

To: October Joint Audit Committee
From: Sergeant Lucy Hancock
Date: 17th October 2025
Subject: HMICFRS updates and overview of publications

HMICFRS Activity Report

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work HMICFRS conduct and to provide an overview of inspection reports published by HMICFRS between July 2025 and October 2025.

2. Overview

HMICFRS inspect all forces on behalf of the public through a number of inspections:

2.1 PEEL assessments

The police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy (PEEL) inspections assess the performance of all forty-three police forces in England and Wales. Its main aim is to promote improvements in policing. HMICFRS provide graded judgments on aspects of forces' performance. They identify where forces need to improve and help the public understand how well their force is performing.

2.2 National thematic inspections

Thematic inspections are in-depth examinations of policing practices or processes, or of the policing approach to preventing and tackling specific offences. HMICFRS identify themes through their continuous monitoring of forces and through consultations with key stakeholders.

Thematic inspections may be chosen for several reasons, including:

- current, acute problems in policing practice that are harming the public interest.
- inconsistencies in police performance across England and Wales, which force-level work cannot adequately explain; or

- further improvement in practice that would benefit the most, or the most vulnerable, victims.

Expanding on the force-specific information from PEEL inspections and force management statements, HMICFRS aim to build a national picture of police efficiency, effectiveness, and legitimacy through a combination of:

- force data and document requests.
- interviews with national, regional, and local policing bodies, Government, and other interested parties.
- case file audits; and
- testing the understanding and application of policies and procedures with officers and staff in forces.

While thematic inspections allow HMICFRS to identify areas of notable practice or specific concerns in specific forces, they will usually make recommendations that are relevant to the police service as a whole. These are published in the thematic report and all forces have to assess their performance and work against the recommendation to ensure the common themes HMICFRS have found in the thematic (normally about 6 forces are inspected, choosing a range of areas and sizes of forces to ensure commonality across the country) are addressed (if they feature) in every force in England and Wales.

2.3 Commissions from the Home Secretary and local policing bodies

The Home Secretary may, at any time, require HMICFRS to conduct an inspection of a police force, part of a police force, or particular activities of one or more police forces. Similarly, local policing bodies may, at any time, ask them to conduct inspections or reviews of the police forces they oversee. An example of this has been the rapid review of policing public order after the summer riots.

2.4 Inspection of national bodies and other non-Home Office forces

Additionally, HMICFRS also have a statutory responsibility to conduct inspections of the following national bodies and non-Home Office forces:

- the National Crime Agency.
- the Police Service of Northern Ireland.
- the British Transport Police.

- the Service Police – Royal Military Police, Royal Navy Police and Royal Air Force Police.
- the Ministry of Defence Police.
- the Civil Nuclear Constabulary; and
- HM Revenue & Customs.

At the request of the relevant dependency or overseas territory, they may also inspect forces in British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, such as Gibraltar, Jersey, and Guernsey.

HMICFRS have similar voluntary inspection arrangements with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority.

2.5 Joint inspections

HMICFRS work with other organisations to conduct joint inspections. These allow them to inspect the way in which the police approach and tackle a particular type of crime or problem as part of a wider assessment of the service provided by all relevant bodies and organisations. For example, they work with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission to examine how local authorities, the police and health services work together to help protect children. These are the Joint Targeted Area Inspections. (JTAI).

HMICFRS also collaborate with the other criminal justice inspectorates: HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Prisons. This allows the assessment of police efficiency and effectiveness in both contributing to, and being affected by, the wider criminal justice system. The joint inspection work HMICFRS do with these inspectorates is detailed in the separate 'Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Business Plan 2023/25'.

2.6 State of Policing report

Each year, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary will produce an annual State of Policing report, which reports on the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales. This is to inform parliament of the issues within policing.

2.7 Rolling programmes.

HMICFRS conduct a number of rolling programmes. These are to assess specific issues in areas of higher risk. These are deeper and narrower inspection into specific areas. These include:

- Custody
- Integrity (Vetting, Counter corruption and Professional Standards)
- Child Protection
- Serious and Organised Crime

3. Publications

3.1 All HMICFRS publications are available through this link: [Publications - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#)

3.2 Reports of note:

3.2.1 Memorandum of understanding: HMICFRS and the association of Police and Crime Commissioners

On 21st July a memorandum of understanding was published by HMICFRS, the document sets out how His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) work together, and how HMICFRS aims to work with individual police and crime commissioners, police, fire and crime commissioners, and deputy mayors.

3.2.2 PEEL 2023-2025: An inspection of South Yorkshire Constabulary

On 24th July 2025, HMICFRS published their report of **South Yorkshire Police** PEEL inspection. HMICFRS awarded the below gradings:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	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		

Overall, HMICFRS wrote: *‘I am pleased with some aspects of the performance of South Yorkshire Police in keeping people safe, reducing crime and providing victims with an effective service. I am satisfied with most other aspects of the force’s performance, but there are areas in which it needs to improve.’*

Within the report HMICFRS have given **South Yorkshire Constabulary** 16 areas for improvement.

3.2.3 PEEL 2023-2025: An inspection of Sussex Constabulary

On 24th July 2025, HMICFRS published their report of **Sussex Police** PEEL inspection. HMICFRS awarded the below gradings:

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

Overall, HMICFRS wrote: *‘I am pleased with some aspects of the performance of Sussex Police in keeping people safe, reducing crime and providing victims with an effective service. I am satisfied with most other aspects of the force’s performance, but there are areas in which it needs to improve.’*

Within the report HMICFRS have given **Sussex Constabulary** 15 areas for improvement.

3.2.4 PEEL 2023-2025: An inspection of the City of London Police

On 24th July 2025, HMICFRS published their report of **the City of London Police** PEEL inspection. HMICFRS awarded the below gradings:

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

Overall, HMICFRS wrote: *‘I am pleased with some aspects of the City of London Police’s performance in keeping people safe, reducing crime and providing victims with an effective service. I am satisfied with the other aspects of its performance.’*

Within the report HMICFRS have given **the City of London Police** 12 areas for improvement.

3.2.5 PEEL 2023-2025: An inspection of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

On 24th July 2025, HMICFRS published their report of **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police** PEEL inspection. HMICFRS awarded the below gradings:

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

Overall, HMICFRS wrote: *‘I am pleased with some aspects of the performance of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary in keeping people safe, reducing crime and providing victims with an effective service. I am satisfied with the other aspects of its performance.’*

Within the report HMICFRS have given **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police** 10 areas for improvement.

3.2.6 Memorandum of understanding: HMICFRS, the Collect of Policing and the Independent Office for Police Conduct

On 28th July 2025 HMICFRS published a memorandum of understanding.

His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), the College of Policing and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) are jointly responsible for responding to police super-complaints. The memorandum of understanding sets out how they will work together to respond to police super-complaints, to support their joint aim of promoting improvements in policing.

3.2.7 Report on an inspection visit to Police custody suites in the Metropolitan Police Service

Background

On 7th August 2025, HMICFRS published a report which describes their findings following an inspection of the Metropolitan Police Service custody facilities. The

inspection was conducted jointly by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in February and March 2025. It is part of our programme of inspections covering every police custody suite in England and Wales.

HMICFRS made one recommendation and highlighted twenty areas for improvement.

3.2.8 Quality Service Review technical methodology

On 7th August 2025 HMICFRS published their PEEL quality service review – technical methodology.

Background

The Quality Service Review forms part of our police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspection programme. It assesses the quality of service provided to the public.

In HMICFRS's 2025–27 PEEL inspections, they have transitioned from the victim service assessment (VSA) to the quality service review (QSR). They are using the QSR to assess the service each force provides to the public.

In their 2025–27 reports, the QSR does not have its own graded judgment or section. Instead, the results of the QSR provide evidence for some of the questions that form the basis of their PEEL inspections.

3.2.9 Joint child protection inspection of children who are victims of domestic abuse in Hillingdon.

On 14th August 2025, a letter was published summarising the findings of a joint inspection which took place between 16th and 20th June 2025. Ofsted, HMICRS, the Care Quality Commission and HM Inspectorate of Probation conducted a joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to children who are victims of domestic abuse in Hillingdon.

These inspections examine the arrangements and services for children in need of help and protection in local authority areas in England. This letter summarises the findings of the joint inspection.

Areas for improvement:

Redcar and Cleveland were given five areas of improvement.

3.2.10 Northamptonshire Police: National child protection inspection

Background

In February 2024, HMICFRS introduced a new child protection rolling inspection programme. For each police force in England and Wales, they make five judgments on how effectively the force safeguards children at risk.

On 22nd August HMICFRS published a report setting out the findings of their 2025 inspection of child protection services in Northamptonshire Police.

Overall Summary

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Working with safeguarding partners	Leadership of child protection arrangements	Responding to children at risk of harm	
		Risk assessment and referrals	Investigating child abuse, neglect and exploitation	

Overall, HMICFRS wrote: *'I am pleased with some aspects of the performance of Northamptonshire Police in safeguarding children at risk, but there are some areas in which it needs to improve.*

3.2.11 How effectively do the Police record crime?

On 28th August 2025 HMICFRS published a report 'How effectively do Police record crime?'. The report brings together findings from their 2016–20 CDI inspections with findings from our PEEL inspection programme.

Background

As part of HMICFRS's police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspections, we assess how well police forces record reports of crime.

When we inspect forces' crime-recording practices, we make sure they adhere to the national standards set by the Home Office. The purpose of this work is to make sure:

- victims of crime receive appropriate support.
- the public has accurate information about crime in their area; and
- forces can effectively plan and use their investigative resources to best effect.

From 2016 to 2020, we did this through separate crime data integrity (CDI) inspections.

HMICFRS wrote:

Overall, we have seen marked improvements in the way forces record crime. I am pleased with the way forces have taken action to implement our recommendations from previous inspections. The percentage of overall crime the police have recorded has risen from 80.5 percent in 2014 to 94.8 percent in 2025.

Recommendations

In the report they made three recommendations, all of which were specific to the Police:

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

3.2.12 Joint child protection inspection of identification of initial need and risk in Telford and Wrekin

Between 14 and 18 July 2025, Ofsted, HMICFRS, and the Care Quality Commission conducted a joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk in Telford and Wrekin. On 10th September 2025, the report was published and Telford and Wrekin were given three areas for improvement.

3.2.13 State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2024-2025

On 10th September 2025, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary's published the report to the Secretary of State, under section 54(4) of the Police Act 1996. The report contains his independent assessment, as His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, of the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales. It is based on the evidence HMICFRS found during their inspections between 1 April 2024 and 31 July 2025. The report draws on findings from inspections of police forces in England and Wales, to provide an overall view of the state of policing.

[Read the report](#)

3.2.14 Report on an inspection visit to the British Transport Police custody suite.

Background

On 10th October 2025, HMICFRS published a report which describes their findings following an inspection of British Transport Police (BTP)'s custody facility at Brewery Road, Islington, London. The inspection was conducted jointly by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in February and March 2025. It is part of our programme of inspections covering every police custody suite in England and Wales.

HMICFRS made one recommendation and highlighted three areas for improvement.

3.2.15 The effectiveness of diverting children from the criminal justice system: meeting needs, ensuring safety, and preventing reoffending.

Background

Youth out-of-court disposals (OoCDs) are alternatives to formal prosecution for children and are designed to divert them away from the criminal justice system by addressing their behaviour early and offering support to prevent further offending.

In 2018, HM Inspectorate of Probation, with HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, conducted an inspection into the delivery of OoCDs. The resulting report made eleven recommendations, emphasising the need for greater focus on victims and a comprehensive evaluation of the use and effectiveness of OoCDs.

Since then, the use of OoCDs has increased significantly and now accounts for most casework in many youth justice services. Evidence of the impact and cost effectiveness of OoCDs remains limited. National data is lacking, and there is little understanding of the number issued, how they are used, or how effective different approaches are.

On 15th October, HMICFRS published their report in which they make eighteen recommendations to support stronger governance, clearer guidance, and more consistent practice in the use of OoCDs for children.