



**Lancashire
Constabulary**
police and communities together

JOINT MANAGEMENT BOARD

	DATE: 3 MARCH 2015
TITLE: INSPECTION REPORTS	
REPORT BY: LEAH WATSON, CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT	
<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>Under the Police Act 1996 (as amended) there is a requirement for the Commissioner to consider and comment on HMIC reports, send their comments to the Home Secretary and to publish their response within 30 working days of publication. This report provides the Police and Crime Commissioner with an update in relation to the following Inspection Reports.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. HMIC Inspection Report – <i>'Integrity Matters'</i>2. Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Report	
<p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Commissioner is asked to comment on the HMIC Inspection Report – 'Integrity Matters' and the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Report in line with the statutory requirement laid down in section 55 (5) of the Police Act 1996.</p>	
<p>Signature</p> <p>Police and Crime Commissioner</p> <p>Date</p>	

PART I

Background and Advice

1. **HMIC Inspection Report – ‘Integrity Matters’:** An inspection of arrangements to ensure integrity and to provide the capability to tackle corruption in policing

On Friday 30th January 2015, HMIC published their national thematic report ‘*Integrity Matters*’, which fulfilled their 2014/15 planning commitment to conduct an inspection of police integrity and leadership. As part of the inspection, the Home Secretary also asked HMIC to look at forces’ anti-corruption capability, including the ability of forces to gather regular, actionable intelligence on corruption matters.

The report provides a national picture that highlights the significant progress made by police forces in establishing processes to prevent and tackle corruption, which they say is in part due to strong leadership by senior police officers. The data supplied by forces as part of the evidence gathering highlighted that Lancashire has both reactive and proactive capacity that is in line with the national average.

HMIC found no evidence of endemic corruption within the police service, highlighting that the overwhelming majority of officers and staff are honest and professional. The report does however, highlight concerns around consistency and the lack of capability in some forces to proactively investigate and prevent corruption.

The report acknowledges that public interest in issues surrounding police integrity is unlikely to diminish and concerns will continue around both institutional shortcomings and individual cases of significant misconduct.

HMIC also reviewed how forces have responded to recommendations made in their previous inspections, ‘Without Fear or Favour’ (2011) and ‘Revisiting Police Relationships’ (2012). They conclude that, in general, the arrangements police forces have implemented to promote integrity have demonstrated progress, although for some forces this was less than others.

The report identifies 14 recommendations (see appendix) for forces to consider in providing greater clarity and consistency in the dealing of misconduct matters and the prevention and identification of corruption.

The timescale for completion for the majority of recommendations is the 31st August 2015; the Constabulary is currently considering how best to implement any areas for improvement.

Progress will be reported through Strategic Scrutiny Meeting.

2. **Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Report –** 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 early 2014. The report was published on 4 February 2015 and Lancashire Constabulary was cited in the report for good practice around staff welfare, training of

family liaison officers, quality assurance of investigations and its road safety campaigns.

The report states that, overall, the investigation by police staff of fatal road traffic incidents is professional and thorough and that service to bereaved families is generally good and often excellent. The report does urge forces to adopt the new ACPO/College of Policing training package for road death investigation and make any organisational changes that may be required to improve investigation practice.

Despite force variations in organisational structure and staffing complements in roads policing departments, standards of investigation and evidence gathering were considered satisfactory. The recommendations made are aimed at:

- improving and standardising the training of road death investigation officers, senior investigating officers and family liaison officers;
- recognising and supporting the family liaison officer role; and
- reassuring the public that a road death investigation is not treated with less importance than any other homicide.

In respect of prosecutions, concerns were raised around the quality of CPS decision making and the service to bereaved families, which was considered poor in many cases. The report suggests that prosecutors should be more responsive and empathetic in order to make the experience of victims and witnesses less distressing.

Inspectors were satisfied that there was a genuine desire to deliver a specialist role and quality of service by prosecutors, but the structures in place did not support it. The report finds that there is some way to go for the CPS to deliver a specialist prosecutor function, in a similar way to the current practice with regard to rape and serious sexual offences. Specialist training of prosecutors had not occurred; there was no process in place to accredit specialists; national guidance was often ignored at operational level; monitoring of performance and casework outcomes was fragmentary or non-existent; and opportunities to set up regional partnerships with the police and other external partners had not been taken.

The inspectorate recommends that CPS reinvigorate its approach to handling prosecutions arising from fatal road traffic incidents. Work is required to define, support and measure the effectiveness of the specialist prosecutor role. There are excellent policies and commitments to support and inform victims' families but these lose impact if not implemented consistently.

The report makes a total of 15 recommendations, four of which are for action by police forces.

The Constabulary is now considering both reports and the recommendations made and will report progress upon action taken to the PCC, through the Strategic Scrutiny Meeting.

Links to the Police and Crime Plan

HMIC Inspection Reports provide information of significant public interest to enable residents in Lancashire to assess the performance of the Chief Constable.

Consultation (internal & external)

Implications

a. Legal

By not providing a response to the Home Secretary and publishing within 30 working days would mean the Commissioner is not compliant with the statutory requirement laid down in section 55 (5) of the Police Act 1996 (as amended).

b. Financial

None

c. Equality considerations

None

Background Papers

Appendix – ‘Integrity Matters’ – Summary of Recommendations

2. Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.

Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form.

Officer declaration	Date
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above	
CONSULTATION – As above	
Director to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Monitoring Officer) I have been informed about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire. Signature.....Date.....	