

AN INSPECTION OF FILE QUALITY, DISCLOSURE AND CASE PROGRESSION AND TRIAL RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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POOR FILE QUALITY AND DISCLOSURE CONTRIBUTES TO:



**Increased resource
and financial costs**



**prosecution cases not
proceeding in a timely
way increasing delay**



**poorer outcomes for
victims, witnesses
and defendants**

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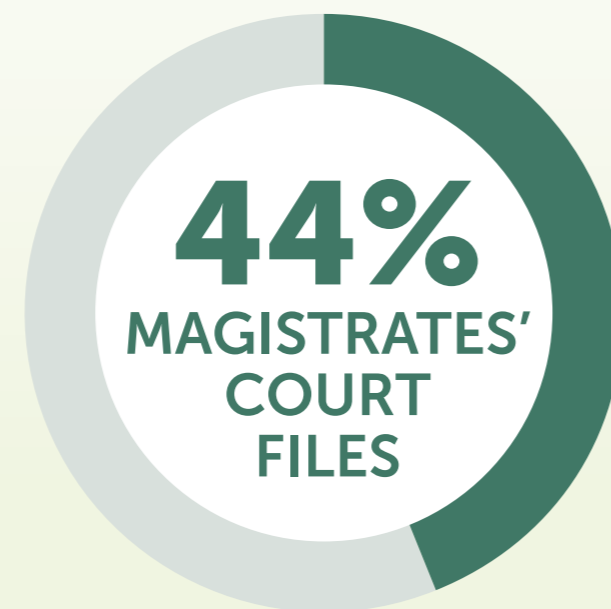
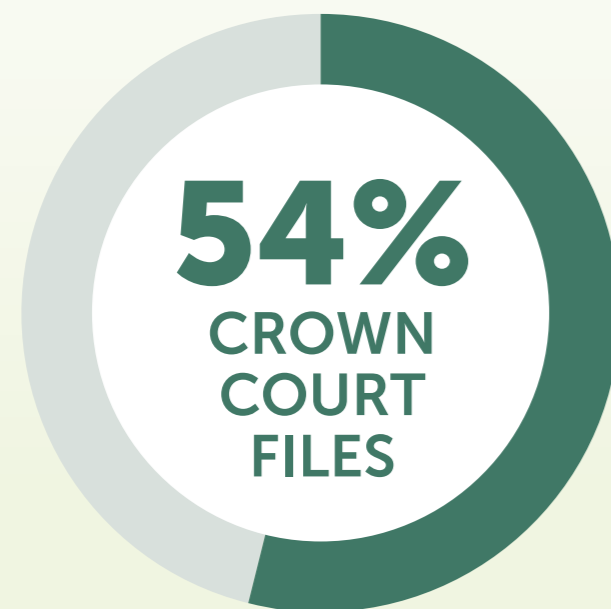
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FILE QUALITY IN THE POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE

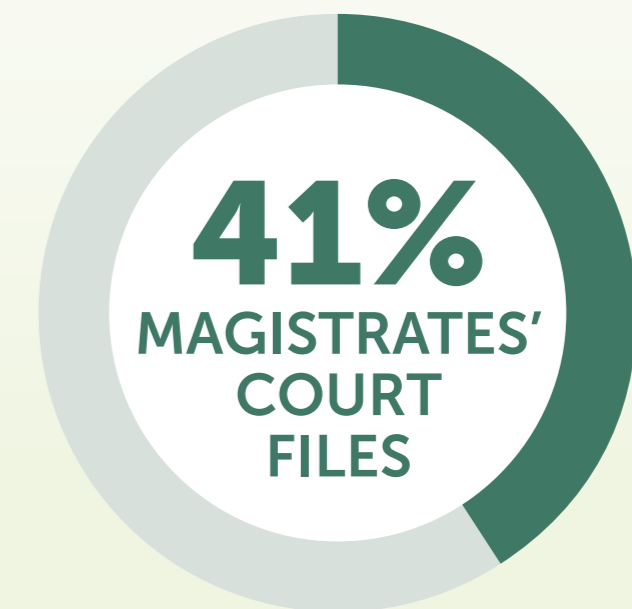
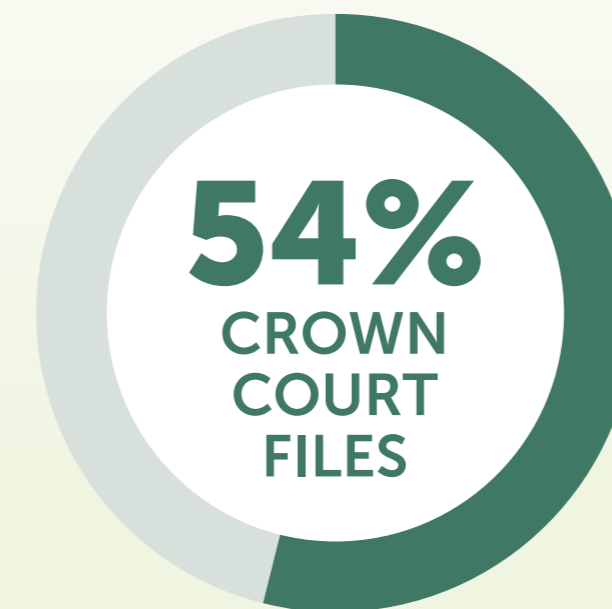
INSPECTORS FOUND:

Results from 100 Police
Service files reviewed:



Did not meet or only partially met
the required/agreed standard

Results from 100 Public
Prosecution Service files reviewed:



Did not meet or only partially met
the required/agreed standard

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Public Prosecution Service Decision Making



Inspectors found:

96%

**of PPS prosecution
files in the cases
sampled met the
Code for Prosecution
Standard.**

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CASE PROGRESSION

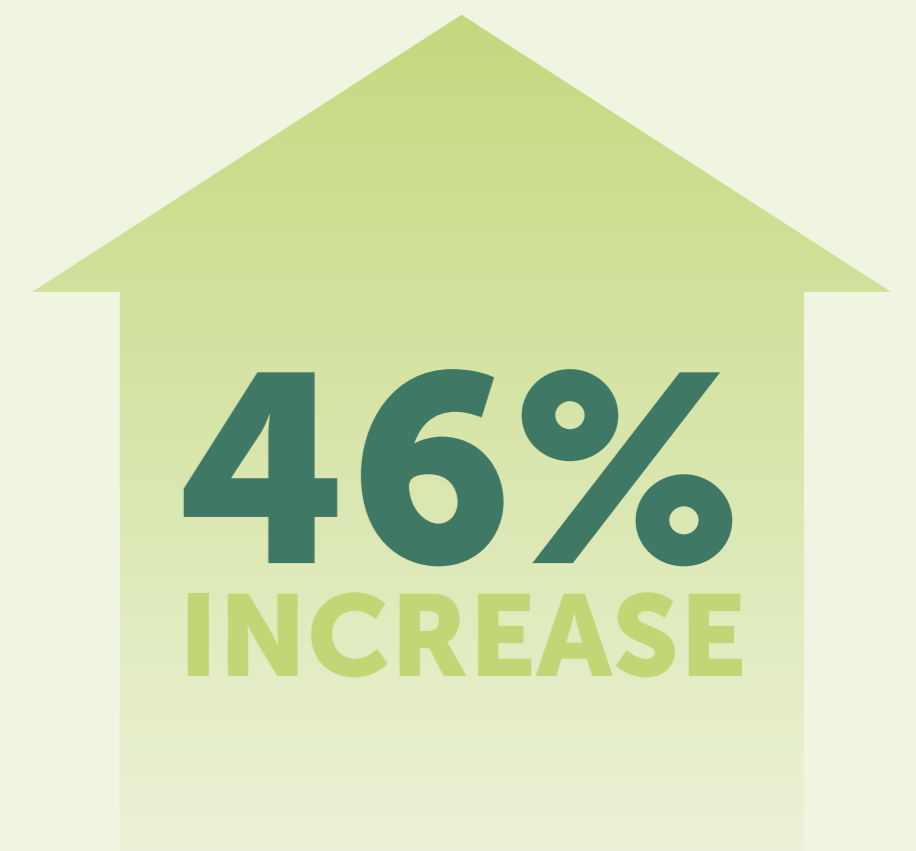
Delays in prosecution cases progressing from a report to the police to completion in court were growing.



90% OF CASES
COMPLETED



90% OF CASES
COMPLETED



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STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATION



An agreed criminal justice system vision and strategy to improve quality and reduce delay at each stage of file preparation and disclosure;

an effective Police Service & Public Prosecution Service partnership to deliver performance improvement and accountability;

clear targets and Corporate and Business Plan priorities to address the issues highlighted in this inspection; and

a Case Progression Commitment document to set quality standards, monitor performance and agree improvement.

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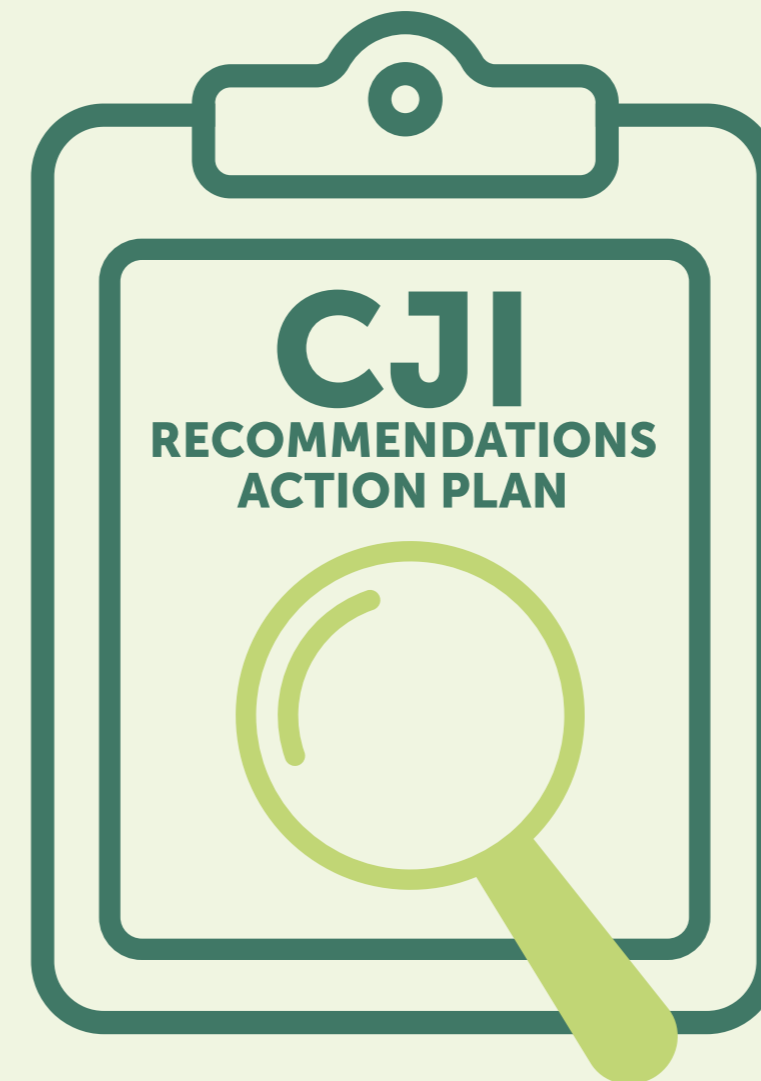
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OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS



**Enhanced training
and support for
supervisors within
the Police Service
to tackle quality
and delay**



**A joint Police Service
& Public Prosecution
Service action plan for
the completion of CJI's
six 2015 inspection
recommendations**