

Our commitment to you

The Cleveland Crown Prosecution Service is here to serve the public of Cleveland. We aim to ensure that criminals are brought to justice and that we are openly and publicly accountable to you, the public, and our partner agencies.



Martin Goldman, CCP

This year we have introduced Witness Care Units, the Victim's Code and the Prosecutor's pledge to ensure ever higher standards of victim and witness care. We have achieved the highest conviction rates than ever before, both in all our crime and, specifically, in hate crimes. We have regularly held meetings with victims of crime and their families so that we can explain our decisions first hand.

We have worked closely with our partners on the Criminal Justice Board to ensure that we deliver improved confidence in what we do. We have seen your confidence improve last year to their highest ever level.

Our aim this year is to continue to improve: our prosecution outcomes; how we connect with and look after victims and witnesses; and how we engage with the Cleveland community. Our commitment is to continue to work hard to provide the service that the public of Cleveland can be proud of.

Domestic safety for you

1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence at some time in their lives.

2 women are killed every week by a current or former partner.

Violence against women and children is a crime —

Domestic violence
Rape and sexual assaults
Forced marriage
Honour crimes
Child abuse
Elder abuse
Human trafficking
Prostitution
Female genital mutilation

Freephone 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247
Perpetrators' phonenumber RESPECT: 0845 122 8609



Prosecuting hate crime for you

We regard a racist or religiously-motivated incident as:

Any incident which is perceived to be racist or religiously motivated by the victim or any other person.

An offence is racially or religiously aggravated if:

- at the time of committing the offence, or immediately before or after doing so, the offender demonstrates towards the victim of the offence hostility based on the victim's membership (or presumed membership) of a racial or religious group; or
- the offence is motivated (wholly or partly) by hostility towards members of a racial or religious group based on their membership of that group.

Certain offences, including assault, harassment, criminal damage and public order offences, can be prosecuted specifically as racially or religiously-aggravated offences.

With any other offence where there is evidence of racial or religious aggravation, the defendant faces a harsher sentence than if he or she were found guilty of a non-racial or religious crime.

Helping you to feel safe



We regard a homophobic incident as:

Any incident which is perceived to be homophobic or transphobic by the victim or by any other person [including the perpetrator].

We regard homophobic crimes as particularly serious because they undermine people's right to feel safe about, and be safe in, their sexual orientation.

Such crimes are based on prejudice, discrimination and hate, and they have no place in an open and democratic society.

We regard the homophobic element of any crime as a serious aggravating feature. We are determined to play our part in reducing crime by bringing offenders to justice.

One of our key objectives is to develop closer links with the local LGBT community. We attended 'Time Out for International Women's Day' and are now in regular contact with the Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Network Officer. We have attended MESMAC meetings and are looking to develop this relationship further.

Area information

The Chief Crown Prosecutor at Cleveland CPS is Martin Goldman and the Area Business Manager is Margaret Phillips. We currently employ 114 staff.

CPS Cleveland serves the main towns of Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool and Redcar/Guisborough and prosecutes offences in three Magistrates Courts – Teesside, Hartlepool and Guisborough and at the Crown Court Centre in Teesside. We have three Witness Care Units in Cleveland at the following addresses:

Crown Court Witness Care Unit, Teesside Combined Courts, Russell Street, Middlesbrough TS1 2AE.
 Telephone numbers: (01642) 306659/306657/2278136/228315

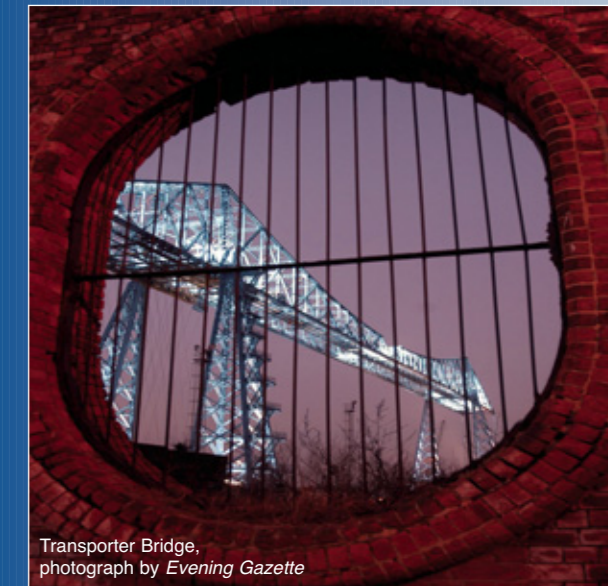
Crown House Witness Care Unit, Crown House, 5 Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough TS1 1TX.
 Telephone numbers: (01642) 04633/204631/204634/204645/204644/204617/204558

Hartlepool Witness Care Unit, Cleveland Police, Police Station, Avenue Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8BB.
 Telephone numbers: (01642) 302160/302508/302597/302598

The Crown Prosecution Service in Cleveland and

YOU

...working with our community



Transporter Bridge, photograph by Evening Gazette



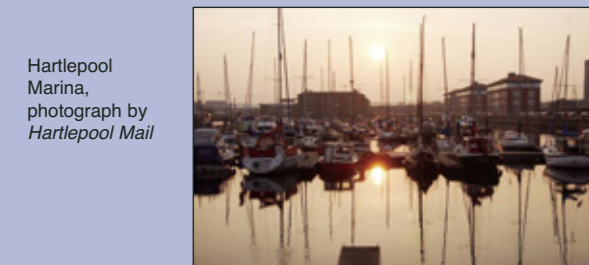
What the CPS does for you

The Crown Prosecution Service was set up in 1986 to prosecute criminal cases investigated by the police in England and Wales. In undertaking this role, the CPS:

- advises the police on cases for possible prosecution
- reviews cases submitted by the police for prosecution
- where the decision is to prosecute, determines the charge in all but minor cases
- prepares cases for court; and
- presents those cases at court



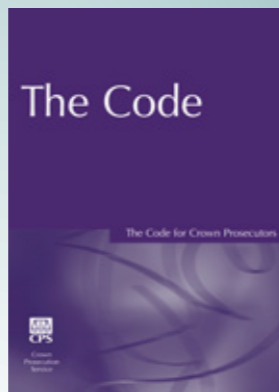
View of Roseberry Topping, photograph by Evening Gazette



Hartlepool Marina, photograph by Hartlepool Mail

Justice for you

The *Code for Crown Prosecutors* is a public document, issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions that sets out the general principles Crown Prosecutors should follow when they make decisions on cases.



Is there enough evidence against the defendant?

When deciding whether there is enough evidence to prosecute, Crown Prosecutors must consider whether evidence can be used in court and is reliable. Crown Prosecutors must be satisfied there is enough evidence to provide a “realistic prospect of conviction” against each defendant.

Is it in the public interest for the CPS to bring the case to court?

A prosecution will usually take place unless the public interest factors against prosecution clearly outweigh those in favour of prosecution.

Keeping you informed

No Witness No Justice

At the heart of No Witness No Justice are the Witness Care Units, which now provide an enhanced level of service to all victims and witnesses in England and Wales in cases where a charge has been brought. This includes completing needs assessments, to identify childcare or accessibility issues for example, and organising pre-court familiarisation visits.

Victims' Code

The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime came into full effect on 3 April 2006.

The Code of Practice will give victims rights to minimum standards of service from the criminal justice system for the first time. This includes notifying vulnerable or intimidated victims within one working day if there is insufficient evidence to charge a defendant, and within five working days for all other victims, as well as identifying any special measures that may be appropriate.

The CPS is committed to its obligations under the code, which formalises many of the good things it is already doing.

Supporting you

The Area officially opened two Witness Care Units on 13 January 2006. Present at the launch were Vera Baird QC, MP, Colin Monson, HM Courts Service Area Director, Ron Hogg, Deputy Chief Constable and of course the Chief Crown Prosecutor, Martin Goldman. The launch was covered by local newspaper and radio media.

We are actively involved with local educational establishments across the region; we take part in careers events and regularly offer work placements to students. We are involved in the DiversiTeens mentoring scheme which was set up by the University of Teesside to address the needs of disabled, mature, black and minority ethnic students by enhancing their career prospects through links with local employers. There are currently three of our staff from various grades who have become mentors.

We also engage with local community groups such as the Middlesbrough Council Race Group forum and we are rigorously implementing our Race Equality Scheme to overcome barriers that have existed between the organisation and the public we serve.

CPS Cleveland has recorded an increase in the number of racist incidents being reported and we were actively involved in the launch of the recent True Vision initiative which encourages the reporting of all hate crime to ensure that each incident gets the attention it deserves.

Working for you

Prosecutors: Prosecutors are responsible for reviewing and, where appropriate, prosecuting criminal cases following investigation by the police. To apply, you must be a solicitor admitted in England and Wales with a full current practising certificate, or a barrister called to the English Bar who has completed pupillage.

Caseworker: The role of the caseworker is to undertake casework functions by assisting prosecutors in case management through processing and initial preparation of casework.

Administrative: Other staff work in administrative functions such as finance, information technology, training, witness care, personnel and management support.

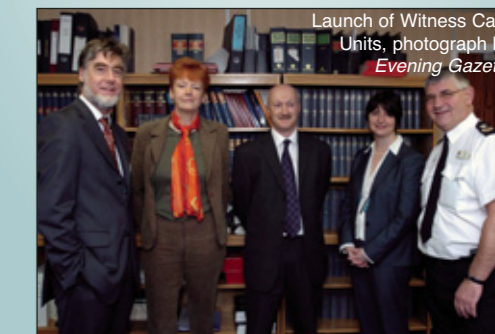
Legal Trainee Scheme: To apply, you will need to have successfully completed the LPC or BVC and be available to start your training contract or pupillage immediately. Successful candidates will be assigned to a CPS office and appointed a trained supervisor. Training is delivered in all aspects of CPS work including administration of casework, file review and preparation, advising the police and advocacy.

Working together for you

It continues to be a privilege to work with other Chief Officers on the Cleveland Criminal Justice Board. We are all committed to leading our agencies towards the common goal of improving the way that we deliver justice on your behalf and further improving your rising confidence and trust in us.

Under the Statutory Charging scheme we continue to work closely with Cleveland Police to ensure that the correct defendant gets charged with the correct offences at the outset of the case. Early advice from CPS Prosecutors has seen our conviction rates increase and unsuccessful prosecutions decrease

During the past year we have worked closely with HM Courts Service. Our shared goals of improving efficiency and public confidence in the criminal justice system have ensured that trials are listed more quickly, fewer trials are adjourned and that services provided to victims and witnesses have improved significantly.



Launch of Witness Care Units, photograph by Evening Gazette