

## REPORT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS DCA VALUE FOR MONEY TARGET

This target is met if, by March 2006:

- improvements are achieved in value for money which, over the SR2002 period, equate to an average per year of 3% of the £1.9bn (i.e. £57m pa or £171m for three years) relating to criminal justice spend in the Department's 2002/03 baseline;
- improvements in efficiency are achieved which, across the whole SR2002 period, equate to an average per year of 2% of the Department's total 2002/03 DEL of £3bn (i.e. £60m pa or £210m for three years).

### **Latest Information:**

In 2004/05 outturn against the DCA target was £210million or 6% of average annual DCA spend (2003-04 outturn was £28million).

For the criminal justice target, out-turn was £126 million or 6.6% of average annual criminal justice spend (2003-04 outturn was £39million).

The DCA figure was made up of £74 million of Very High Cost Criminal Cases efficiencies, £117m asylum legal aid efficiencies and £19 million from other criminal legal aid efficiencies.

The CJS target excludes the asylum efficiencies, but includes an additional £33 million of efficiencies from fines enforcement.

The 2004-05 outturn figures exceed planned projections for both targets.

Savings against the DCA target mainly result from reforms to the asylum and immigration legal aid process which were expected to result in significant savings in resource spend largely due to reduction in volumes of those seeking legal assistance. This, coupled with a reduction in numbers of asylum seekers generally, is expected to lead to a drastic decline in spend against this target throughout the remainder of this year 2005-06.

### **Source:**

Department for Constitutional Affairs