

Client Stories

Emergency Planning Solutions Ltd

Public Prosecution Service

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) is the principal prosecuting authority in Northern Ireland and is responsible for all criminal cases previously prosecuted by the former Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland (DPPNI) and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). In addition to taking decisions as to prosecution in all cases initiated or investigated by the police in Northern Ireland, it also considers cases initiated or investigated by other statutory authorities, for example, HM Revenue and Customs and the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI).

The PPS is an integral part of the wider criminal justice system. As such, and given the understandable interest by the public, media and political system in justice matters, it is crucial that the PPS is able to discharge its critical functions in the event of any interruption. In addition the PPS retains regional offices and it is important that a level assurance of service is maintained across all regions.

The PPS were keen to develop a service wide continuity management capability that was in line with the British Standard (BS25999-1). Importantly to the PPS there had to be a co-ordinated approach to the development of this capability and to the implementation of any plans and procedures in the event of an emergency. Regions had to hold their own capability but this had to be underpinned by a corporate wide continuity capacity, including the provision of corporate support services to the Regions should a problem arise.

EPS worked closely with the PPS to develop a sound methodology for introducing Business Continuity Management that suited their culture and structure. By the completion of this process the PPS had trained its personnel, developed a policy and supporting plans and put in place robust recovery strategies. They had established a maintenance regime and undertaken an exercise, designed to help validate their planning and raise awareness amongst key staff.