

# **Crown Court Annual Report April 2001 to March 2002**

## **Foreword by Ian Magee**



The Court Service seeks to bring significantly improved performance to the delivery of justice. We continue to work effectively with the other Criminal Justice Agencies in a way that enables us to deliver better quality services to the public. This has been demonstrated this year by the full part that Crown Court centres have played in the delivery of the Persistent Young Offenders Pledge, the Street Initiative Crime Initiative and the installation of video-links to reduce the stress of giving evidence for victims and intimidated witnesses.

This Annual Report assists in driving up performance across all Crown Court centres by highlighting good practice and enabling us to share this across all of the courts. It also provides information to the public and practitioners about the performance of their local court.

Further improvements have been made towards meeting the Court Service's challenging targets for timeliness, disposal rate, cracked and ineffective trials and the number of days jurors sit as a percentage of attendance and non-attendance.

Performance against the Key Performance Indicator for timeliness has risen from 76.0% to 77.6%; the disposal rate has risen from 0.77 to 0.79 and days jurors sit has risen from 63.2% to 63.8%. At the same time the proportion of cracked trials has fallen from 24.2% to 23.4% and ineffective trials from 24.5% to 23.9%.

I particularly welcome this report because it allows Resident Judges and Court Managers to work together to deliver important improvements showing our commitment to improving accountability in its broadest sense and better public service.