work carried out by CJI during

the course of the 2013-14 financial year,” said James Corrigan, Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland’s Chief Executive and Accounting Officer.

“I am also pleased to see that once again, the Inspectorate has secured a clean audit certificate from the Comptroller and Auditor General, who recorded that he had no observations to



make in relation to the financial statements supplied to him,” said Mr Corrigan.

Copies of CJI’s Annual Report and Accounts can be downloaded for CJI’s website – www.cjini.org.

Prison recalls

Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan and Inspector Stephen Dolan from CJI attended a seminar on recalls to prison which was held at the Prison Service Staff College, Millisle on Thursday 2 October. The seminar was organised by the new Reducing Offending Directorate of the Department of Justice, in conjunction with the Parole Commissioners and the Northern Ireland Probation Board.

The seminar was an opportunity for the leading statutory organisations involved in recalls to discuss the process and the impact this has on the individual, the justice family and the wider community.

The event was also attended by the Minister of Justice David Ford MLA and the Chief Parole Commissioner Christine Glenn. It proved to be an informative event which identified a series of actions to be taken forward by the new Directorate under the leadership of Sue McAllister. Stephen Dolan is currently the Lead Inspector on a report assessing the impact of recalls to prison on the criminal justice system which CJI hope to publish early in 2015. ■

Inspectors meet with Justice Committee on legal aid

CJJ met with the Committee for Justice in October and reported on the possible impact of the Department of Justice's legal aid reform package which included changes to Crown Court fees, changes to fees for family and children's proceedings, the level of representation for such proceedings and the eligibility of applicants to receive civil legal aid.

The sparsity of evidence in Northern Ireland left a conclusive assessment open to question, although the experience of England and Wales indicated some larger firms expanding their practices into more rural areas, with mergers of smaller firms taking place. There was evidence of an increase in personal litigants in family courts, although this was not evident in Northern Ireland, and the level and quality of representation here was still regarded very highly.

Committee members raised concerns that referrals to the Criminal Case Review Commission could increase and CJI agreed that

this was an issue to be monitored over the coming years. One of the greatest concerns of the Committee for Justice was the impact of changes to fee rates on the overall cost of cases and therefore legal aid. Members' views were divided with some advocating a 'wait and see' approach to the most recent changes and others suggesting that the proposed changes should be extended. CJI presented evidence showing that legal aid costs had risen year on year, forecasting remained inaccurate and that the Legal Services Commission would have to request additional funding to meet demand. ■



Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan and William Priestley address the Committee for Justice.

Call to improve self-harm, suicide, bullying and drug misuse in local prisons

In October 2014 CJI and the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) published a report on the safety of prisoners held by the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS). In the report CJI called on the NIPS and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) to improve how they tackle issues of self-harm, suicide, bullying and drug misuse in local prisons.

“Serving time in prison can be relatively straightforward for some offenders, but for those prisoners with mental health issues, personality disorders, drug or alcohol addiction or learning difficulties, it can be a time of great vulnerability,” said Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan.

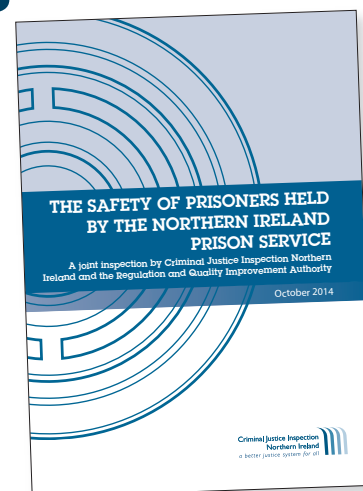
“The safety of prisoners is not just about preventing deaths in custody - it’s about ensuring appropriate care and support is provided to protect and support those who are at risk,” he said. Given the concentration of need found in Northern Ireland’s prisons, Inspectors recommended that existing policies aimed at addressing these issues, be reviewed to take account of the inspection findings.

“Joint strategies between the NIPS and the SEHSCT should be introduced to address the interlinked areas of suicide, self-harm, bullying and violence reduction and the availability and access to illegal and prescription drugs. This work should be undertaken as a matter of urgency, as the quantity and availability of drugs within the prisons is concerning and has significant links to bullying and safer custody” said the Chief Inspector.

Reflecting on the current situation, Mr McGuigan said: “We would acknowledge the work the NIPS and SEHSCT have carried out to improve prisoner safety since 2008. Inspectors saw evidence of good work being undertaken by Prison

Service and healthcare staff on a daily basis in dealing with difficult, damaged and vulnerable individuals in a caring manner. This positive engagement coupled with quick and decisive action, has meant lives have been saved.

“We would urge the NIPS and SEHSCT to enhance communication and strengthen their working relationships at strategic and operational levels. I believe this inspection report can be used as a springboard to develop the partnership between the two organisations to improve safety and outcomes for prisoners, and we will return to assess progress as part of our future follow-up review programme,” Mr McGuigan concluded. ■



Season's Greetings

CJI would like to wish all readers of The Spec a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Inspectorate would like to thank all those who participated and assisted with its Inspection work during 2014 for their help.

We look forward to continuing this positive engagement in 2015.