

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

Strategic Asset Management Plan - Executive Summary

Key Statistics

	Outturn for FY 18/19
Total estate running cost (annual, gross)	£30.8 million ¹
Holdings (number)	42
Floorspace (buildings) sq.m	55,914
Office Space Utilisation m²/ FTE	8.04
Land area (ha)	0.86
Staff number (headcount/ FTE)	5298
Locations	38

Our Business

What CPS does

The CPS is the principal prosecuting authority for England and Wales acting independently in criminal cases investigated by the Police and other investigators. CPS' duty is to ensure that the right person is prosecuted for the right offence, and to bring offenders to justice wherever possible. The CPS:

1. Decides which cases should be prosecuted
2. Determines the appropriate charges in more serious or complex cases, and advises the police during the early stages of investigations
3. Prepares cases and presents them at court
4. Provides information, assistance and support to victims and prosecution witnesses

Prosecutors must be fair, objective and independent. When deciding whether to prosecute a criminal case, CPS lawyers follow the Code for Crown Prosecutors. This means that to charge someone with a criminal offence, prosecutors must be satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction, and that prosecuting is in the public interest.

The CPS operates across England and Wales, with 14 regional teams (Business Areas) prosecuting cases locally. Each Area is headed by a Chief Crown Prosecutor, and works closely with local police forces and other criminal justice partners.

Our Estate

The Asset Portfolio and how it will enable the business.

¹ Actual Accounts adjusted to include exceptional £12.6 million release

CPS estate reflects the Area Organisational Structure. The estate comprises 37 locations across the 14 Business Areas. Almost 60% of CPS FTEs work outside of the south-east region with 8 Provincial Offices each accommodating over 150 FTEs. The estate reflects the requirement for National coverage across England & Wales. CPS are active contributors to the Government's Places for Growth Strategy which seeks to relocate functions out of London into the Regions where functionally possible.

The CPS estate provides the business infrastructure where the above processes 1,2, 4 and part of 3 occur. The exception is prosecuting (part of 3) which occurs in proprietary Court buildings (Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service Estate). In future years, video enabled justice may lead to the CPS estate also providing the built infrastructure within which some prosecuting occurs. It is noteworthy that in 2018 the CPS successfully prosecuted over 533,000 Cases.

The CPS' estate has consolidated extensively since the 2008. Investment in technology and the introduction of smarter working initiatives have enabled this consolidation. Further consolidations are planned over the next three years where asset utilisation materially exceeds the Government Mandated 8m²/ FTE space utilisation metric. The driver for the consolidations is enhanced alignment between CPS' future Business Needs & Objectives and Property resources and services, subject to affordability criteria. These change events provide sustainable evidence that consolidation and rationalisation can be delivered without detriment to productivity, output and business quality.

CPS are applying a single accommodation standard applicable across the entire estate pursuant to consistent decision-making, consistent user expectation and consistent value for money principles. Importantly, CPS will achieve the strategic performance milestone of 8m²/FTE during FY 2019-20, but further proposals will yield incremental improvements beyond the 8m² space utilisation performance metric.

The reordering of lease liabilities has progressively reduced CPS' commitment to lease liabilities with private sector landlords. Through the realisation of new One Public Estate solutions, this commitment is continuing to reduce.

Our Capability

Resources to deliver the plan

Since 2016 CPS have received Estates services via the MoJ Estates Cluster. This has provided a full spectrum of Estates Services with the scale and capacity benefits of the Cluster being fully enjoyed by CPS. The strong Account Management function has enhanced the commercial, property, environmental and Health & Safety professional capability for CPS underpinned by solid data-informed decision-making.

Before March 2020 CPS will leverage further the benefits of scale and will transfer its assets to the Government Property Agency. The transfer of Property Assets and Risks will also see CPS take selected Estates Services from the GPA. During 2019-2021 GPA will build a critical mass of Government Departmental Assets and associated Estates professionals.

CPS will benefit from both GPA's Balance Sheet strength and a knowledge / skills capability yielding best in class property & workplace solutions across Government Departments. By 2021 when Government Departmental on-boarding is to complete, CPS will directly benefit from a materially different scale, influence and professional capability beyond that available via the MoJ Estates Cluster.

Strategic Supply Partner arrangements will also evolve when the risks of property ownership and use transfer to the GPA. These transformational changes will allow CPS to increase its focus on core Business, with Estates matters, a non-core issue for CPS, handled by a dedicated Government Resource for whom Estates is a core capability.