

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 2026

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 Assurance and Improvement Board (RAIB).

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.

- 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.

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 RAIB. NYP currently have open recommendations and AFIs in levels 2 and 3 only.

- 2.2 The current headlines are:

- There are 29 recommendations and AFI's currently live on the register (72 actions in total). This is an increase of 1 recommendation since the June JIAC report.
- 8 of which are specific to NYP, the remainder originate from national thematic reports.
- 18 recommendations / AFIs 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.

Firearms Licensing: An inspection of firearms licensing across police forces in England and Wales (11 recommendations for forces, assessment ongoing)

An inspection of the police's role in safety advisory groups: planning for major public events (7 recommendation for forces, assessment ongoing)

4. INSPECTORATE ACTIVITY UPDATE

- 4.1 The NYP Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection fieldwork took place in November 2025 and the report was published in April 2026. HMICFRS conducted the thematic inspection into serious and organised crime in the North East region in November 2024 and the report was published in December 2025. 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 started the following thematic inspections in 2024/25 and plan to complete them in 2025/26:
 - 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 (fieldwork is expected to take place in the autumn for the forces that are selected);
 - 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 (NYP were selected to take part in this inspection and the fieldwork took place in January 2026. The final thematic report is expected imminently);
 - 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: September 2026