

To: Joint Audit Committee
From: Sergeant 1470 Susie TINSLEY, Governance and Inspection
Assurance Officer.
Date: July 2024
Subject: Overview of HMICFRS publications –May 2024 to July 2024

Purpose:

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of inspection reports published by HMICFRS between May 2024 and July 2024.

HMICFRS Police publications are listed within the HMICFRS pages.

Link here: [His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services - 2/321 - Making communities safer \(justiceinspectors.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/2/321-Making-communities-safer)

Overview of publications:

1. The Police Service of Northern Ireland: An inspection of crime data integrity

1.1 The PSNI commissioned HMICFRS to conduct an inspection, specifically to focus on crime data integrity within the force.

1.2 HMICFRS awarded PSNI a good grading (maintained since their last inspection in this area in 2015)

1.3 HMICFRS gave PSNI one area for improvement and reported they had maintained the high standards found in the 2015 inspection.

2. Responses to the super-complaint from the Criminal Justice Alliance about police use of stop and search

2.1 In December 2023, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, the College of Policing and the Independent Office for Police Conduct published a [report on the Criminal Justice Alliance super-complaint](#) on Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and independent community scrutiny of stop and search.

On 13th May, HMICFRS published the responses from bodies subject to recommendations and actions made in this report.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/responses-to-the-super-complaint-from-the-criminal-justice-alliance>

2.2 HMICFRS, the College of Policing and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) published a report in response to the super-complaint submitted by the Criminal Justice Alliance. Recommendations were made to chief constables, police and crime commissioners or equivalents, the National Police Chiefs' Council, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the Home Office.

2.3 There is a requirement for Chief Constables to publish on their own force website the response to the three recommendations within this report.

The link to our page and response is here: [Criminal Justice Alliance super complaint – Cambridgeshire Constabulary`s response | Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(cambs.police.uk\)](#)

The extract of the response: *“The HMICFRS report makes ten recommendations, of which three are for chief constables.*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has assessed its performance against the recommendations and has responded to each of them.

We are proud to say that we already comply with the safeguarding responsibilities regarding children. The current process is further strengthened by the introduction of mandatory supervisory review of every stop and search record. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has a strong and challenging external scrutiny processes regarding our use of stop and search powers. Independent panels have access to unedited body worn video of our searches.

Powers under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 are not used in Cambridgeshire very often. During 2023 in Cambridgeshire Constabulary Section 60 powers were authorised only on one occasion, and during this time, no searches were conducted. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has a well-established annual training programme for our officers, which includes the content covered in the

recommendations. The training programme is designed for officer authorising the powers but also for those conducting searches.

When powers under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 are used, we have an established protocol where communities are consulted, briefed, and reassured about the use of these powers.

We are pleased to say that Cambridgeshire Constabulary has an effective briefing and debriefing procedures in place for any activities related to section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. We record all stop search encounters on body worn video (BWV) and as a result of the recommendation in the report, going forward Cambridgeshire Constabulary will be recording all briefings related to section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 activities.”

3. An inspection of the West Midlands regional response to serious and organised crime

3.1 As part of the HMICFRS PEEL inspection, Regional Organised Crime Units, Serious and organised crime, HMICFRS published on 14 May 2024 the response by the West Midlands regional response to serious and organised crime.

3.2 This area includes Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia and West Midlands Police.

3.3 HMICFRS awarded each force and the region:

- Region: Adequate
- Staffordshire: Requires improvement
- Warwickshire: Requires improvement
- West Mercia: Inadequate
- West Midlands: Adequate

4. Report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Avon and Somerset Police

4.1 On 16 May 2024 HMICFRS published their joint inspection report. This inspection is carried out with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and is part of the Custody rolling programme.

4.2 Within the report HMICFRS gave Avon and Somerset:

- 1 cause of concern
- 1 recommendation
- 10 Areas for improvement

5. Staffordshire Police: PEEL causes of concern revisit letter

5.1 On 21st May, HMICFRS published a letter updating the position of the Cause of concern and subsequent period of Engage from the PEEL inspection in January 2022.

5.2 HMCIC Andy Cook wrote: *In conclusion, I am pleased that Staffordshire Police is continuing to make good progress. I am satisfied that it has made sufficient progress to address concerns in relation to responding to the public and investigating crime. The force still has work to do in relation to answering 999 and 101 calls, reducing the time it takes to attend incidents, and further increasing the frequency of investigative plans and supervision. However, I am reassured by the plans that you have put in place to continue this journey of improvement.*”

HMICFRS have removed Staffordshire Police from the engage phase of force monitoring. From now, the force will return to the standard scan monitoring process and will continue to be inspected as part of the police efficiency, effectiveness, and legitimacy continual assessment programme.

6. Wiltshire Police: PEEL causes of concern revisit letter

6.1 On 21st May, HMICFRS published a letter updating the position of the Cause of concern and subsequent period of Engage from the PEEL inspection in January and February 2022.

6.2 HMCIC Andy Cook wrote: *“In conclusion, I am pleased that Wiltshire Police is continuing to make good progress. I am satisfied that it has addressed our concerns in relation to responding to the public, protecting vulnerable people, and leadership and force management. The force still has work to do in relation to accessing data, answering 101 and 999 calls promptly, and attending incidents within agreed timescales. But it has made significant progress against the issues identified in our last inspection.”*

HMICFRS have removed Wiltshire Police from the engage phase of force monitoring. From now, the force will return to the standard scan monitoring process and will continue to be inspected as part of the police efficiency, effectiveness, and legitimacy continual assessment programme.

7. PEEL 2023–2025: An inspection of South Wales Police

7.1 On 24th May 2024, HMICFRS published their report of South Wales Police PEEL inspection.

7.2 HMICFRS Awarded the below gradings:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Preventing crime	Investigating crime	Responding to the public	
	Developing a positive workplace	Recording data about crime		
		Police powers and public treatment		
		Protecting vulnerable people		
		Managing offenders		
		Leadership and force management		

7.3 Overall, HMICFRS wrote; *We are pleased with some aspects of the performance of South Wales Police in deterring crime and antisocial behaviour. The force is good at promoting a safe and welcoming workplace. We are satisfied with most other aspects of the force's performance, but there are areas in which it needs to improve.*

7.4 Within the report HMICFRS have given South Wales Police 14 areas for improvement.

8. PEEL 2023–2025: An inspection of Derbyshire Constabulary

8.1 On 24th May 2024, HMICFRS published their report of Derbyshire Constabulary PEEL inspection.

8.2 HMICFRS Awarded the below gradings:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Preventing crime	Police powers and public treatment	Investigating crime	
		Managing offenders	Responding to the public	
		Developing a positive workplace	Protecting vulnerable people	
			Leadership and force management	

8.3 HMICFRS wrote: *I am satisfied with some aspects of the performance of Derbyshire Constabulary in keeping people safe, reducing crime, and providing victims with an effective service. But there are areas in which the constabulary needs to improve. We last inspected Derbyshire Constabulary in July 2022 and published our PEEL assessment in November 2022. I had some concerns with aspects of the constabulary's performance.*

8.4 Within the report HMICFRS have given Derbyshire Constabulary 16 areas for improvement.

9. Police and crime commissioner-commissioned inspection into Norfolk Constabulary

9.1 On 24th May, HMICFRS published their letter providing an update on the position of the performance of Norfolk Constabulary's handling of 999 calls from vulnerable people and certain types of incidents.

This was in relation to the deaths of 4 people at an address in Costessey in January 2024 ([Norwich: Police failed to respond to 999 call from deaths house - BBC News](#)) and the subsequent request to HMICFRS by the Police and Crime Commissioner to:

- Review Norfolk Constabulary's handling of 999 calls from vulnerable people and certain incident types.

- to provide commentary on whether the constabulary would be in an improved position if the [Right Care Right Person \(RCRP\)](#) call script had been used in all the calls.

9.2 HMICFRS reported in their conclusion:

Control room personnel displayed high levels of professionalism in their dealings with the public.

In our annual PEEL inspections, we include a victim service assessment. This assessment examines a victim's journey; from reporting a crime through to the crime being finalised and an outcome assigned.

The results of the recent PEEL VSA inspection and the audit that was part of the commission show that the force performs well in most control room functions.

However, the audit under this commission had a greater focus on 999 calls that potentially involve a greater risk to the public. We found some areas that need to be improved. This is particularly relevant to the identification of, and response to, those that are vulnerable.

The force must make sure it provides personnel with relevant training. This would help them to correctly identify issues of vulnerability; record those issues in their assessments of the incidents; and provide the appropriate response.

The force should review how it communicates its requirements and expectations internally. This would make sure all teams are consistent in performing their roles and processes.

The force should make sure it has robust quality assurance measures to ensure processes are performed consistently. And it should ensure that supervisors have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

The RCRP model will formalise the working arrangement that the force has with other agencies. The result will be that incidents that aren't police matters, or are better suited to another agency, are dealt with appropriately.

Clarity on what the force and other agencies will have responsibility for will give personnel greater confidence in their decision-making. Those who contact the force about incidents covered by the RCRP model are more likely to get an improved service.

10. Report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

10.1 On 9th July 2024 HMICFRS published their joint inspection report. This inspection is carried out with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and is part of the Custody rolling programme.

10.2 Within the report HMICFRS gave Hampshire and the Isle of Wight:

- 2 causes of concern
- 2 recommendations
- 9 Areas for improvement

11. PEEL 2023–2025: An inspection of Nottinghamshire Police

11.1 On 11th July, HMICFRS published their report of Nottinghamshire Police PEEL inspection.

11.2 HMICFRS Awarded the below gradings:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
		Police powers and public treatment	Protecting vulnerable people	Preventing crime
		Responding to the public		Investigating crime
		Managing offenders		Leadership and force management
		Developing a positive workplace		

11.3 The force has seen a reduction in their performance since the last inspection, to the extent that HMICFRS published an accelerated cause of concern on 11th March due to the inadequate performance in two areas resulting in its failure to:

- sufficiently manage and carry out effective investigations and support victims; and
- have adequate governance arrangements in place.

This accelerated cause of concern placed Nottinghamshire Police into enhanced monitoring.

An accelerated cause of concern is published by HMICFRS ahead of the complete report publication when they discover significant service failures or risks to public safety.

See link here to the accelerated cause of concern :[PEEL: Nottinghamshire Police causes of concern - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/peel/nottinghamshire-police-causes-of-concern/)

11.4 Within the report HMICFRS have given 2 accelerated causes of concerns with 4 associated recommendations (issued on 11th March) and a further cause of concern' with 2 associated recommendations. There are 14 areas for improvement (AFI's) and one area of promising practice.

12. PEEL 2023–2025: An inspection of Devon and Cornwall Police

12.1 On 11th July, HMICFRS published their report of Devon and Cornwall Police PEEL inspection.

12.2 They awarded the below gradings:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Preventing crime	Police powers and public treatment	Managing offenders	Investigating crime
		Protecting vulnerable people	Leadership and force management	Responding to the public
		Developing a positive workplace		

12.3 HMICFRS reported concerns about the performance of Devon and Cornwall Police:

- in keeping people safe
- reducing crime
- providing victims with an effective service.
- In particular, serious concerns about how it manages its investigations.
- The force still isn't attending incidents resulting from calls for service as quickly as it should.
- Management of registered sex offenders
- Abstractions of neighbourhood police officers

12.4 Within the report HMICFRS have given 2 causes of concerns with 2 recommendations, and a further 18 areas for improvement.

13. State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2023

13.1 On 19th July, HMICFRS published His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMCIC), Andy Cooke's, Annual State of Policing Report 2023 which he lays before parliament. (Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 54(4A) of the Police Act 1996).

13.2 The main evidence within the report comes from inspections. In the past year HMICFRS have published 87 reports about police forces. In addition, Andy Cooke

after reaching out to Chief Constables and PCC's, received more than 100 responses to issues faced to include within the report.

Within the report HMCIC Andy Cooke makes direct recommendations to government and in addition, 4 formal recommendations.

13.3 Recommendations:

Recommendation 1

By 1 April 2025, the Government should abolish the fixed police officer numbers target in favour of a more balanced performance framework.

Recommendation 2

By 1 April 2026, as part of the next spending review, the Government should provide police forces with a multi-year funding settlement that covers at least three financial years.

As part of this, the Government should:

- conclude its review of the police allocation formula and make changes to ensure that funding is distributed according to the needs of communities; and
- substantially increase the amount of capital funding that it provides to forces.

Recommendation 3

By 1 April 2025, the Home Secretary should develop legislative proposals to grant additional powers to the inspectors of constabulary. And they should write to HM Chief Inspector to explain these plans.

Recommendation 4

By 1 December 2025, as part of the next spending review, the Government should increase the funding allocated to the inspectorate to adequately reflect the scope and scale of the work of the inspectorate.

14. PEEL 2023–2025: An inspection of West Yorkshire Police

14.1 On 23rd July, HMICFRS published their report of West Yorkshire Police PEEL inspection.

14.2 They awarded the below gradings:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Recording data about crime	Preventing crime	Police powers and public treatment	Investigating crime	
		Responding to the public	Developing a positive workplace	
		Protecting vulnerable people		
		Managing offenders		
		Leadership and force management		

14.3 HMICFRS reported they were pleased with some aspects of the performance of West Yorkshire Police in keeping people safe, reducing crime, and providing victims with an effective service. They were satisfied with most other aspects of the force's performance, but there are areas in which it needs to improve.

14.4 Within the report West Yorkshire were given 18 areas for improvement.

15. PEEL 2023–2025: An inspection of Cumbria Constabulary

15.1 On 23rd July, HMICFRS published their report of Cumbria Constabulary's PEEL inspection.

15.2 They awarded the below gradings:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Developing a positive workplace	Preventing crime	Recording data about crime		
	Investigating crime	Police powers and public treatment		
	Responding to the public			
	Protecting vulnerable people			
	Managing offenders			
	Leadership and force management			

15.3 HM Inspector's summary: *I congratulate Cumbria Constabulary on its performance in keeping people safe, reducing crime, and giving victims an effective service. I am pleased that the constabulary now has effective governance in place. It has clear strategic plans that are underpinned by accurate information and supported by a detailed performance framework. The constabulary has adequate oversight of services such as finance, HR, IT, and estates. I was pleased to find improvements in the management and scrutiny of criminal investigations. The constabulary has invested in both governance and performance processes to improve and maintain its investigative standards..*

15.4 Within the report Cumbria are given 4 areas for improvement.

16. West Midlands Police: PEEL causes of concern revisit letter

16.1 On 23rd July, HMICFRS published their revisit letter relating to West Midland Police's PEEL inspection revisit.

16.2 In September 2023, HMICFRS inspected West Midlands Police as part of the PEEL programme. During the inspection, HMICFRS identified four causes of concern which were published within the main PEEL report on 22 December 2023.

Three of these causes of concern were that the force:

- needed to make sure that its multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) work effectively to keep vulnerable people safe.
- did not manage the risk posed to the public by registered sex offenders effectively; and
- did not manage the risk posed by online child abuse offenders effectively.

In May and June 2024, HMICFRS revisited the force to scrutinise the progress made against these three causes of concern.

16.3 HMICFRS report that following the sustained improvements in the force's performance, the above three causes of concern are now closed. There is one cause of concern remaining. This relates to how the force carries out effective investigations leading to satisfactory results for victims. HMICFRS recognise the effort the force is making to resolve this outstanding cause of concern and will review the force's progress later this year.

Conclusion:

The Organisational Improvement Centre and relevant strategic leads will review the report to identify learning opportunities.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Joint Audit Committee note the content of this report.