

Summary of Recent External Inspection Reports**Paul Godden, Corporate Development Department**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with details 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 [PEEL Effectiveness 2016 – Northumbria Police](#) report has been published by HMIC since the last Joint Independent Audit Committee.
- 2.2 Corporate Development Department acts as the central liaison point for all HMIC related matters.
- 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 at Executive Board 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 monitored at the Strategic Management Board and by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2.5 There are no matters of exception for the current reporting period for existing action plans in response to previous inspections.

PEEL Police Effectiveness 2016 - Northumbria Police

- 2.6 As part of its annual inspections into police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL), HMIC has assessed the effectiveness of police forces across England and Wales against the overarching question 'How effective is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime?'
- 2.7 The overall judgement for Northumbria Police is '**GOOD**' and HMIC noted elements of outstanding practice in the way that support is provided to vulnerable victims. However, certain areas of the Force's work require improvement, particularly the investigation of crime and reducing re-offending.
- 2.8 In addition to areas for improvement, one cause of concern has been identified regarding the Force's ability to examine digital devices and a recommendation has been made to:
- Assess and understand the risk associated with devices currently awaiting examination.
 - Reduce the number of devices awaiting examination, and the time taken to examine each device.

- Create an effective and sustainable system to ensure that new devices are prioritised and examined quickly so that the timeliness and quality of investigations are not compromised.

2.9 An action plan has been prepared to address all areas for improvement and the recommendation regarding digital devices.

2.10 A strategic lead for digital policing has been appointed to ensure effective local delivery of the three national projects (digital public contact, digital investigation and intelligence, and digital first).

2.11 A fundamental restructure of the Digital Forensic Unit has been completed, with additional temporary staff recruited. Working practices are being revised and there is further investment in new technology to improve efficiency. These measures will also underpin ISO 17025 accreditation later in 2017.

3. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 There are no additional financial considerations arising from this report.

4. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

5. EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 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.

6.2 The Force prepares action plans in response to HMIC findings, as appropriate, and delivery is monitored at the Strategic Management Board and by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Committee is asked to note the recent inspection report.