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HM Inspectorate of Court Administration Annual Report

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Court Administration has today published his annual report detailing the quality, quantity and type of services delivered by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) over the past year.

Among the issues reported are inspections on how HMCS delivered on the quality of the service provided to its users, its administrative support systems and the recording and dissemination of court decisions.

In addition, HMICA was also engaged in inspections with other justice Inspectorates of how the criminal justice system deals with offenders with mental health issues, the implementation of the Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPO) initiative and the experiences of victims and witnesses.

HMICA has also monitored HMCS's progress in implementing the recommendations of previous inspections. Their work in this area has included the youth courts, performance management, the quality of service provided to jurors and the internal communications of HMCS.

Publishing his fourth Annual Report, HMICA Chief Inspector Eddie Bloomfield said:

"HMICA and HMCS share a desire to continually improve the quality of the system that supports the business of the courts. Our inspections have found many positive aspects to that system and have clearly identified where improvements were required. Our post inspection review process continues to demonstrate the value of our work. This process allows us to monitor actions and follow up progress of implementing our inspection recommendations."

"Alongside a busy programme of inspections, we have implemented our Change Programme, developed and delivered our three year Strategic Plan and shared our knowledge and experience to provide advice to the Croatian Ministry of Justice and the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland."

"Through our work, which we have delivered in accordance with the Government's ten principles of public service inspection, we continue to contribute to a better justice system through excellence in inspection."

A copy of the HMICA Annual Report is available at www.hmica.gov.uk

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Notes for Editors

1. **Media Enquiries:** 020 3334 3536
2. Copies of the Chief Inspector's Annual Report were laid before Parliament, placed in the libraries of both Houses and published on 15 July 2009.
3. **About HM Inspectorate of Court Administration (HMICA)**
HMICA is an independent, statutory inspectorate created by the Courts Act 2003 as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006. Our duty is to inspect and report on the system that supports the carrying on of the business of the Crown Court, county courts and magistrates' courts and the services provided by those courts. These courts are administered by HMCS. HMICA also works closely with colleagues from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMI Probation) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons) to deliver a joint programme of Area and thematic inspections.
4. Eddie Bloomfield has been HMICA's Chief Inspector since its creation in 2005.