

HMIC INSPECTION UPDATE

Inspection Programme 2015 / 16

HMIC are currently consulting on their inspection plans for 2015/16. A separate briefing note on the content is attached at Annex 1.

Recent Publications

1. **'Integrity Matters: An inspection of arrangements to ensure integrity and to provide the capability to tackle corruption in policing.'**

In 2014, HMIC conducted an inspection of police integrity and leadership, and were asked by the Home Secretary to include a review of the anti-corruption capability in forces.

Their report, published on 30th January 2015, found that forces have made significant progress in establishing processes to prevent and tackle corruption, in part due to the strong leadership being demonstrated by senior police officers. They found no evidence of endemic corruption but identified some concerns around consistency and proactive capability.

The report also details how forces have responded to recommendations made in previous inspections, *'Without Fear or Favour'* (2011) and *'Revisiting Police Relationships'* (2012) and finds that progress has been made in the majority of cases.

HMIC makes 14 recommendations which the Constabulary is now considering. The timescale for completion for the majority of recommendations is 31 August 2015.

2. **Joint Inspection of the Investigation and Prosecution of Fatal Road Traffic Incidents**

Lancashire was one of six forces inspected in this joint thematic review, which took place in February 2014. The report published on 4 February 2015 found that both police and the CPS aspire to deliver high standards but work is needed to turn that into a reality. Inspectors found there was no process to accredit specialists, national guidance was often ignored at operational level and monitoring of performance and casework outcomes was "fragmentary or non-existent."

The report states that, overall, the police are professional and thorough but highlight the need to prioritise the work of family liaison officers. Inspectors found the performance of police staff generally good, and often excellent, in their service to bereaved families. Lancashire Constabulary was cited in particular for good practice around staff welfare, training of FLOs, quality assurance of investigations and road safety campaigns.

Concerns were raised around the quality of the CPS's decision making and CPS service to bereaved families was considered poor in many cases, well short even of its own guidance. The report suggests that prosecutors should be more responsive and empathetic to make victims and witnesses' experiences less distressing.

The report makes a total of 15 recommendations, four of which are for action by forces. These will now be considered by the Constabulary and progressed accordingly.

Planned Inspections

1. Identification of Vulnerability in Police Prosecution Case Files (Joint Inspection)

An inspection of the identification of vulnerability case files is the first of two planned inspections examining the effectiveness of the police response to protecting vulnerable people; they will inform the next PEEL assessments and vulnerability is also an essential element of the PEEL inspections currently being planned for summer 2015.

Findings from previous inspections of case file quality have highlighted problems in the identification of vulnerable victims and witnesses in the police report (MG5). The MG5 is the key document from which the CPS prosecutor draws the facts of the case in order to inform the court of the circumstances of the offence. Concerns were also identified about how risks to victims were being dealt with by the officer in the case.

This inspection will examine the effectiveness of the police identification of vulnerable victims and witnesses, and how risk is subsequently assessed and managed in the course of the investigation. The inspection requires review of a sample of prosecution case files in each force. HMIC and HMCPSI inspectors will examine the same prosecution case files.

HMIC will be in force 3 - 4 March 2015. The VICF inspection will result in a national thematic report, and 43 short force reports. The national thematic report will be published in September 2015.

2. Honour Based Violence

Inspection of the police response to so-called honour-based violence (HBV) is the second of two vulnerability themed inspections. This inspection has been designed to examine the preparedness of the police service to respond to HBV, forced-marriage (FM) and female genital mutilation (FGM).

The inspection will take place in two phases, commencing with a self-assessment and review of relevant force literature and data which was received in force on 16 February 2015, for completion by Friday 6 March.

Phase two of the inspection will take place later in the year and will involve more in-depth inspections of a number of forces, selected from relevant data and information gathered during phase one. These inspections will follow the victim's journey from initial contact to closure of police involvement and will also involve direct victim engagement.

The findings from the inspection will result in 43 narrative summaries which will be included in the next annual all-force PEEL assessment and a national thematic report to be published later in 2015.

3. PEEL Efficiency, Leadership and Legitimacy Inspection Programme

The first PEEL inspection for 2015 will consider efficiency, leadership and legitimacy, and will take place between March and June 2015. The efficiency methodology builds on the valuing the police (VTP) inspections but aims to go beyond how well forces have met the spending review challenge, into wider questions of efficiency and productivity.

HMIC has added a focus on how well forces understand demand, the way in which they match their services to meet that demand, the extent to which they understand the costs of those services and the link between those costs and the outcomes they are intended to produce. HMIC will continue to look at the robustness of forces' workforce plans, particularly the medium and long term effects of financial planning decisions on the capacity and capability of forces.

As part of the annual inspection, HMIC will also assess the overall state of leadership in forces and will consider the contribution of leadership to improving the efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy of the force. The information for these elements will be collected as part of the efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy inspections, leading to narrative, rather than graded, judgments on leadership in forces.

Reports Awaited

- 1. Building the Picture – Information Management**
- 2. Disability Hate Crime**
- 3. Civil Nuclear Constabulary**
- 4. 21st Century Child Sexual Exploitation**

The Constabulary will continue to report progress against recommendations made and areas for improvement identified to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee.

Decision Required

For Committee to note the update for information

Background Papers

Annex 1 – Constabulary Inspection Register

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