



RESPONSE BY THE PCC TO HMICFRS INSPECTIONS OF CLEVELAND POLICE

INSPECTION DETAILS

Title of Inspection

Finding Time for Crime – The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime.

Date Inspection Published

11 August 2022

Type of Inspection:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland Specific | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow Up | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner Inspection | |

Is Cleveland Police quoted in the Report?

Yes No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report focuses on the police response to serious acquisitive crime (SAC) which in the document is defined as: domestic burglary, personal robbery, theft from a person and theft of and from a motor vehicle.

HMICFRS welcome the renewed focus on the crimes in the Government's 'Beating Crime' Plan. It was noted in the report that very few of these crimes result in justice for victims. In the rare event that an offender is caught and prosecuted robust intervention is needed to change offending behaviours, without this, many will reoffend. The report highlighted good practice and innovative practice. The report noted that SAC strikes at the heart of people's feelings of safety in their homes and communities. If affects people on a daily basis and failing to target it damages public confidence in policing.

The findings included the following

- The screening of volume of crimes can overlook the complexity and harm caused by SAC
- Forces often lack capacity to investigate SAC
- Inadequate digital forensic capability often hinders investigations
- Insufficient supervision sets the blueprint for poor standards
- Tackling SAC needs a whole-force approach
- Forces with a strong crime prevention culture are more adept at problem-solving and achieve better results
- Victims of SAC are at an increased risk of repeat victimisation
- SAC reoffending rates are higher than any other crime type
- Most SAC offences doesn't lead to an offender being charged

The report highlighted the stark differences in the investigation a victim of crime would receive, depending on the police force responsible for investigating it. HMICFRS will continue its focus on prevention and reducing SAC through the PEEL inspections.

The report made the following recommendations

- 1 – By March 2023 forces should make sure their crime scene management practices adhere to the authorised professional practice on managing investigations.
- 2 – By March 2023 all forces should ensure SAC investigations are subject to effective supervision and direction.

FORCE RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

All new reports into the Force follow a specific process which involves holding a plenary session with relevant stakeholders to discuss the actions and agree how they will be progressed. The outcome from this session is reported to the Deputy Chief Constable for approval; progress is then monitored through governance meetings until such a time as the action is considered complete. The process for closing actions is depicted by HMICFRS as they award each action a level and the Force complies with the appropriate course of action.

The Force has received and accepted the report and recommendations. A plenary session has taken place and the following 2 Force actions have been discussed:

1. *Forces should make sure their crime scene management practices adhere to the authorised professional practice on managing investigations for SAC or provide a rationale for deviating from it. They should also include:*
 - *giving victims timely and appropriate advice during their initial call; and*
 - *applying a risk assessment process such as THRIVE, clearly recording it, and flagging those re-victimised for further support.*

Call takers receive initial and refresher training on both elements and during the 2022 HMICFRS inspection they were found to consistently provide appropriate advice on the preservation of evidence and crime prevention and consistently use THRIVE to risk assess and accurately reflect the call. The Force will be seeking closure of this action at the earliest opportunity.

2. *All forces should ensure SAC investigations are subject to effective supervision and direction. This should focus on:*
 - *making sure supervisors have the capability and capacity to meaningfully supervise investigations;*
 - *making sure investigations meet the necessary standard and achieve suitable outcomes that consider the voice or opinion of victims;*
 - *applying investigative outcome codes appropriately; and*
 - *complying with the Victims' Code and recording evidence of compliance.*

The Force acknowledges there is work to do in relation to this recommendation around capacity to supervise and use of the Victims Code. Audits regularly take place to review outcomes.

The recommendations will be discussed and updated over the coming months and submitted for closure at the appropriate time.

PCC RESPONSE TO INSPECTION

Comment by the PCC:

Being a victim of crime can have a devastating effect on someone's life. My Police and Crime Plan priorities include: bringing offenders to justice; investing in more police on the streets; and effective quality support for victims and witnesses.

In May 2022 I scrutinised the Force's approach to Neighbourhood Crime in response to consultation with the public who tell me that burglary is a key concern along with theft from cars and following quarter 4 performance figures which showed a rise in all areas.

I sought assurance on what the Force was doing tactically, operationally, and strategically in relation to
Residential Burglary
Vehicle Crime
Theft from the Person
Personal Robbery

I was told the following -

The Local Policing Command have implemented additional governance and scrutiny arrangements to address neighbourhood crime, including:

- A monthly performance framework for both IRT and NPT
- A monthly performance review conducted by the Local Policing Superintendent with Chief Inspectors
- A monthly Neighbourhood Policing Performance Board with NPT Inspectors
- Force wide and local (i.e. North and South Tasking) Tasking and Coordination Groups
- A force wide serious violence working group

Through my Scrutiny Programme I will ensure effective checks and balances are in place to hold the Chief Constable to account on performance in this area.

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Response forwarded to Home Office

Response published on PCC website