Criminal Justice Joint Inspection
Arolygiad ar y Cyd Cyfiawnder Troseddol

Consultation on proposed Criminal Justice Joint Inspection programme for 2027–29

The criminal justice inspectorates have a statutory duty to carry out a joint inspection programme. Before we finalise this programme, a formal consultation must take place.

The consultation helps us make sure our joint inspection programme focuses on the right topics, is balanced and doesn't duplicate the work of individual criminal justice inspectorates.

It is a two-year programme. This means we can carry out research and investigations to support the proposed inspections.

The joint thematic inspections we are proposing for 2027–29 cover some of the issues facing the criminal justice system. We may not be able to carry out all these inspections during 2027–29 because this work is in addition to our core inspection programmes. The amount of joint inspection work we can do depends on the resources available in the relevant inspectorates.

Proposed joint thematic inspections for 2027–29

Topic	Lead inspectorate	Potential other inspectorates
Experiences of victims of child sexual abuse of the criminal justice system The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse recommended a joint inspection of compliance with the Victims' Code in relation to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse *This has been carried forward from the 2025-27 Business Plan*	HMCPSI	HMICFRS HMI Probation
Recall: decisions and outcomes An examination of why recalls are increasing, the decisions that lead to recall, and what recall achieves in protecting the public and supporting rehabilitation	HMI Probation	HMI Prisons
Artificial intelligence and the use of digital systems across the criminal justice system Digital systems and information sharing underpin almost every stage of the criminal justice system, and AI is increasingly being used to support frontline services. A look at how effectively agencies exchange and use information, identify barriers to collaboration, assess whether appropriate safeguards and governance are in place and establish whether digital systems and AI are supporting better outcomes for individuals, victims and public protection		HMICFRS HMCPSI HMI Probation HMI Prisons

HMCPSI: HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate; HMICFRS: HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

Some of the inspections will be carried out jointly by two or more of our inspectorates. Others may combine findings from single-agency inspections or may take a different approach.

In our joint inspection programme, we will consider how our work affects the experience of victims. We will also promote improvements in the wider criminal justice system.

Please send us your comments about our proposed joint thematic inspections. In particular, we would be grateful to receive your responses to the following consultation questions:

1. Do you have any comments about our proposed joint thematic inspections?

2. Are there any other topics that you believe should be included in our criminal justice joint inspection programme?

Please provide your reasons with your comments. All comments on this consultation are welcome and will be considered. Please email them to sophie.riley@hmiprisons.gov.uk by 5 January 2027.

We intend to publish our 2027–29 joint inspection business plan by spring 2027.