

Police and Crime Panel

7th March 2022

HMICFRS publications



Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

1. Purpose

1.1. To brief the Police and Crime Panel on the findings/ comments of recent Durham related publications by Her Majesties' Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), listed below¹:

- Terms of reference: Inspection of the police's handling of serious youth violence
- Policing inspection programme and framework commencing April 2022: For consultation
- Responses to 'Safe to Share? Report on Liberty and Southall Black Sisters' super-complaint on policing and immigration status'

2. Terms of reference: Inspection of the police's handling of serious youth violence²

2.1. HMICFRS will carry out thematic inspections of all local police forces in England and Wales of 'how well police address serious youth violence to reduce crime involving young people (particularly between the ages of 16 to 24)'. The link to HMICFRS' pre-publication article can be found here: [Terms of reference: Inspection of the police's handling of serious youth violence - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectrates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/terms-of-reference-inspection-of-the-police-s-handling-of-serious-youth-violence)

2.2. A summary of the terms of reference is as follows:

- How well the police address serious youth violence, investigate and support victims including where racial disproportionality may be a factor;
- How effectively and efficiently the police work with partners to implement the serious violence strategy, including a public health approach;
- How police-led enforcement activities are supportive of partnership activities; and
- How efficiently and effectively violence reduction units reduce serious youth violent crime.

2.3. The findings of this inspection will be released in due course. There is no public timeline attached for this.

¹ Please note not all publications require a bespoke PCC response/ comment.

3. Policing inspection programme and framework commencing April 2022: For consultation

- 3.1. The document provides an overview of HMICFRS' proposed inspection programme which will commence in April 2022. The link to the article can be found here: [Policing inspection programme and framework commencing April 2022: For consultation - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/policing-inspection-programme-and-framework-commencing-april-2022-for-consultation/)
- 3.2. HMICFRS are consulting on three overarching questions pertaining to the forthcoming inspection programme in 2022 and beyond, listed below:
- Do the proposed thematic inspections cover the areas that are of most concern to you at the moment? Which do you believe are of greatest importance or urgency?
 - Are there any significant new or emerging problems in policing that HMICFRS should consider when it inspects individual police forces?
 - How else could HMICFRS adapt the way in which it acquires information to take account of current circumstances and risks to public safety?
- 3.3. HMICFRS list a series of current and proposed thematic inspection areas. These are reflective of the responses given by Durham Constabulary and the PCC when the original consultation took place.
- 3.4. HMICFRS consider the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 'in the design of each inspection, and before carrying out fieldwork in each force' which enables the inspectorate 'to be clear on its established local priorities. The police and crime plan is also used as a source of information about the local circumstances and characteristics of the force, the police area in question, and the factors that affect considerations of public protection, crime and disorder, including demand – latent and patent – for police services.' This approach facilitates a direct link between police forces, PCCs, and HMICFRS, enabling the PCC and force to relay the most current localised issues which supports the inspectorate to consider bespoke approaches to inspection. This approach also results in HMICFRS taking into account strategic documentation, and thus direction, when developing their inspection programme.
- 3.5. Current arrangements prove effective in supplying HMICFRS with appropriate information and enabling them to sufficiently consider current circumstances and risks to public safety, as displayed by the proposed inspection topics. It will be important moving forward that regular liaison between HMICFRS and the OPCC is further embedded to augment current working practices.
- 3.6. It is worth noting that the [link](#) to this document contains a summary explanation of the new PEEL approach and several sub-links within the document which provide greater clarity on grading and rationale.

4. Responses to 'Safe to Share? Report on Liberty and Southall Black Sisters' super-complaint on policing and immigration status'

- 4.1. HMICFRS have published the responses they have received from all local police forces in England and Wales pertaining to their inspection published in December 2020. Durham Constabulary and the OPCC submitted responses to the Liberty and Southall Black Sisters' super complaint in February 2021 which the Panel were made aware of on 12/03/2021, the OPCC response can be found here: [HMICFRS Inspections | DDurham Police & Crime Commissioner \(durham-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/hmicfrs-inspections-ddurham-police-crime-commissioner).
- 4.2. There was an updated joint Durham Constabulary and PCC response submitted which has subsequently been published by HMICFRS. This contained no new information from a PCC comment perspective and can be found here: [Safe-to-Share-Durham-Response-031221.pdf](#).
- 4.3. As per comments in the HMICFRS overview report provided to the Police and Crime Panel (12/03/2021) the PCC is currently assured that the Force continue to adhere to updated national guidance alongside an effective and continually maturing THRIVE³ process used by the Force. There is clear evidence of the Force adapting to updated national guidance in terms of literature and policy implementation. This type of information is routinely considered by the OPCC when developing wider narratives to hold the Chief Constable to account, however, in isolation these are operational policies under the remit of the Chief Constable.

5. Additional Items for information

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) Report

- 5.1. The Force are reviewing the recommendations held within the IICSA report, following this the Deputy Chief Constable will provide a further update to the OPCC.

Comparing pre and post 2021 PEEL inspections

- 5.2. The table below displays the **mode** grading allocated to each force under the pre and post PEEL grading systems. Only five forces have been graded under the new system, therefore only five are comparable in this fashion.

³ Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement (THRIVE).

Force	2018/ 2019 PEEL grade ⁴	2021/22 PEEL grade ⁵
Durham	Outstanding (2/3)	Good (7/10)
Gloucestershire	Good (3/3)	Inadequate (6/11)
Northampton	Requires Improvement (2/3)	Requires Improvement (6/10)
West Midlands	Good (3/3)	Good (5/11)
West Yorkshire	Good (2/3)	Outstanding/ Good (4 of each from 10) ⁶

5.3. There are caveats within the 2021/22 data as well as those mentioned in the footnotes. For example, while West Yorkshire have received a split grading and ostensibly an improvement to grading, they also received two “Adequate”. Compared to Durham who had one “Adequate”, two “Outstanding”, and seven “Good”. Breakdowns of each of the five forces PEEL question gradings can be found in *Appendix 1*.

5.4. HMICFRS have also stressed that while the new continuous assessment approach is more precise and intelligence-led, the changes also mean that it ‘isn’t possible to make direct comparisons between the grades awarded this year with those from previous PEEL inspections.’ Specifically stressing ‘a reduction in grade, particularly from good to adequate, does not necessarily mean that there has been a reduction in performance, unless we [HMICFRS] say so in the force’s report’.

6. Recommendations

6.1. It is recommended that the Panel notes the content of the report and considers items as required.

Joy Allen
Police and Crime Commissioner

⁴ The breakdown is on the three pillars – Effectiveness, Efficiency, Legitimacy. While there were individual questions in the pre-2021 system the overall gradings were allocated on the three pillars.

⁵ Please note the total number of questions varies from force to force as not all forces were inspected on crime data. While there are twelve questions, grading is only attributed to ten of those questions (with the SPR and armed response ungraded). The additional data question is currently considered atypical. Please find a link to more detail on each question and what HMICFRS consider to be “Good”: [PEEL Assessment Framework 2021/22 - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/peel/peel-2021-22/).

⁶ In HMICFRS’ press release West Yorkshire’s performance was identified as “Excellent” in light of a 50/50 split between “Good” and “Outstanding”.

Appendix 1: Post 2021 Question grading breakdown by force

	Providing a service to the victims of crime	Recording data about crime	Engaging with and treating the public with fairness and respect	Preventing crime and anti-social behaviour	Responding to the public	Investigating crime	Protecting vulnerable people	Managing offenders and suspects	Disrupting serious organised crime	Building, supporting and protecting the workforce	Strategic planning, organisational management and value for money
Durham	Orange	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Dark Green	Green	Dark Green
Gloucester	Dark Red	Dark Red	Green	Green	Dark Red	Dark Red	Dark Red	Orange	Green	Green	Dark Red
Northampto.	Orange	Grey	Red	Orange	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red
West Midla.	Red	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Red	Red	Orange	Green	Orange	Green
West Yorks.	Orange	Grey	Dark Green	Dark Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Dark Green	Green	Dark Green

Appendix 2: Risks and Implications

Finance

N/A

Staffing

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Accommodation

N/A

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Children's Act 2004

N/A

Stakeholder/Community Engagement

N/A

Environment

N/A

Collaboration and Partnerships

N/A

Value for Money and Productivity

N/A

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

N/A

Commissioning

N/A

Other risks

N/A

Contact Officer:	James Atkinson
Job Title:	Accountability and Scrutiny Officer
Telephone:	0191-375-2001
Email:	James.atkinson@durham-pcc.gov.uk