

Summary of Recent Inspection Reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)**Paul Godden, Corporate Development Department**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with a short summary of recent external inspection reports and an overview of the process in place to manage the Force's response to inspection recommendations and findings.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Force has received the following national HMIC inspection reports in the last quarter:
- Stop and Search Powers 2: Are the Police using them effectively and fairly?
 - Investigation and Prosecution of Fatal Road Traffic Accidents
 - Integrity Matters
 - Review of Disability Hate Crime
- 2.2 Corporate Development Department acts as the central liaison point for all HMIC related matters. On a monthly basis, a summary of HMIC activity is presented to the Force's Strategic Management Board.
- 2.3 All HMIC inspection reports and other external inspection reports are considered by Chief Officers. A project lead is appointed to consider inspection findings and prepare an action plan in response to any recommendations and areas for improvement identified. These action plans are agreed by the Chief Officer Team and by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2.4 Project teams are appointed to support implementation of the action plan, as appropriate. Progress against agreed action plans is considered at a weekly Chief Officer Team meeting and reported to the Strategic Management Board.

3. SUMMARY**Stop and Search powers 2: Are the police using them effectively and fairly?**

- 3.1 This national report highlights that forces have made slow progress in improving their use of stop and search powers since 2013. HMIC also report that there was no official record of the way police conducted traffic stops or the way strip searches were carried out, and therefore forces are not able to assure the public that the way the police use these powers is lawful, necessary and appropriate. A number of recommendations are made including:
- Chief Constables are directed to publish progress made against the original 2013 inspection and the actions forces are taking to comply fully with the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme initiated by the Home Secretary in April 2014.

- Forces will be required to record and provide guidance to officers in the use of the Road Traffic Act 1988 power to stop motor vehicles.
- Forces will be required to record and provide guidance to officers (CSOs) for the use of the Police Reform Act 2002 powers to search for and seize alcohol and tobacco from young people for the purpose of assessing fair and effective use.
- Forces will be required to record all searches which involve the removal of more than an outer coat, jacket or gloves and report to the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- The College of Policing is directed to implement recommendations, as well as the Home Office.

3.2 Nine forces were visited, including Northumbria. Overall, the feedback provided immediately following the inspection within Northumbria was positive. A full assessment of the recommendations is being undertaken and the Stop and Search Action Plan will be updated in order that actions arising from this report can be incorporated.

Joint Inspection of the Investigation and Prosecution of Fatal Road Traffic Accidents

3.3 A joint report by Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service (HMCPSP) and HMIC was published on 4 February 2015. Six forces (and their respective Crown Prosecution Service areas) were inspected. Northumbria was not part of the inspection.

3.4 Overall, the inspection found that police investigations of fatal road traffic incidents were professional and thorough. However, more could be done to develop and promote the training for officers who perform investigatory and family liaison roles when a road death occurs and to prioritise the work of family liaison officers. The quality of the decision making by CPS was judged to be good in fewer than half the cases analysed. Common failings included poor case analysis and strategy and inadequate references to sentencing guidelines.

3.5 An assessment of the recommendations made within the report has been completed. There are no areas for improvement identified for Northumbria Police.

Integrity Matters

3.6 HMIC completed an inspection of arrangements to ensure officers and staff act with integrity and that forces have the capability and capacity to tackle corruption in policing and published their report on 30 January 2015.

3.7 The report concludes that police forces have made significant progress in putting in place processes to prevent and tackle corruption, and this is in part due to strong leadership being demonstrated by senior police officers. Issues regarding consistency were identified and HMIC reported that some forces lacked the capability to proactively seek out and prevent corruption.

3.8 Northumbria Police received a Force report on Police Integrity and Corruption in November 2014 which found that the Force was set up to prevent, identify and investigate corruption and there is good consistency in the management of complaints and misconduct and in the conduct and sanctions applied in disciplinary cases.

3.9 An assessment of the national report has been completed and additional actions have been incorporated into the Force's existing Police Integrity and Corruption Action Plan.

Joint Review of Disability Hate Crime

- 3.10 This is a review by HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, together with HMIC and HM Inspectorate of Probation to assess how disability hate crime is dealt with. The report acknowledges the initiatives undertaken to improve the handling of disability hate crime; however, highlights insufficient progress has been made. The report recommends that criminal justice agencies prioritise this area.
- 3.11 The Force has already introduced a Hate Crime and Hate Incident Strategy and delivery plan, and more specifically, a Disability Hate Crime Action Plan. Since introduction of the plan, good progress has been made, with key achievements outlined below:
- Development of a self-report/third party reporting leaflet.
 - Regeneration of Safe Reporting Centres.
 - Delivery of Hate Crime training to all operational staff.
 - Continued promotion of the 'Being you is not a crime, Targeting you is'.
 - Identification of hate crime leads in Area Commands.
 - Improved working processes between police and CPS.

4. Financial Considerations

- 4.1 There are no additional financial considerations arising from this report.

5. Legal Considerations

- 5.1 There are no legal considerations arising from the content of this report.

6. Equality Considerations

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from the content of this report.

7. Risk Management Considerations

- 7.1 HMIC expects that progress is made in response to the recommendations and uses progress against previous recommendations to assess risk when considering future inspection activity.
- 7.2 The Force prepares action plans in response to HMIC findings, as appropriate, and delivery is monitored at the Force's Strategic Management Board.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to note the recent inspection reports.