

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE	4 December 2017
Summary of Recent External Inspection Reports	
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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 Three inspection reports have been published by HMICFRS since the last Joint Independent Audit Committee:

[Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and legitimacy \(PEEL\) – Police Efficiency 2017](#)

[A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse](#)

[Stolen Freedom: the policing response to modern slavery and human trafficking](#)

- 2.2 Corporate Development Department acts as the central liaison point for all HMICFRS related matters.

- 2.3 All HMICFRS 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. All activity is regularly reviewed by the respective owners. Delivery is overseen at Chief Officer/ Director level and reported to the Scrutiny Meeting of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- 2.5 At the last JIAC meeting (min 209), members requested updates regarding the findings from the joint inspection ‘Making it fair’ on the disclosure of unused material in volume Crown Court cases and ‘Living in Fear’ on the police response to stalking and harassment.

‘Making it Fair’

- 2.6 The findings have been considered in the context of Northumbria Police and all actions are being addressed. Disclosure is being reported on and actioned within a number of work streams:

- Regional Disclosure Board – chaired by CPS lead for Complex Case Unit.
- Rape & Serious Sexual Offence Action Plan
- Criminal Justice Delivery Plan

- 2.7 Disclosure is also a standing agenda item as part of the Local Criminal Justice Board.

‘Living in Fear’

- 2.8 The Force reviewed its position in light of the findings and a number of improvements to service were identified. An action plan has been prepared and key outcomes will include:
- Identification and understanding of the breadth of cyber enabled crime and provision of a bespoke response based on a victim’s individual needs;
 - Improved service delivery at the first point of contact and immediate understanding and identification of risk; and
 - Adherence to a stalking protocol improving investigative standards.
- 2.9 There are no matters of exception for the current reporting period for existing action plans in response to previous inspections.

Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) – Efficiency 2017 inspection

- 2.10 As part of its annual inspections into police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL), HMICFRS has examined how well police forces are able to forecast demand for their services now and in the longer term, and how they manage their resources. A police force is considered efficient if it maximises the outcomes from its available resources.
- 2.11 Police forces were assessed against the overarching question ‘How efficient is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime?’, and how well they:
- Understand their current and likely future demand;
 - Use their resources to manage current demand;
 - Plan for demand in the future.
- 2.12 The overall judgment for Northumbria Police was **GOOD**.
- 2.13 Northumbria Police is one of 30 forces assessed as good overall. 10 forces are judged as requires improvement, and two as outstanding (Durham and Thames Valley). No force was found to be inadequate.
- 2.14 One area for improvement (AFI) was identified and activity is already in place to address this:
- The Force should consider a wider range of source for the identification of talent
- 2.15 HMICFRS also made one national recommendation regarding the need for ambitious plans to improve digitally-enabled services in all forces.
- 2.16 An initial assessment in the context of Northumbria Police recognises significant activity already underway. This will be reported to the Joint Business Meeting 30 November 2017.

A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse

- 2.17 This national thematic report presents the findings of HMICFRS on the police response to domestic abuse based upon the PEEL effectiveness inspection findings in 2016.
- 2.18 The findings highlighted that in spite of the increasing demand for the police to respond to domestic abuse incidents amongst other pressures, considerable improvements have been made since the publication of the first report 'Everyone's business' in March 2014.
- 2.19 The report states that whilst there have been continued improvements, some forces are still failing to assess the risk and respond appropriately at the first point of contact, that inconsistencies exist in the way that powers are used to keep people safe and some forces are still not doing enough to pursue positive outcomes. Concern was also raised regarding poor-quality data. Northumbria Police was highlighted positively within the report for initiatives such as the Force's proactive approach with independent domestic violence advisors accompanying officers on patrol and the involvement of neighbourhood officers in supporting victims.
- 2.20 Six areas for improvement and three recommendations were made for chief constables. The findings are being considered in the context of Northumbria Police and an action plan will be prepared.

Stolen Freedom: the policing response to modern slavery and human trafficking

- 2.21 A national thematic report was published by HMICFRS on 24 October 2017 examining the police's response to the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 in England and Wales.
- 2.22 The findings highlighted that progress in the way in which the police respond to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking had been made; however, overall more needed to be done.
- 2.23 Seven recommendations were made for police forces in relation to leadership; intelligence; victim identification and initial response; crime recording; investigation; and prevention.
- 2.24 An initial assessment of the recommendations in the context of Northumbria Police will be reported to the Joint Business Meeting 30 November 2017. This suggests that the Force is already well placed. The existing action plan is being refreshed to reflect the findings.

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 HMICFRS 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 HMICFRS findings, as appropriate, and delivery will be monitored at the Force Assurance Board and by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

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