



assessment for continuous improvement

**Press Release
Embargoed until 28 November 2003**

Leicestershire MCC Inspection Report published

MCSI has today published its Report of an inspection, carried out in July 2003, of Leicestershire Magistrates' Courts Committee (LMCC), which covers the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland.

The inspection concentrated on three areas: strategic management (with elements of corporate governance), administration of cases and care of court users. The report makes only one recommendation, relating to the care and security of those in custody.

Overall, LMCC's performance is improving or above the national average at a time of rapid change, in the run up to the Unified Courts Administration, and despite the IT and financial constraints it has to contend with. MCSI's Chief Inspector, Dr Stella Dixon, congratulated LMCC for its improving performance. In particular, she was impressed by the way in which LMCC "used its last inspection report, and the Race Equality Base Line Assessment, as springboards for making progress in areas as diverse as premises, performance management and race and equality" and commends a number of areas of good practice.

Response from Leicestershire Magistrates' Courts Committee

Commenting on the Inspection Report, Rick Moore, the Chairman of Leicestershire Magistrates' Courts Committee, said:

"All in the Magistrates' Courts Service locally will be delighted with this first class Inspection Report. It is the result of the continuing hard work and achievement by Senior Managers, all Staff and Magistrates. The Magistrates' Courts Service in Leicestershire is an organisation of which the local community can be justifiably proud".

Background Note

MCSI has a remit to inspect and report to the Lord Chancellor on the administration and management of magistrates' courts in England and Wales. It aims both to provide the Lord Chancellor with information about the performance of MCC areas and to support Committees by endorsing good practice and making recommendations about possible improvements.

In October 1997, it was decided that the number of MCC areas should be reduced to correspond with the forty-two police forces and, in time, with the other criminal justice agencies in England and Wales. The Leicestershire MCC Inspection Report is the latest in a series which specifically evaluates this amalgamation of Magistrates' Courts Committees.

Unified Courts Administration refers to a single, executive agency responsible for the administration of all courts below the House of Lords. It is expected that it will operate from April 2005 and be in shadow form during the previous year.

MCSI Inspection of Court Services contact:

- MCSI is headed by the Chief Inspector, Dr Stella Dixon. Inspectors are based at MCSI's headquarters in London, and at its regional offices in Bristol and Leeds.
- MCSI is independent of the Magistrates' Courts Service
- MCSI's inspection reports are public documents. Copies of MCSI publications, including annual reports and 'thematic' reviews, may be obtained from:

MCSI Secretariat,
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or via MCSI's website at <http://www.mcsi.gov.uk>

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