



RESPONSE BY THE PCC TO HMIC INSPECTIONS OF CLEVELAND POLICE

INSPECTION DETAILS

Title of Inspection

PEEL: PCC HMIC Response - Abuse of position for a sexual purpose October 2017

Date Inspection Published

October 2017

Type of Inspection:

- Cleveland Specific
 Follow Up
 Partner Inspection

- National
 Thematic

Is Cleveland Police quoted in the Report?

Yes

No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

In December 2016, the HMICFRS published the national PEEL: Police Legitimacy 2016 inspection report in which it referred to the problem of 'abuse of authority for sexual gain'. In the interests of consistency and in line with the terminology used in the National Police Chiefs' Council's national strategy it is referred to as 'abuse of position for a sexual purpose'. The 2016 report found that serious concerns, including; failing to recognise abuse of position for a sexual purpose as serious corruption; failing to refer cases to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC); and lacking the capacity and capability to seek intelligence on this form of corruption rather than wait for it to be reported

Therefore a recommendation was made to all forces, which was as follows:

'Within six months, all forces should have started to implement a plan to achieve the capability and capacity required to seek intelligence on potential abuse of authority for sexual gain. These plans should include consideration of the technology and resources required to monitor IT systems that support vulnerable people'.

In reviewing forces' plans to address the above recommendation a desk based review was undertaken. Plans were assessed on a number of criteria and inconsistent progress was found across the country. Each force has received the findings of the review and forces now have the opportunity to

make further progress until it is revisited again in 2018 and beyond.

HMICFRS were pleased to find that the plans Cleveland Police had submitted in response to the recommendation were comprehensive, and also reflected the national strategy agreed at the National Police Chiefs' Council in April 2017. The plans included evidence of a review of the capability and capacity of the counter-corruption unit and improvements to IT systems' monitoring capability that had already commenced by the time of the review. Work to seek intelligence from those organisations that support vulnerable people was also included in the plans (although this work had not yet started at the time of the review).

FORCE RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

We take these issues, as do all police forces, very seriously and have put in place a programme of work which focuses on three key areas; namely prevention, intervention and protection. As part of this we are currently rolling out a series of 13 road shows for officers and staff to raise awareness of the issue and we are working with partner agencies who deal with vulnerable victims to do the same.

We are also implementing an annual integrity health check, of which this forms an important element, as well as reviewing and updating internal and external vetting processes and we are working closely with regional forces to share good practice. As a matter of course we are also working to ensure that all reports of abuse are referred to the IPCC for external scrutiny at the earliest opportunity.

PCC RESPONSE TO INSPECTION

Comment by the PCC:

Police officers often find themselves in positions of power, especially when dealing with vulnerable people. It is therefore essential that they demonstrate the highest standards of ethical behaviour and that robust action is taken if they do not.

The HMI has stated how pleased he is with the progress the force has made in this area.

His conclusions are a further vote of confidence for Cleveland police officers and staff and for the programme of change put in place by the chief constable and my office.

I have decided to release the letter the HMI sent to me so the public can be

confident of the progress being made in this area.

As part of my scrutiny programme regular updates are received from the force about progress on recommendations and areas for improvement arising from HMICFRS inspections and this will be the case with regards to the force's plans to deal with the abuse of authority for sexual gain.

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Response forwarded to Home Office

Response published on PCC website