

**JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 2025**

**HMICFRS OVERVIEW**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) with an overview of NYP's approach to responding to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) activity. It provides an overview of live recommendations and areas for improvement (AFI) at section 2. Section 3 provides commentary on the approach to the most recent publications followed by a general update on the inspectorate plan for the year at section 4. This report is aligned to the HMICFRS area of responsibility of the JIAC terms of reference.

**2. HMICFRS RECOMMENDATIONS AND AFI**

- 2.1 NYP has an internal register of all recommendations and areas for improvement made by HMICFRS. The internal governance is managed through the force's Risk and Assurance Board (RAB).

An assessment of all HMICFRS recommendations and AFIs is carried out by the Inspection and Strategic Planning Team in conjunction with the force lead, this identifies the force's current position, identifies any gaps and actions required to meet the recommendation or AFI. The assessment also includes a cross reference with the risk register to identify any associated existing risks and, where a risk doesn't currently exist, requires the lead to consider if a new risk needs to be considered. Any newly identified risks are escalated through the risk management process where appropriate. Below is a copy of the assessment template for information:

Report Title	HMICFRS report title in full		
Rec/AFI	Recommendation and AFI description (beneficial to include the recommendation number as referred to in the report to aid discussions)		
<b>Current Position</b> A summary of the forces current position including, where appropriate, the current process in place, how it is governed and scrutinised, who is responsible for delivery, how do we know that it work and what evidence is available to support this.			
<b>Gap(s)</b> What are the current gaps in provision that is preventing NYP from achieving the recommendation/AFI?			
<b>Proposed Action(s) Required</b>		<b>By When?</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Actions should address the identified gaps.			
<b>Is this linked to a Risk Adopt?</b>	Y/N (if Yes, please include risk title and no.)	<b>Requirement to raise a risk</b>	Y/N (please link in with Risk Manager as appropriate)
		Yes/No	
<b>Completed by (IO):</b>		<b>Completion date:</b>	
<b>HoF Responsible:</b>		<b>HoF Approval date:</b>	
<b>SRO Responsible:</b>		<b>SRO Approval date:</b>	

2.2 HMICFRS categorise Recommendations/AFIs into levels ranging from 1-4 on their Monitoring Portal as follows:

- Level 1 No action required.
- Level 2 Forces are able to close records and self-certify.
- Level 3 Forces are able to close records, HMICFRS certify closure.
- Level 4 Forces are unable to close records, HMICFRS to conduct further bespoke fieldwork, usually for forces in the “engage” phase.

Forces are required to submit closure letters to HMICFRS and this process has been aligned the existing assessment and management process and sits under the governance of the RAB. NYP currently have open recommendations and AFIs in levels 2 and 3 only.

2.2 The current headlines are:

- There are 67 recommendations and AFI’s currently live on the register (121 actions in total). This includes recommendations from national super-complaints.
- 21 of which are specific to NYP, the remainder originate from national thematic reports.
- 13 are currently awaiting evaluation or decision for adoption (more detail below)

### 3. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

3.1 All HMICFRS recommendations and AFI’s are assessed to ascertain what action is required by the force to meet the requirements. The assessment is presented to the RAB and actions adopted accordingly. The table below provides an overview of the position on recent HMICFRS publications relevant to NYP.

Crime Investigations: An inspection into how effectively the police investigate crime
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(9 recommendations made for police forces, assessment ongoing)

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Improving the response to organised immigration crime

(4 recommendations made for police forces, assessment ongoing)

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An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024 – Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 Reports

(The report makes a number of national recommendations however no formal HMICFRS monitoring has been required of forces to date. The Inspection and Strategic Planning Team will continue to monitor this situation in case action is required in the future).

#### **4. INSPECTORATE ACTIVITY UPDATE**

4.1 The NYP Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection took place in October 2023 and the report was published in March 2024. HMICFRS conducted the thematic inspection into serious and organised crime in the North East region in November 2024 and are awaiting the final report. The Integrity thematic Inspection took place in NYP in July 2024 and the final report was published in January 2025.

4.2 The list below summarises the position on the areas of coverage for inspection activity:

- Rolling programmes of policing inspections including:
  - PEEL
  - Child protection inspections (Joint and single agency)
  - Criminal justice joint inspections and inspection programmes
  - Serious and organised crime
  - Integrity.
- HMICFRS plan to start the following thematic inspections in 2024/25 and complete them in 2025/26:
  - firearms licensing
  - police leadership.
- HMICFRS plan to carry out or complete the following further areas over the course of their 2025-29 policing inspection programme and framework:
  - the police response to knife-related crime, which will expand on the serious youth violence report;

- the efficiency and effectiveness of current arrangements that provide local, regional and national policing support services, including arrangements to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement;
- science and technology – examining the use of new and/or emerging science and technology, such as biometrics and facial recognition, to tackle crime;
- police and fire and rescue service cybersecurity;
- counter-terrorism;
- Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles across all emergency services;
- data and analytics – including topics such as data quality, management of data, data rights analysis (the capability and role of the analyst, for example) and using science to improve the application of data; and
- retail crime and shoplifting.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 The Committee are invited to consider the report and:

- Express any views on the:
  - Live recommendations and areas for improvement (AFI)
  - approach to the most recent publications
  - inspectorate plan
- Indicate the level of assurance that can be drawn from the content.

**Inspection and Strategy Manager (Inspection and Strategic Planning, Corporate Development)**

Date: June 2025