



# RESPONSE BY THE PCC TO HMICFRS INSPECTIONS OF CLEVELAND POLICE

## INSPECTION DETAILS

**Title of Inspection** – North East Regional Response to Serious and Organised Crime (PEEL Regional organised Crime Units)

**Date Inspection Published** – 7 December 2022

Type of Inspection:

- Cleveland Specific     National  
 Follow Up             Thematic  
 Partner Inspection

Is Cleveland Police quoted in the Report?     Yes  No

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

The north-east region consists of three forces, Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria and their ROCU (Regional Organised Crime Unit): the North East Specialist Operations Unit (NERSOU) – as from 7 July the North East ROCU (NEROCU)

The report found that there were good relationships between the ROCU and forces but NERSOU needed more consistent support from forces to improve regional collaboration.

The ROCU should improve communications to promote what it has to offer the forces in the region.

NERSOU was graded adequate at tackling serious and organised crime.

NERSOU has 8 regional Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) priorities

Drug trafficking

Economic crime and money laundering

County lines

Child sexual exploitation and abuse

Modern slavery and human trafficking

Cybercrime

Organised acquisitive crime (such as theft or burglary)

Firearms

Area for Improvement – regional chief constables should appoint a single dedicated chief officer to lead the regional response to serious and organised crime

Cleveland Police was graded adequate at tackling serious and organised crime

Durham was graded outstanding at tackling serious and organised crime

Northumbria was rated good at tackling serious and organised crime

Cleveland areas for improvement

The force doesn't have enough financial investigation capacity to meet demand

The Force should adopt a more consistent approach to tackling serious and organised crime at neighbourhood

level.

Northumbria area for improvement

The Force should make sure that there are sufficient resources in specialist areas to meet serious and organised crime demand.

## **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 3 Force actions have been discussed:

1. *The force doesn't have enough financial investigation capacity to meet demand.*

The Force is looking at resourcing, working with the region and at ways to digitally extract the intelligence from SARs directly onto the Force's NICHE system.

2. *The force should adopt a more consistent approach to tackling serious and organised crime (SOC) at neighbourhood level.*

A number of strands of work are being developed; the move to 4 Basic Command Units is expected to provide additional capacity, a Home Office pilot is commencing in Stockton, more joined up working across teams and closer working with the ROCU.

3. *Regional Chief constables should appoint a single dedicated chief officer to lead the regional response to Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)*

The North East ROCU is the smallest, a decision around this will have to be made jointly by the 3 Chief Constables and reported back to HMICFRS accordingly.

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:

The PCC welcomes the HMICFRS thematic report focusing on the effectiveness of ROCUs.

The PCC notes the recommendations made, in particular the two AFIs for Cleveland and will continue to monitor progress in this area.

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