



National Audit Office

Helping the nation spend wisely

P John

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Room RED.3
Reference FOI-420
Date 25 January 2010

Dear Mr John,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST HOLDING RESPONSE

I am writing to update you on progress with your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The following information is in response to the first two parts of your request:

You wished to know when the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was most recently audited and requested a copy of the most recent audit of the CPS by the National Audit Office (NAO). I can confirm that the CPS Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008 was the most recent financial audit that we carried out. The accounts were certified on 30 June 2009 and were laid before Parliament on 9 July 2009.

A copy of the Annual Report and Resource Accounts is available to download from the CPS website at the following web address:
http://www.cps.gov.uk/Publications/reports/2008/resource_accounts.html

The full Annual Report is at:
[http://www.cps.gov.uk/Publications/reports/2008/.](http://www.cps.gov.uk/Publications/reports/2008/)

The most recent value for money audit carried out by the NAO specifically on the CPS was *Crown Prosecution Service: Effective use of Magistrates' Court Hearings* which was published in February 2006. This can be downloaded from our website at the following address:
http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0506/crown_prosecution_service_eff.aspx

The third part of your request was for instructions, correspondence, guidance, advice or warnings given to CPS concerning its ability to account for the expenditure of public money.

We have completed our search for information and can confirm that we hold information which we believe falls within the terms of your request.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 obliges us to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving a request. We do endeavour to make all decisions within this time limit, however, in this instance, due to the volume of information that we hold, we will not be able to provide you with our response within the time limit.

Please be assured that the matter is receiving our fullest attention and we are working towards sending you the remaining information as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Julian Wood
Director, Corporate Affairs