

CJI publishes its Business Plan for 2014-15

The CJI Business Plan for 2014-15 sets out new inspections and follow-up reviews that will be undertaken for 18 months commencing in April past. These were determined by external consultation as well as a 'stock take' of views from across the criminal justice system.



Two thematic inspections will be looked at on the impact of alcohol and drug misuse on the criminal justice system. Ongoing oversight of the response of the Prison

Service to the Review Team recommendations will be augmented by a full inspection of a prison, as well as a more specific inspection of the impact of recalls to prison.

Inspections with a PSNI focus include police custody arrangements and the enforcement of road traffic laws. Other areas of wider focus in the programme include hate crime, the use of management information, reducing offending and equality and diversity. CJI will also be conducting seven follow-up reviews as well as responding to specific ministerial requests.

Inspection Programme 2014-15

	2014																								2015												2016		
INSPECTIONS																																							
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar															
Inspection of Juvenile Justice Centre			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																											
The impact of the abuse of alcohol on the CJS				X	X	X	X	X	X	X																													
Enforcement of Road Traffic Laws				X	X	X	X	X																															
The impact of recalls to prison on the CJS					X	X	X	X																															
How the criminal justice agencies deal with Hate Crime								X	X	X	X																												
Police Custody arrangements									X	X	X																												
Youth Justice Review Oversight										X	X	X																											
The availability and use of management and performance information across the CJS											X	X	X	X																									
Reducing Offending Partnerships												X	X	X	X																								
Equality and Diversity monitoring by the criminal justice agencies																	X	X	X	X																			
Drugs Misuse/ Enforcement																	X	X	X	X	X	X																	
Prison Review Team Oversight	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																											

Please note: This chart shows the phasing of the proposed work programme for the 18 months commencing from April 2014 which takes account of CJI's resourcing requirements.

An outcome focused approach to business planning, designed to help deliver sustainable performance improvement across the justice system, is reflected in the new CJI corporate targets. This includes a commitment to increase the proportion of recommendations fully/partially achieved, as well as decrease the proportion which are not achieved at the time of a follow-up review. There is also a target to strengthen co-operation with partner inspectorates and oversight bodies, which builds upon the agreements in place with the main criminal justice organisations. ■

Northern Ireland Policing Board 'Confidence in Policing' conference at Titanic Belfast



L-R above are: Maurice Hayes, Gearóid ÓhEára, Brendan McGuigan, Keir Starmer QC, Debbie Watters, Dr Michael Maguire.

CJI Chief Inspector, **Brendan McGuigan** was invited to take part in the recent Northern Ireland Policing Board 'Confidence in Policing' conference.

The conference examined and debated the key challenges for community confidence in policing.

The main aims were to inform discussion and understanding about the factors affecting community confidence in policing with the community and other key influencers.

Keynote speakers and panellists made up of human rights specialists, policing figures, community representatives and media commentators looked at

the role and influence of political representatives, community leaders and the media on confidence in policing.

The Chief Inspector took part in a panel which looked at police accountability with the discussion centred on the mechanisms in place to ensure accountability of policing. ■

Staff News

Congratulations to Inspector Rachel Lindsay on the birth of her son Zach and to Amanda Murray, Business and Communications Support Officer on the birth of her daughter Ella Rose.

Congratulations also go to Inspector Bill Priestley who graduated from the University of Ulster in February with a Masters in Public Administration – well done!

Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland
a better justice system for all



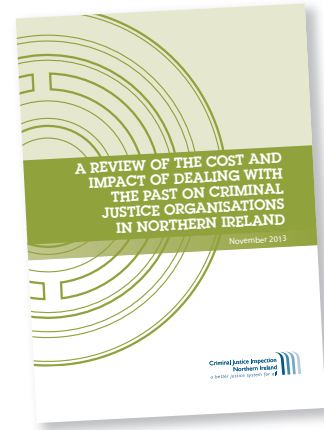
Dealing with The Past

A review of the cost and impact of dealing with The Past on criminal justice organisations in Northern Ireland was published by CJI.

The report recognised there is both a legal and moral responsibility on the criminal justice system to ensure that all crimes are fully investigated to provide answers to victims, survivors and families, and where possible, bring offenders to justice. The report was noted as a timely reminder of the impacts and the cost of The Past on the criminal justice agencies.

Inspectors found the criminal justice system had largely absorbed the financial costs of legacy issues without significant separate funding. It was also noted that there were significant consequences for some specialist areas in the criminal justice system, where a disproportionate responsibility was being borne by a relatively small number of individuals and teams engaged in undertaking this legacy work.

This had an impact on how current criminal justice issues were being handled. Delay and having to balance competing priorities are the outcomes of this, and these in turn can become a negative influence on



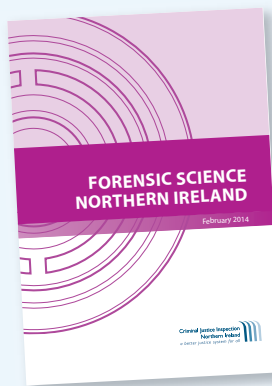
public confidence in the overall system. The report provided some clarity on the financial costs which were then estimated in excess of £30m per annum.

Inspectors clearly acknowledged the significant efforts being made by criminal justice agencies to deal with The Past and suggested a small number of areas for improvement to support their work. ■

Forensic Science Northern Ireland

A third inspection report by CJI on Forensic Science Northern Ireland (FSNI) was published earlier this year. A main focus of the report was an assessment of progress made against the recommendations of the 2009 report.

The report states the need for the criminal justice system to develop a more joined-up approach to forensic services to meet current and future forensic requirements. The preparation of a new criminal justice strategy is an opportunity to develop a seamless forensic service from crime scene to court, which can be



supported by strengthened collaborative arrangements with the police in particular.

The inspection

found that

the quality of the scientific analysis and reporting by FSNI was good. The Agency successfully retained external quality accreditation for its services and achieved good customer satisfaction with the standard of advice and reports being provided.

The wider problems associated with avoidable delay do require ongoing

change and performance improvement within the Agency. Efficiency improvements in functional areas such as drugs analysis now needs to be extended across the organisation. Inspectors have recommended that a proportion of these savings should be dedicated to research and development.

There is also a need to better plan and match capacity to future demands, in conjunction with its key police customer. This takes on more importance in the advent of the new laboratory facilities in evidence recovery and DNA. Realising the benefits of this investment has the potential to transform the delivery of forensic services in Northern Ireland. ■

CJI connects with Eastern Europe and Central Asia

FYRO Macedonia visit by Inspector Bill Priestley

Bill Priestley recently visited FYRO Macedonia at the request of the Council of Europe (CoE) Programme Office in Skopje to provide opinion and recommendations for improving the institutional/operational framework for prevention of ill-treatment and effective investigation of complaints.

This round table presentation followed previous work carried out by Bill in support of Mr Eric Svandze, lead consultant on the project, in compiling an assessment entitled 'Capacity Building of the Law Enforcement Agencies for Appropriate Treatment of Detained and Sentenced Persons' in FYRO Macedonia.

The round table was attended by a total of 32 participants, most of them representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Sector for Internal Control and Professional Standards (SICPS), but also members from the academic community,

judiciary, public prosecution, Ombudsman and civil society took active participation at the event.

The meeting was opened by Ms Aneta Stancevska, Assistant to the Minister for Internal Control and Professional Standards. Issues raised following the presentation of the report included further explanation of the European Court of Human Rights case-law and other international standards and best practices, clarification on the re-organisation of the Sector for Internal Control and Professional

Standards (SICPS) and the position of the Sector within the Ministry, the co-operation with other organisations and institutions, communication with citizens and complainants.

Delegates were facilitated in discussing the findings of the report and ways of addressing recommendations and concerns. Reference was made to the forthcoming fact-finding visit to Northern Ireland being undertaken by representatives from the FYRO Macedonia police and officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. ■



Visit to Northern Ireland by representatives of the FYRO Macedonia police and Ministry of the Interior

A delegation of officials from FYRO Macedonia visited the offices of CJI as part of a fact finding mission supported and organised by Mr Donche Boshkovski, Senior Project Officer, Council of Europe Programme Office in Skopje.

The delegation was led by Ms Aneta Stanchevska, Assistant to the Minister of Internal Affairs in charge of the Sector for Internal Control and Professional Standards and included representatives from the Department for Criminal and Operative Affairs; the Department for Professional Standards, Integrity and Prevention; and the Sector for Police and Crime, Bureau for Public Safety.

The Chief and Deputy Chief Inspectors, various Inspectors and



CJI's Business and Communications Manager presented a detailed explanation of the role and remit of CJI within the police oversight structure in Northern Ireland to the delegates. The Macedonian officials were particularly interested in the interaction between the various

oversight bodies in Northern Ireland and outcomes for citizens. The visit programme, organised by the Department of Justice included a visit to the Office of the Police Ombudsman, the Policing Board and the PSNI, as well as a meeting with the Minister of Justice. ■

Visit to Northern Ireland by representatives of the American University of Central Asia

CJI's Chief and Deputy Chief Inspector, along with Inspector Bill Priestley recently met with Mr Bach Avezdjanov, a consultant with the Tian Shan Policy Centre and associate professor Sarah King from the American University of Central Asia based in Kyrgyzstan.

The meeting was requested by Mr Avezdjanov based on preliminary research his team had carried out which had identified Northern Ireland as a leading centre in curbing abuse by

the police and police oversight.

Mr Avezdjanov and Professor King were particularly interested in the work CJI had carried out into the independence of the office of the Police Ombudsman (published September 2011) and the follow-up review (published January 2013).

The University of Central Asia and the Tian Shan Policy Centre are currently working on identifying best



practice in police abuse and torture preventative models in Europe and Latin America. Their research is aimed to aid legislators and civil society in identifying the best means to prevent torture in Kyrgyzstan. ■

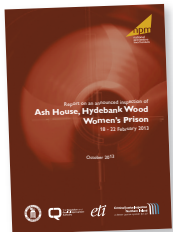
CJI's publication round-up

In what has been another very busy and successful year for CJI, here we round-up some of our publications from the past 10-12 months. All full reports, e-Books and follow-up reviews are accessible via www.cjini.org.



Looking at the contribution of approved premises to Northern Ireland's public protection arrangements, this report indicated that the facilities were meeting each of the standards tested.

Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan said "This latest report indicates the approved premises in Northern Ireland were meeting each of the six standards tested in this inspection including the resources available to undertake high risk work with offenders, risk assessments, monitoring and surveillance and risk management and enforcement."



Published in conjunction with HMIP, RQIA and ETI, CJI carried out this inspection of the Young Offender's Centre and the Women's Prison at Hydebank Wood.

Inspectors raised significant concerns around the performance of the two prisons and their ability to deliver positive outcomes for prisoners within their care.

CJI Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan said "These two inspection reports contain 156 recommendations for improvement which outline the challenges to be addressed by the new management teams in place at both the YOC and Ash House to deal with current failings.

"While Inspectors found some examples of good practice in both facilities, particularly in relation to offender management arrangements, the overall level of performance must not be permitted to continue.

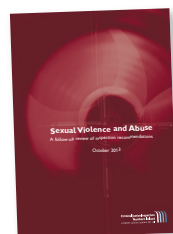
"The new leadership teams in place at Hydebank Wood YOC and Ash House must work to deliver a fundamental improvement in outcomes for prisoners. A radical rethink is also required to the approach to the imprisonment of women in Northern Ireland, in order to improve standards and opportunities," Mr McGuigan concluded.



This CJI report looked into corporate governance in the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission (NILSC). The report called for radical reform of the NILSC in order to address spiralling legal aid costs and inefficiencies.

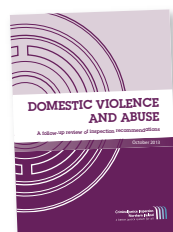
"This inspection of corporate governance arrangements within the organisation had shown the NILSC struggled with the management of the legal aid budget since it was established.

"This is due to the fact the NILSC has no control over the granting of criminal legal aid - which is awarded by the judiciary - and only limited control over the granting of civil legal aid," said Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan.



Originally reported in 2010, CJI made 12 recommendations for improvement. This follow-up review of Sexual Violence and Abuse found that seven of these recommendations were assessed as achieved; three were found to be partially achieved; and two were not achieved.

"CJI will endeavour to undertake a further full inspection of this topic, as it remains a priority for the Inspectorate" said Brendan McGuigan, Chief Inspector.



Of the 13 recommendations made in CJI's Domestic Violence and Abuse inspection in 2010, one was achieved, six were partially achieved and a further six were not achieved at the time the follow-up review was conducted.

Commenting on the findings, Brendan McGuigan said he was concerned by the level of progress made to date and urged the PSNI in particular, to apply greater strategic leadership and effort to this important issue.

This topic, as with sexual violence and abuse will be returned to in 2015.

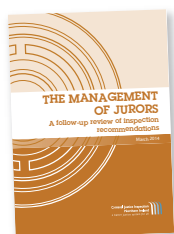


When CJI first inspected the Parole Commissioners in 2011, Inspectors made seven recommendations - which involved the Parole Commissioners, the then Northern Ireland Court Service and the Department of Justice - aimed at strengthening the governance and working of the organisation.

The review of progress against recommendations found five recommendations had been fully implemented with substantial progress on completing the remaining two.

“This follow-up review found that the Parole Commissioners have increased performance, efficiency and service delivery,” said Lead Inspector Stephen Dolan.

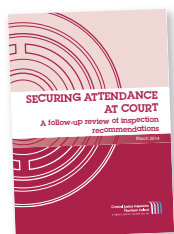
Brendan McGuigan, Chief Inspector concluded “We suggest that the Department of Justice should consider scheduling the Parole Commissioners as non-Crown judicial appointments as this would provide the guarantee of independence they desire and oversight by the Lord Chief Justice’s Office that would satisfy public accountability requirements.”



The management of jurors was first inspected in 2010 when Inspectors made eight recommendations designed to strengthen existing arrangements.

The follow-up review found five of the eight recommendations had been achieved by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS), with a further two recommendations partially achieved.

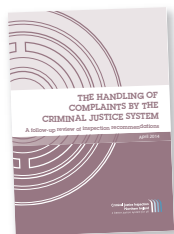
“The Inspectorate commends the NICTS for the progress it has made in implementing the inspection recommendations and welcome its ongoing commitment to improved customer service and juror management” said Lead Inspector Bill Priestley.



Inspectors first looked at court attendance in 2011 when they made six recommendations aimed at enhancing the effective and efficient operation of the courts.

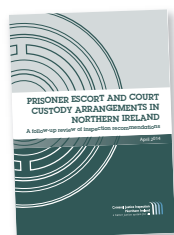
CJI found that three of the six recommendations had been achieved and the remaining three partially achieved when Inspectors returned to look at this topic in 2013.

This is a positive development but CJI Inspectors said they felt disappointed much of the work to progress the inspection recommendations had only been recently undertaken.



This short follow-up review of how complaints are handled by the criminal justice system found information generated as a result of complaints was being used to further develop services and incorporated into organisational learning.

It also reported that current arrangements to handle complaints within the criminal justice system were operating efficiently and effectively.



In the first inspection of this area in 2010, CJI made 17 recommendations for improvement. When Inspectors returned to examine prisoner escort and court custody arrangements they found 13 had been achieved with work undertaken in relation to the remaining four.

Inspector Stephen Dolan said: “The progress noted in this review is commendable as previous inspection reports across a range of Prison Service activities have not met with anywhere near this amount of success. These developments have been made possible by clearly defined objectives, determined leadership and enthusiastic teamwork.”