

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA****JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE****23 FEBRUARY 2015**

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**Crime Data Integrity - Update****Report of Paul Godden, Corporate Development Department**

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**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide members with an update on the action plan following the inspection of Crime Data Integrity by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

**2. Background**

- 2.1 HMIC conducted an inspection of Crime Data Integrity of all forces between February and August 2014. Northumbria was inspected in August 2014, and the Force report was published on 18 November 2014.
- 2.2 Nationally, HMIC reported that over 800,000 crimes reported to the police were not recorded. In addition, for those crimes recorded correctly, HMIC reported that too many were no-crimes incorrectly.
- 2.3 The Force report had nine recommendations. These covered the need to improve the level of understanding of the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS), introduction of improved audit arrangements, changes to the number of Dedicated Decision Makers, and improvements to housekeeping arrangements, including document storage and automation. An action plan was put into place immediately following feedback by HMIC, and was further developed following publication of the national report.

**3. Current Position**

- 3.1 Significant progress has been made since the inspection. Below is a summary of activity:

Training and Key Messages

- 3.2 The Force Crime Registrar has personally provided training to Sergeants and Inspectors on National Crime Recording Standards. The same input has also been provided to Senior Management Team members. A separate briefing has been provided to Area Commands to deliver key messages to all frontline officers. These key messages have been supported by visits to shift briefings by Chief Officers, reinforcing the importance of compliance with crime recording standards.

Dedicated Decision Makers

- 3.3 The number of Dedicated Decision Makers that can make decisions regarding no-crimes have been reduced significantly, with Chief Inspectors in Area Commands identified to perform the role. Current post holders have received further training from the Force Crime Registrar. This role will be subject to an accreditation process. All relevant policies and procedures have been reviewed and amended.
- 3.4 All no-crime decisions for offences of rape are subject of review by the Force Crime Registrar and Superintendent (Protecting Vulnerable People) Crime Department. In addition, a review of all no-crime decisions for rape offences since October 2011 has

been conducted and findings passed to Professional Standards, as appropriate. This is separately managed under Chief Officer governance and management.

Audit Approach

- 3.5 A new audit approach has been implemented which follows the methodology used by HMIC during their recent inspection. Sergeants are seconded into Corporate Development on a four-weekly basis to support the audit. This approach has the additional benefit of reinforcing standards when officers return to Area Commands. Each Sergeant is provided with training prior to commencing the audit, and their judgement is tested prior to using their audit results.
- 3.6 The audit process consists of listening to the initial call into the Communications Department and reviewing each incident record, and where there is potential that a crime should have been recorded, contacting the victim to confirm the precise details of the incident. A sample of those incidents that are considered appropriate is also checked to ensure that the audit approach is robust. Those incidents that fail are reported to Area Command Senior Management Teams to either record a crime or add further detail to substantiate the decision that a crime should not be recorded.

Storage Arrangements

- 3.7 A review of the current storage arrangements for out of court disposals has been completed and an option to scan paperwork for electronic filing is being implemented. In addition, as part of Street to Strategic, the recording of Serious Category Crime booklets and Serious Assault Investigation booklets is being automated via a workflow application.

Compliance

- 3.8 NCRS compliance reported by HMIC was 72% (+/- 8.2%). These results cover incidents recorded from November 2012 to October 2013. Based on the initial results from the new audit approach, compliance levels have improved; as below.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Compliance</i>
<b>September 2014</b>	80% (+/- 1.5%)
<b>October 2014</b>	88% (+/- 1.3%)
<b>November 2014</b>	92% (+/- 1.3%)

**4. Equal Opportunities Implications**

- 4.1 There are no equal opportunities implications arising from the report.

**5. Human Rights Implications**

- 5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from the report.

**6. Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1 There are no additional risk management implications arising directly from this report.

**7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from the report.

**8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.