



## 2008 Stakeholder Conference focuses on D-day for Devolution

**CJI will be holding its annual Stakeholder Conference for 2008 on 17 January in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast.**

As usual the conference will bring together the Heads of the criminal justice agencies with a wide range of politicians, academics and representatives of the voluntary and community sector.

“The primary purpose of the conference is to enable CJI to consult widely about how it has been discharging its remit in the past year and about its inspection plans for the coming year,” said Chief Inspector Kit Chivers.

“Each year the conference also addresses a topical theme, and in 2008 it is inevitable that it should focus on the plans for devolution of policing and criminal justice,” he said.

After opening speeches by NIO Minister Paul Goggins MP and the Chief Inspector, CJI has invited two speakers from Scotland to talk about the experience of devolution there, one of whom will be the Lord Advocate, the Rt. Hon. Elish Angiolini QC. The Attorney General for Northern Ireland, the Rt. Hon. Baroness Scotland QC, also hopes to attend and welcome the Lord Advocate to this jurisdiction.

Sir Patrick Cormack, the Chairman of the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, which has done so much important work in the



criminal justice area in recent sessions (and is continuing to do so), will give his perspective on the prospect of devolution as his Committee prepares to hand over the oversight responsibility to a committee of the Assembly.

Maggie Beirne of the Committee on the Administration of Justice will explain her concerns about the crucial elements that need to be safeguarded from a human rights point of view when policing and justice are transferred.

A substantial period of time will be set aside for open debate on the issues that have been raised by the morning’s speakers.

During the afternoon, CJI’s Deputy Chief Inspector Brendan McGuigan will present the Inspectorate’s provisional work plans for the coming year. Delegates will then break into four groups to discuss areas of the justice system (policing, prosecution and courts, custody and human rights,

and probation and youth justice), before closing with a short plenary.

“There is an almost limitless range of topics which CJI could address, and it is extremely valuable for CJI to gather suggestions for future work and for priorities among the existing candidates for inspection,” said Kit.

“In the light of the conference CJI will revise its plans before submitting them to Ministers for approval in the context of its Business Plan for 2008-09,” he concluded.

The one-day conference will run from 9.30am to 4:00pm. ■

**As places are limited, invited delegates who have not yet responded are urged to do so as quickly as possible.**

**If you have not received an invitation but would like to apply for a place that has not yet been allocated, please email Linda Boal on [linda.boal@cjini.org](mailto:linda.boal@cjini.org) to register your interest.**

# CJI becomes inspector of the Court Service



Kit Chivers

**With the passage of the Justice and Security Act 2007, CJI has become responsible for the inspection of the Court Service in Northern Ireland.**

The administration of the courts was originally left out of CJI's remit, because it was uncertain whether responsibility for them would be devolved to the Assembly at the same time as the rest of the criminal justice system.

It is now clear that if and when policing and criminal justice are devolved, the Northern Ireland Court Service will also transfer to the new Ministry of Justice, so it is right that CJI should take responsibility for inspecting it.

At present the Court Service

reports to the Lord Chancellor, Jack Straw, and within his Department David Hanson MP, who used to be Minister of State in the NIO, is now the Minister for the Northern Ireland Courts.

The Court Service is inspected on behalf of Mr Hanson by HM Inspectorate of Courts Administration (HMICA), headed by HM Chief Inspector Eddie Bloomfield.

From now on while CJI will lead in inspecting the Northern Ireland courts, it will continue to work with HMICA, who are the experts in the field, and may delegate to them responsibility for leading particular inspections.

Crucially important is that neither CJI nor HMICA inspects

the judiciary. The independence of the judiciary is sacrosanct. That independence does not just relate to judicial decisions in individual cases, but also many aspects of the way the business of the courts is handled.

However, there is a borderline, which has been well established by HMICA, between what can properly be inspected and what cannot, and CJI will hope to work constructively with the judiciary around that boundary.

The new Act has also extended CJI's remit to cover the Legal Services Commission and the Life Sentence Review Commissioners. ■

## Self assessment exercise undertaken by CJI

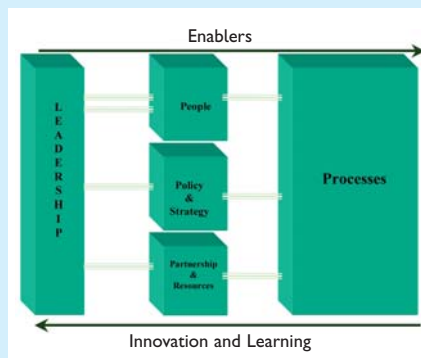
**CJI chose to follow its own prescription in autumn 2007 when staff members undertook a detailed self-assessment exercise.**

The work was designed to identify areas of strength and areas for development as the Inspectorate enters its fourth year of inspection activity.

The self-assessment tool chosen was the EFQM® model from which CJI's own 'common core' inspection framework was derived.

In order to ensure the exercise was as detailed and inclusive as possible, all staff completed a questionnaire setting out their evaluation of how CJI was performing in relation to

EFQM® Excellence Model  
Enabler Criteria



the five enabler criteria of the EFQM® excellence model (see diagram above).

Staff members were required to provide evidence and a score for

each area of assessment. This information was then analysed by an external EFQM® assessor.

The exercise was followed up with an externally facilitated one-day workshop, where discussion took place and agreement was reached on the strengths of the organisation and the areas for improvement.

As a result of the self assessment process, key areas for development were identified and a programme of work drawn up which CJI will take forward during the next year.

The self assessment exercise proved to be a worthwhile process which has focused CJI's attention on areas which can be further enhanced. ■

# Inspectorate encourages stakeholders to “let us know what you think”

*As the 2008 Stakeholder Conference approaches, CJI's Deputy Chief Inspector, Brendan McGuigan outlines the provisional Business Plan for 2008-09 which will be discussed on the day.*

**“Once again we are back to that time of the year when you, our stakeholders, help us to decide which organisation/s or theme should be the focus for inspection in the next business year.**

“For the criminal justice agencies, being involved in an inspection can be a useful, independent health-check for the organisation, while thematic inspections offer an independent assessment of the contribution and effectiveness of the agencies involved.

“As a result of previous inspection work and some new responsibilities, we are already committed to conducting a number of inspections in 2008-09. They are:

- community-based restorative justice schemes;
- the Causeway IT system;
- an unannounced inspection of offender hostels;

- an unannounced inspection of a prison in Northern Ireland; and
- Forensic Science Northern Ireland.

“We are also committed to conducting a number of follow-up reviews of areas previously inspected including:

- hate crime in Northern Ireland;
- procurement within the criminal justice system;
- the Northern Ireland prisoner resettlement strategy; and
- the handling of complaints within the criminal justice system.

“In the run up to the Stakeholder Conference, we will be talking to representatives of the main criminal justice agencies, to determine further areas for inspection and topics which are suitable for thematic study that can be incorporated into the 2008-09 Business Plan.



“We also hope to hear from you, whether you are a member of the formal criminal justice system, a member of the voluntary or community sector who has dealings with the system, or if you are a citizen with an interest in this important area of public service.

“We would encourage anyone wishing to help shape our forthcoming inspection programme to contact us in advance of our Stakeholder Conference on 17 January 2008, as the proposed inspection programme will be discussed by delegates attending the event.” ■

## Our man in Hanoi

**CJI's Paul Mageean travelled to Asia in early December after he was invited to spend a week in Vietnam meeting with senior judges, lawyers and justice sector officials.**

The trip hosted by DANIDA, the development arm of the Danish Government, focused on the issue of fair trial.

Paul was involved in discussing how the criminal trial process works

in common law countries and the roles and responsibilities of the various parties to the process. He also gave an overview of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland and explained the role and methodology of Criminal Justice Inspection.

During his visit to Hanoi, Paul was also involved in discussing the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights on the fair trial protections in the European

Convention on Human Rights, looking specifically at cases that have emerged from Northern Ireland.

On the final day of his trip, Paul was invited to give a lecture to students from Hanoi University Law School on the European Convention on Human Rights and the role of the European Court of Human Rights. ■

# Inspectorate reviews progress of arrangements for managing the risk posed by sex offenders

**During May 2007 Criminal Justice Inspection undertook its third inspection into the management of sex offenders.**

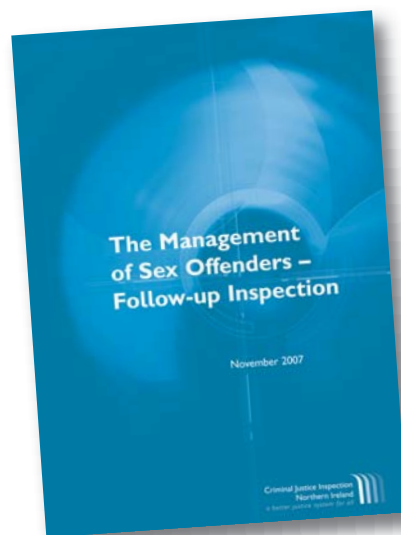
This was a follow-up inspection to examine progress in implementing the recommendations of previous reports, and to assess the benefits of new sex offender management guidelines which were introduced in October 2006.

Six minor recommendations are contained in the CJI report. It concludes that there has been tangible progress in managing the risks posed by sex offenders in Northern Ireland since the first MASRAM inspection was published in March 2005.

“Significant resources are being dedicated to this work by the criminal justice agencies, social services and the Housing Executive. However, CJI would urge the Prison Service to further resource its MASRAM work and ensure its staff are properly trained to undertake the various roles they are required to fulfill,” said Tom McGonigle who led the follow-up review on behalf of CJI.

“The progress that has been made in recent years still needs to be underpinned by the introduction of the proposed new legislation which will bring about an end to automatic 50% remission for dangerous offenders.

“Introduction of this legislation, coupled with the establishment of



parole arrangements, indeterminate sentences, and co-located police/probation teams, should go a long way to strengthening public protection arrangements in Northern Ireland,” he added.

The Inspectorate warned that lessons must be learned from current difficulties that are being experienced in the English parole system – where there are too many cases and insufficient offending programmes - in order to introduce a viable system here.

Speaking after the report was published in November 2007 Tom said: “The risks posed by sex offenders will always be an area of public interest and there are a range of significant initiatives in hand that will require time to become properly established.

“CJI therefore proposes to next review progress in 2010, unless asked by Ministers to undertake other work before then,” he concluded. ■

## Hydebank Wood inspection commences

**Two full announced inspections of Hydebank Wood Women’s Prison and Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre were undertaken recently.**

A team of 12 Inspectors from CJI, the Inspectorate of Prisons and the Education and Training Inspectorate spent a week in each establishment, meeting a wide range of staff and prisoners, examining files and other documentation and observing all aspects of prison activity.

The inspections also incorporated detailed surveys of prisoners about their experience of prison life and how it prepares them for returning to the community.

These surveys compare Hydebank Wood’s performance with similar facilities, and will be included in the reports for each establishment that are due to be issued in spring 2008.

The inspections coincided with filming for a series of programmes commissioned by the BBC that were being made about prison life in Northern Ireland.

The series is to be shown in autumn 2008. ■

# New Inspection Support Officer joins CJ

**Criminal Justice Inspection has recently appointed a second Inspection Support Officer to assist its inspection team.**

Danielle Reaney worked in Edinburgh with the youth justice charity *Includem*, which works to address exclusion among vulnerable young offenders, prior to joining CJ.

While there she was involved in mentoring young people aged 14 to 21 years on a one-to-one basis.

During her time in Scotland Danielle also worked in East Lothian as a day service officer for adults with learning disabilities.

"I developed an interest in criminal justice as a result of completing a dissertation in facial perception and criminal profiling as part of my BSc in

Psychology while at Stirling University in 2004," explained Danielle.

"I then went on to undertake a MA in Criminal Justice from the universities of Strathclyde and Glasgow which I completed in 2006," she said.

In her new role, Danielle will provide support to all CJ's inspection staff by undertaking research prior to the start of an inspection. She will also be involved in co-ordinating fieldwork and providing on-going assistance to CJ's Inspectors during the inspection process and after it has been completed.

"I am looking forward to getting involved in undertaking research for the various inspection topics, especially those which focus on how young people are handled by the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland.

"I am also looking forward to



developing my knowledge and understanding of all the different criminal justice agencies in Northern Ireland and working to support improvement within the system," she said. ■

## Annual Report and Accounts for 2006-07 presented to Parliament

**CJI presented its third Annual Report and Accounts to Parliament following its approval by the Comptroller and Auditor General.**

The report - which can be downloaded from CJ's website [www.cjini.org](http://www.cjini.org) - tracks the progress of the Inspectorate during the 2006-07 financial year.

It incorporates a brief summary of the inspection reports and action plan/follow-up reviews published by the organisation.

Among the topics featured are a summary of CJ's report on avoidable delay within the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland; an examination of how hate crime is dealt with by the various criminal justice agencies; and the first ever assessment of the input made by the voluntary and community sector to the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland.

A review of the Inspectorate's

performance against its objectives and targets for 2006-07 included in the Annual Report shows CJ achieved over two thirds of its 15 stated targets. It notes however that CJ also took on additional unscheduled assignments in the course of the year, such as the special report on the Attracta Harron case.

The Annual Report also provides information on the recent media and communications activities undertaken by the organisation, while the Accounts give a full breakdown of CJ's expenditure during the financial year.

"I am delighted to have been able to submit this document to Parliament and to place on record the valuable work which has been carried out over the course of 2006-07," said CJ's Chief Inspector Kit Chivers.

His words were echoed by CJ's Chief Executive and Accounting Officer Brendan McGuigan who remarked: "I am very pleased to see that yet again, the Inspectorate has secured a clean



certificate from the Comptroller and Auditor General of the National Audit Office who recorded that he had no observations to make on the financial statements supplied to him." ■

**Hard copies of CJ's Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 can be obtained by phoning CJ on 028 90 258000 or by writing to CJ's Media and Communications Team, 7th Floor, 14 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BA.**

# IT Systems Administrator appointed

**John Gallagher joined CJI as its IT Systems Administrator in November 2007.**

Prior to taking up his post as a directly recruited member of staff, John was seconded from the Northern Ireland Civil Service to the Inspectorate for three years as a member of the Business Support Team.

During his career, John has been involved in a variety of IT roles including working as a member of an initial three-person Department of Health and Social Services team involved in the roll-out and installation of IT systems in GP surgeries across Northern Ireland.

He has also taken the lead in establishing and managing a central support desk dealing with faults and IT problems for the HPSS.

In addition, John was responsible for scheduling and ensuring IT software upgrades were installed



**John Gallagher**

prior to the start of 2000 and that all work carried out was compliant with Year 2000 policies.

John is keen to work with CJI as he sees it as a developing organisation where he can use his IT skills and experience to ensure up-to-date support is provided for the Chief Inspector, Deputy Chief Inspector, Inspection team and Business Support staff.

He will also work with the Media and Communications Officer to increase the use of CJI's website as a communication tool and ensure new technology is introduced where appropriate. ■

# CJI set to learn from American experience

**In October 2007, James Corrigan travelled to Boston to participate in an executive training programme at Harvard University on the *Strategic Management of Regulatory and Enforcement Agencies*.**

The intensive one-week course brought together 66 practitioners from a broad range of regulatory and enforcement agencies in America and other countries including Canada, Nigeria, the Netherlands, the UK and Ireland. The training event focused on:

- strategic management;
- the role of enforcement;
- emerging compliance strategies;
- organisational structure;
- performance management; and
- information support.

Some of the key themes of the lectures and study groups were the regulatory approach to crime, the protection of the environment and improving public health.

“The course provided an opportunity to hear about and learn from the experiences of practitioners involved in law enforcement in other countries, and to discover new approaches that will inform CJI's future inspections,” said James.

James received a certificate from the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University on completion of the course. ■

## CJI Website

**The CJI website has been up and running for approximately three years. Over this period, we have been updating and changing pages to enhance the quality of information provided for users of the site. Feedback on the site has been positive with users indicating that the pages are clear and easy to navigate.**

CJI is keen to build on this solid foundation and in an effort to keep the website fresh and accessible to everyone, we will be using new technologies and introducing new areas to the website in 2008 as part of the CJI web development plan being taken forward by John Gallagher.

This will include the development of more user-friendly interfaces and an intranet site for CJI staff.

As part of this development, we would welcome comments about our website. Comments should be forwarded to the Media and Communications Team at [info@cjini.org](mailto:info@cjini.org). ■