

Inspection Long List 2026-27

Serious Fraud Office inspection

1. Follow-up- Disclosure

A follow-up inspection to independently assess progress against the six recommendations made in the April 2024 report disclosure report.

2. Induction and training

An inspection examining the effectiveness of the SFO's induction and training offer to new staff to provide the relevant skills and tools for the job to enable them to contribute effectively at an early stage.

Crown Prosecution Service inspection

3. Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division (SCCTD)

An inspection to assess the assurance and oversight of these serious and sensitive casework decisions. Are the teams effective and efficient in dealing with casework?

4. Central Progression Team

The CPS's central progression team forms part of CPSD but is deployed to assist with addressing charging backlogs in Areas. CPT decisions are recorded as 'Area' decisions. An inspection would assess the quality of the decisions made by CPT prosecutors, including the decision to charge, selection of charges and the quality of case analysis and strategy and how that contributes to Area performance.

5. Legal leadership

An inspection to assess the strength and quality of legal leadership in CPS Areas at all levels, and whether there is the capacity and capability to drive improvements in casework quality.

6. The role of the paralegal assistant in supporting victims and witnesses at court

An inspection of how effective paralegals are in ensuring that CPS's standards and expectations about supporting victims and witnesses at court are effectively carried out in every case. This inspection will consider whether the speaking to witness(es) at court scheme is consistently applied and whether victims and witnesses are spoken to in advance of the case and whether they are kept

updated throughout the progress of the hearing especially during multi day trials. This inspection could also encompass an assessment of the courts' administration and service to victims including an assessment of the facilities at court (using the powers of inspection of HMCTS).

7. The experience of victims in magistrates' courts cases

This inspection would involve inspectors attending magistrates' courts hearings, meeting with the witness service, seeking to speak to victims at the conclusion of their cases, observing trials, consideration of CPS compliance with the speaking to witness(es) at court scheme. It may be possible to combine with 5 above.

8. An examination of Victims' Right to Review (VRR)

This inspection would assess the VRR scheme in Areas and Divisions. It will also assess the value added by the cases that are escalated to the Appeals and Review unit (in the Serious Economic, Organised Crime, International Division).

9. Case progression in cases alleging drugs supply

This inspection would consider the post charge case reviews and progression of cases where multiple defendants are indicted with offences involving the supply of class A drugs. This inspection would focus on cases where there are late pleas accepted, or cases dropped at trial (so cracked cases) to assess whether the cases could have been resolved earlier given the impact of late cracked cases on the increasing Crown Court backlog.

10. Domestic abuse: non-fatal strangulation cases

This inspection would review a range of successful and unsuccessful outcomes in cases where non-fatal strangulation offences were charged to provide an assurance of the consistent and effective application of this new legislation across all CPS Areas.

11. Youth Court casework

An inspection of how effectively the CPS prosecutes more complex cases in the Youth Court where, had the defendant been an adult, the case would have been tried in the Crown Court. This inspection will consider the effectiveness of the decision making and the quality of in-house advocacy in these cases.

12. Best practice

An examination of how the CPS identifies and promulgates best practice considering how the continuous improvement team, operational assurance

team, legal assurance team and the Director of Legal Services team work together to drive consistency and compliance.

13. How effective is the CPS in delivering a service that meets victims' rights under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime?

This inspection would assess the CPS's approach to special measures, Victim Personal Statements, speaking to witness(es) at court scheme, pre-court visits, meetings with bereaved families, meetings with victims of rape and serious sexual offences, Victim Care Letter scheme, and explaining decisions to charge or not to charge.

14. Case progression

An assessment of the value added by the CPS post charge through an examination of the quality of processes and decision making in 'significant event reviews'. 'Significant events' are where something material changes in the case post-charge such as a witness indicates they no longer support the prosecution case or where the defence offer a basis of plea.

15. Effective communication with witness care units (WCU)

An examination of the effectiveness of communication to support victims and witnesses through an assessment of the compliance with the CPS WCU Memoranda of Understanding (MoU). This would, inspection would be a HMCPSI follow-up assessing the impact of the MoU developed in response to the recommendation set out in the joint inspection report 'Meeting the Needs of Victims'.

16. Transforming Summary Justice (TSJ) and Better Case Management (BCM)

An inspection assessing compliance and whether the front loading of cases is effective in increasing early guilty pleas and reducing hearings in contested cases following the principles of TSJ and BCM.

17. Level one assurance of legal decision making by Areas

An inspection assessing whether Areas have effective assurance in place to assess the quality of legal decision. It would encompass examination of Local Case Management Panels, operation of sensitive case lists, Individual Quality Assessment scheme, and local (Area) Casework Quality Boards.

18. The effectiveness of the CPS in handling bribery and corruption casework

An inspection of the CPS's handling of bribery cases to look at legal decision making and the effectiveness and efficiency of case progression from referral to conclusion. The case of Kase Lawal was dropped at Southwark Crown Court as a

result of disclosure failings following an eight-year prosecution with the case due to come to trial in September 2025. This inspection would assess systems and processes in Serious Economic, Organised Crime, International Division to support bribery and corruption cases.

19. Effective preparation for the plea and trial preparation hearing

An assessment of the effectiveness of the CPS preparation of cases for the plea and trial preparation hearing (PTPH) in the Crown Court. The inspection could include an assessment of liaison and engagement with HMCTS administrative staff with regard to case progression and listing, as well as the effectiveness of stakeholder relationships in addressing issues at operational and strategic levels.

20. An examination of cases requiring consent to prosecute

An inspection examining cases where the consent of the Attorney General or the Director of Public Prosecutions is required to initiate proceedings. The inspection would assess compliance with the procedures and the timeliness and efficiency of the process.

21. The quality of briefs to counsel and brief returns

Inspection findings on recent inspection indicate that as caseloads have increased and securing counsel in cases that the quality of briefs and number of returns has increased. This inspection would consider the value added by CPS to casework and instructions to counsel as well as the impact of returns of effectiveness and efficiency.

22. Proceeds of crime

An inspection examining the CPS's approach to asset recovery, restraint, confiscation orders.