

CPS East Midlands



Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner Candidates

April 2016

Crown Prosecution Service East Midlands overview

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) East Midlands Area comprises five police force areas, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire. In the East Midlands, the CPS is headed by Acting Chief Crown Prosecutor Janine Smith. She is assisted by Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor Karen Thompson and Area Business Manager Adele Clarke.

The Area is based in two main offices in Nottingham and Leicester, with some advocacy and paralegal staff based in Crown and Magistrates' Court centres across the East Midlands.

The majority of casework is taken on by the Area's Magistrates' Court and Crown Court teams. These are each led by a Senior District Crown Prosecutor. Rape and serious sexual offence cases are dealt with by a specialist team, with prosecutors based in both the Nottingham and Leicester offices and led by a Senior District Crown Prosecutor. The Area's most serious and complex cases are dealt with by the Complex Casework Unit.

Administration and paralegal functions are led by Senior District Business Managers in the Magistrates' Court and Crown Court. Central business functions, such as performance, finance, information management, security and finance are managed from the Area Operations Centre. A structure chart is included at the end of this briefing.

In 2014-15, CPS East Midlands prosecuted more than 80,000 defendants, with 8, 926 defendants in the Crown Court, and 71, 350 defendants in the Magistrates' Courts. Of those prosecuted (including minor motoring offences) 84% resulted in a conviction in the Magistrates' Courts, and 83% resulted in a conviction in the Crown Court.

CPS caseload data is available through its case management and information management IT systems. The data the Area collects assists in the effective management of our prosecution functions but does not constitute official statistics, as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Data drawn from the CPS's administrative IT system, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to change as more information is recorded by the CPS.

The official statistics relating to crime and policing are maintained by the Home Office and the official statistics relating to sentencing, criminal court proceedings, offenders brought to justice, the courts and the judiciary are maintained by the Ministry of Justice.

Transforming Summary Justice and Better Case Management

CPS East Midlands has taken an active role in these two initiatives to improve efficiency across the criminal justice system.

Transforming Summary Justice was introduced in Magistrates' Court cases in the East Midlands in February 2015. Cases are dealt with according to whether a guilty or not guilty plea is anticipated. This has reduced the number of hearings required for cases, particularly when a guilty plea is anticipated.

Better Case Management in the Crown Court was piloted at Leicester Crown Court under the leadership of HHJ Dean QC and is now operational in all Crown Courts in the East Midlands. A key component is the introduction of the Digital Case System, where case materials are loaded electronically for all parties to access at court.

Working with the police and other partners

CPS East Midlands works closely with the five police forces in the Area at all levels. Our senior management team works closely with the regional collaboration unit, which includes all forces except Derbyshire, and liaise with all five forces on strategic and operational matters. CPS East Midlands are also active members of the East Midlands Regional Criminal Justice Board. A key area of joint working is ensuring our respective IT systems and our processes enable the police and the CPS to operate digitally.

Reaching out to the community

CPS East Midlands values the input we receive from the communities we serve, as this helps provide a victim perspective on the way we operate. We hold scrutiny panels which bring together representatives of the community and groups which examine completed cases and provide feedback on how we can improve our case handling and in particular the way we support victims and witnesses.

We hold scrutiny panels for hate crime and violence against women twice a year, as well as a community involvement panel, also held twice a year.

Recent cases of interest

Andris Logins

Andris Logins was convicted in March 2016 of abusing four children at Beechwood Care Home in Nottingham. His offences included physical and sexual abuse of vulnerable residents of the home, two boys and two girls, when he worked there during the early 1980s.

The offences committed by Logins were prosecuted as part of Operation Daybreak, a long-running police investigation into allegations of abuse at the home. Logins was tried at Nottingham Crown Court, found guilty and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Anastasia James

Anastasia James was convicted in March 2016 of causing death by careless driving while unfit through drugs. The car James was driving came off the M1 in Leicestershire, killing her daughter, Destiny James-Keeling and her son's girlfriend, Megan Marchant. Police officers at the scene noticed the smell of cannabis, and James tested positive for cannabis use.

She denied responsibility for the collision, claiming there was a defect with the car or a tyre failure. She also denied using cannabis. However, the collision investigation ruled out any issues with the car and tests showed that James had taken cannabis either shortly before or during the journey. She was found guilty at Leicester Crown Court and will be sentenced in April.

Jason Lawrance

Jason Lawrance was convicted of raping five women, sexually assaulting one other and attempting to rape a seventh victim. He targeted all his victims through the dating site match.com.

He raped his first victim in 2011. Having met her a few times, he tricked her into getting into a van with him, drove to a dark country lane and raped her in the van. He went on to sexually assault a woman in her car and raped or attempted to rape others in hotel rooms or in their own homes. In some cases the women, all in their forties and fifties, had consented to meet him but had refused sex. In others they had had consensual sex, but had refused on the occasion in question.

He was found guilty on all counts at Derby Crown Court and sentenced to life with a minimum term of twelve and a half years. The case highlighted the issue of consent in the local and national media.

Simon Damps

Simon Damps was given an indefinite hospital order for stalking a woman in north Nottinghamshire for over a year. He had previously been convicted of harassing the same victim and given a hospital order, but was released in 2013.

On his release, he sent letters, cards and flowers to his victim, a mental health practitioner, eventually finding out her address and monitoring her journeys to and from work. He was eventually arrested near her home and was found to be wearing a condom and carrying knives, scalpels, scissors and tape, as well as a drill with a knife inserted in it.

The conviction and hospital order came as a great relief to the victim, who had even had to move house as a result of Damps' offending. She has since offered to work with the CPS national violence against women strategy manager to help support victims of stalking.

Peter, Simon and Anthony Eyre

Peter, Simon and Anthony Eyre were convicted of the murder of three people including a baby in a flat in Langley Mill, Derbyshire. Amy Smith (17), her daughter Ruby-Grace Gaunt aged six months and Edward Green (also 17) died in the fire in the early hours of 21 June 2015. Shaun Gaunt (the father of Ruby Grace and partner of Amy) and another teenager escaped.

The Eyres attacked the flat in retaliation to Mr Gaunt accusing another member of their family of stealing his moped. They drove from their home in Sandiacre to Mr Gaunt's address and used petrol to set fire to the front of the flat. The trial presented evidence they knew others would be in the flat but continued with their attack. All three were found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Adrian Goldsmith

Adrian Goldsmith, known as Otis, was convicted of murdering his wife in February. Goldsmith was a serving police officer with Northamptonshire Police at the time of the attack. Goldsmith and his wife, Jill, had been experiencing difficulties in their relationship in the months leading up to the murder. He claimed he had acted in self-defence and that she had attacked him, but he had used an excessive level of violence, and as a trained police officer would have been more than capable of restraining his wife safely.

The case was prosecuted by the team based in Nottingham and Goldsmith was convicted at Stafford Crown Court.

John Townsend

John Townsend was convicted in January of raping a sex worker at gunpoint in 1994. He took the victim in his car to a remote car park in Leicester, carried out his attack and drove away, leaving her stranded. A DNA sample was taken at the time, but with DNA technology in its infancy, no match was found.

He was required to give a sample 20 years on as part of a routine police operation and the match was made with his original sample. He was prosecuted and convicted at Leicester Crown Court and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Michael Armitage, Rafal Segiet and Pawal Chudzicki

In a protracted attack in a Lincoln flat, Michael Armitage, Rafal Segiet, and Pawal Chudzicki raped and sexually assaulted a 23-year-old woman.

The trial, which began on 5 January 2015 at Lincoln Crown Court, was suspended for a number of days as we sought a ruling from the Court of Appeal on the evidential sufficiency of the case we had put before the Court. The trial was able to continue after the Court of Appeal upheld the prosecution's application.

The victim was taken by the men in a taxi to the flat where the attacks took place on the night of 27 October 2012. She had been out with friends but had become separated from them. Each defendant received a six-year prison sentence for the offences.

Contacting CPS East Midlands

If you wish to discuss the content of this briefing, please contact the Chief Crown Prosecutor's office by phone on 0115 852 3470 or email Jacqui.mcvittie@cps.gsi.gov.uk.

Further information, including our latest news stories, can be found [here](#) on the CPS East Midlands website.

