

IPS Framework

Background

The Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland (IPS) was placed on a statutory footing in April 2007 by the Criminal Proceedings etc. (Reform) (Scotland) Act 2007, Part 5 (sections 78 & 79).

Purpose

The aim of the IPS is to enhance the quality of service provided by and secure public confidence in the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) through independent inspection and evaluation to enhance the effectiveness of and to promote excellence in the prosecution service in Scotland.

We also work and liaise with other Inspectorates in the Criminal Justice Sector on joint reviews and areas of common concern.

Values

The core values of the Inspectorate are:

I ndependence	to provide impartial and objective scrutiny of the service provided by COPFS
P rofessionalism	to undertake inspections with integrity, rigour, competency and consistency
S ervice	To provide a service that enhances public confidence in the investigation and prosecution of crime and any deaths that need further explanation and any associated fatal accident inquiry proceedings in Scotland.

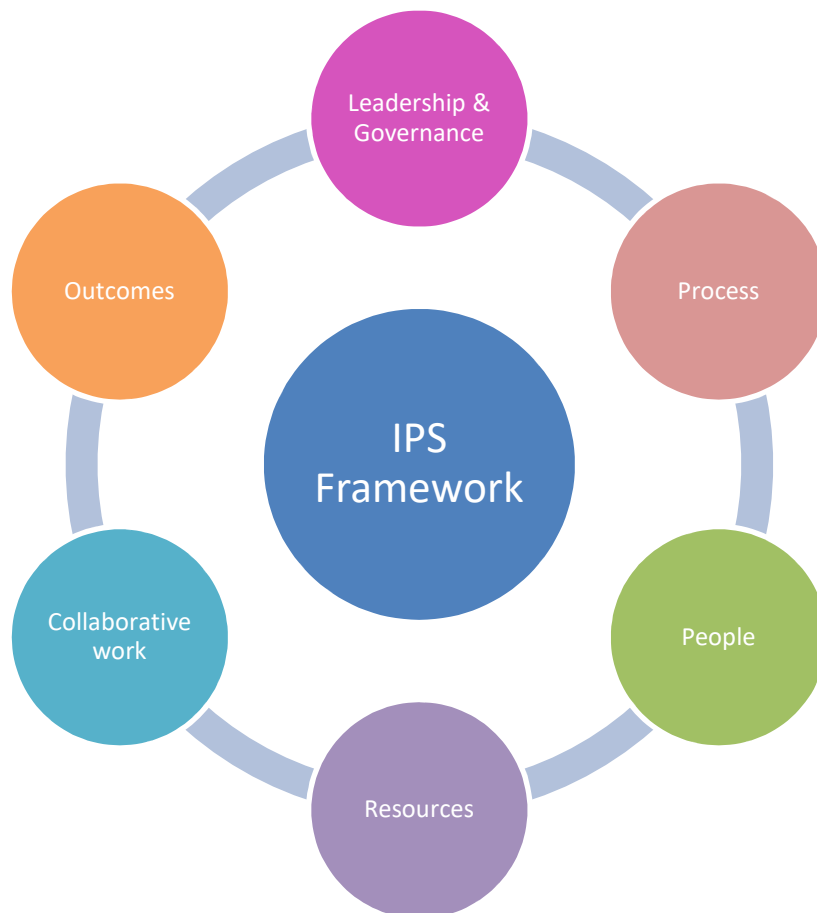
IPS Approach to Inspection

The IPS approach to inspection is to encourage an inclusive and participative process designed to secure improvement across the system, acting as an impartial and professional 'critical friend'. In addition to identifying areas for improvement it is important to highlight and promote examples of good practice so that they can be adopted elsewhere. The work of the Inspectorate must be relevant to the issues impacting on our communities.

In selecting topics for inspection, the Inspectorate adopts an objective risk-based approach, informed by consultation with our stakeholders.

IPS FRAMEWORK

In line with the European Foundation of Quality Management (EFQM) Model of Excellence, IPS inspects the following core areas:



Leadership & Governance

We will assess how leaders in COPFS provide and direct strategic vision and aims. We will examine how leaders demonstrate commitment to meeting priorities and encourage others to participate towards success through the provision of policies reflecting the overall vision and aims.

Process

We will examine processes and procedures to assess how they are designed and managed, whether they are focussed on user needs, support overall strategies and are delivered in an effective and efficient manner. We will also assess whether key activities are understood and are reviewed regularly.

People

We will assess whether knowledge and competencies have been matched with needs and how staff are managed and developed. We will also assess whether staff feel empowered and involved and that they feel their efforts are recognised.

Resources

We will examine financial and information resources and assets (IT, buildings, materials, etc) to determine whether they are managed in a way that supports policy, strategy and the effective and efficient operation of process and whether they are fit for purpose.

Collaborative work

We will assess how well partners work together to support the delivery of policy and key strategies and the effective operation of COPFS processes.

Outcomes

We will examine how COPFS is performing concerning its key targets and indicators, how this is managed and whether lessons are learned through consultation and implementation of improvement plans. Within the wider context we will seek to determine the impact on service users, partners and local communities.

METHODOLOGY

In delivering our inspections, we have regard to the core principles of Independence, heralded by Professor Lorne D Crerar.¹

¹ Independent Review of Regulation, Audit, Inspection and Complaints Handling of Public Services in Scotland,' published September 2007.



1. *Independence* - We act independently of COPFS and provide impartial and objective advice and support. We make our own judgements and conclusions about service delivery and report our findings into the public domain.
2. *Proportionality* - We ensure that the work we carry out is proportionate and aim to minimise the impact of scrutiny on the areas being reviewed by basing the scope and duration of reviews on informed risk assessment.
3. *Transparency* – We are open about our process - we advise the areas under review of the aims and scope of our work and our conclusions and recommendations are based on actual evidence. We publish our reports on the IPS website.
4. *Accountability* - The HM Chief Inspector is required to publish an annual report covering the activities of IPS and this is laid before Parliament.
5. *Public focus* -The needs and priorities of service users and the public are considered in all reviews and diversity is a factor that is always taken into account when carrying out our activities.

We also observe the ten principles of inspection as follows –

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/cji/about-cji/how-we-inspect/the-ten-principles/>