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Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
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23 October 2025

Dear Home Secretary

**HMICFRS Report: How effectively do the police record crime? PEEL spotlight report**

Under Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996, as Police and Crime Commissioner I am pleased to provide my formal response to the report by HMICFRS entitled 'How effectively do the police record crime? PEEL spotlight report.'

Both the Chief Constable and I welcome the publication of this important report and the opportunity it provides to reflect on and improve the integrity of crime recording practices. Accurate crime data is essential not only for operational effectiveness but also for maintaining public trust and ensuring victims receive the appropriate response and support.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has provided a detailed response to the report's three recommendations. That response is shown at **Appendix 1** to my response. I am reassured by the robust governance structures that are in place. This includes the

oversight which is provided by the Deputy Chief Constable and the work of the Force Crime & Incident Registrar. The commitment to continuous audit, training, and improvement is evident within the Constabulary's approach.

I welcome the proactive steps taken to improve the recording of violent crimes, the strong performance in domestic abuse-related crime recording, and the emphasis on training and data education through the new Investigation Standards Delivery Model. These measures demonstrate a clear commitment by the Constabulary to ensure that crime recording is accurate, timely, and victim focused.

I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for the implementation of these improvements and for maintaining high standards in crime data integrity.

I trust this response, alongside the Constabulary's detailed submission, provides you with necessary assurance of our shared commitment to delivering improvements in this critical area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Darryl Preston', written in a cursive style.

**Darryl Preston**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

Enc - Appendix 1 – Cambridgeshire Constabulary's response to HMICFRS report 'How effectively do the police record crime? PEEL spotlight report.'

## **Appendix 1**

### **Cambridgeshire Constabulary's response to HMICFRS report 'How effectively do the police record crime? PEEL spotlight report.'**

#### **Recommendation 1**

Forces need to improve their recording of all violent crime, in particular conduct crimes such as harassment, stalking and controlling or coercive behaviour and less serious assaults.

#### **Constabulary Response:**

The Force Crime & Incident Registrar (FCIR) oversees a comprehensive Audit Plan that includes daily incident reviews to ensure that all relevant crimes, especially those involving violence and conduct crimes, are accurately identified and recorded. Special attention is given to incidents involving domestic matters, violence, and anti-social behaviour. The CDIR and DDM teams are available for advice and support, ensuring consistency and accuracy in recording complex cases with officers mandated to "record or rationale" to record all crimes unless clear evidence shows otherwise.

The Crime Data Integrity Review Team (CDIR) reviews 1200–1300 incidents weekly, ensuring compliance and identifying missed crimes, especially in harassment, stalking, and coercive behaviour. Recent audits show compliance rates for crime recording remain high, with monthly CDI reports indicating rates above 95% for timely and accurate recording. The FCIR also conducts targeted audits, such as the Conduct Crime audit completed in April 2025, to monitor and improve compliance. Feedback and learning opportunities are provided to staff and officers, and findings are reported monthly to the Crime Standards Delivery Group and the Force Performance Board. This ensures continuous improvement in the recording of violent and conduct crimes.

In July 2025 a bespoke audit was undertaken around call handling and crime recording. The audit found a high standard of call-handling and crime recording across categories, with a 96% recording rate and 92% accuracy rate overall. For

violence, 10 calls resulted in 14 crimes reported, with 11 crimes recorded and a 92% recording rate. The opportunities for improvements will feed into the training as described in recommendation 3.

The FCIR are key stakeholders in the organisational response to the national super-complaint around stalking. Specific to this recommendation, we have updated guidance that clarifies the principal crime rule for conduct crimes, ensuring the most serious crime is recorded as principal, with exceptions for modern slavery.

### **Recommendation 2**

Forces should make sure they quickly and correctly record crimes related to domestic abuse.

### **Constabulary Response:**

The FCIR's daily incident reviews place particular emphasis on domestic matters, ensuring that crimes related to domestic abuse are identified and recorded promptly and accurately. The audit process includes specific reviews of domestic abuse incidents, and the findings are used to inform training and operational improvements. Regular crime data integrity (CDI) audits also cover domestic abuse, and the results are used to target further support and knowledge where needed. This approach ensures that domestic abuse crimes are not only recorded quickly but also in line with national standards.

In July 2025, an audit of call handling around domestic abuse calls were handled with a 100% recording rate and 90% accuracy rate. The August 2025 audits show a 97% compliance rate with data from April 2023 showing consistency around 95%.

Learning from the audits is quickly identified and disseminated through governance structures of the Data Integrity Meeting and Crime Standards Delivery Group.

### **Recommendation 3**

Forces need to make sure all officers and staff involved in crime recording are appropriately trained and understand their role in recording crime. They should also

make sure there is effective oversight and scrutiny of crime-recording decisions and accuracy.

**Constabulary Response:**

Governance of crime recording and data integrity is led by the Deputy Chief Constable and overseen by dedicated groups including the Crime Data Integrity Meetings, Crime Standards Delivery Group and the Force Performance Board. These meetings review monthly and thematic reports, ensuring that data quality is not just a technical issue but a leadership priority. Governance ensures monitoring of compliance rates, addressing areas for improvement, and setting strategic direction for ongoing enhancements.

The FCIR team delivers comprehensive training to all staff involved in crime recording, including Investigating Management Units (IMU), call handlers, response officers, and investigators. Training is delivered through workshops, practical case-based sessions, and ongoing guidance, with pre- and post-learning assessments to ensure understanding. The training plan is informed by regular audits and external recommendations, ensuring it addresses both immediate and long-term knowledge gaps in a responsive capacity.

Recognising the significance of accurate crime recording, our new Investigation Standards Delivery Model places a strong emphasis on 'data education'. This key strand is focused on fostering a culture where officers and staff fully appreciate the value of accurate, timely, and transparent data. By embedding this understanding, we empower our teams to use data to support fair outcomes, enhance service delivery, and strengthen public trust and confidence.