



**Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and
Members of the Audit Committee**

25th June 2026

Presenting Officer: Graeme Carter; Business Continuity Manager

Status: For Information

Update report on Force Business Continuity

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Joint Independent Audit Committee an update on the Force Business Continuity (BC) testing, in line with the 2026/2027 Business Continuity Testing timetable.
- 1.2 To inform the Committee of common learning themes from Business Continuity Testing.
- 1.3 To inform the Committee of any organisational or departmental risks highlighted as a result of the Business Continuity exercises.

2. Update

- 2.1 Throughout the reporting period Business Continuity (BC) activities have continued in line with the annual BC programme. The programme is adjusted as necessary to reflect organisational changes in order to ensure that Cleveland's identified critical functions are maintained during periods of change and/or disruption.
- 2.2 A copy of the Testing schedule is provided at Appendix A with RAG rating at Appendix B.
- 2.3 RSM our internal auditors completed an audit of BC in November 2024. The report published in January 2025 included two actions, graded Low and Medium; both actions have subsequently been closed finalised by RSM as part of their Follow-up reviews.
- 2.4 Work is ongoing to ensure all BC Plans and Business Impact Assessments (BIA) are up to date.
- 2.5 A new Business Continuity Manager has now been installed in position. This role is for two years; the Officer is booked on the four pre-requisite training courses.

- 2.6 Work is ongoing Nationally to ascertain if all Forces have access to bunkered fuel and if so what quantities. This in in light of current global tensions around the conflict in Iran and the potential to impact fuel supply.
- 2.7 Work is ongoing with TTC to review their BC Plans as they transition from PFI to our Estates, particularly around weapons/ammunition removal and/or movement. This is a critical area of business and is being dealt with as a high priority.

3. Testing

- 3.1 Each area of the Force will be subjected to a table-top test conducted by the Force Business Continuity/Risk Manager together with the Head of the Department or appropriate deputy.
- 3.2 All Business Continuity Plans are added to the Business Continuity shared drive for access by Heads of Department and appropriate named deputies.
- 3.3 At present there are no common themes. Not every Department is currently compliant with testing. This is mainly due to movement of Officers leaving their BC Champion roles, a subsequent delay in notification of a suitable replacement and therefore their Department temporarily falling outside the automated notification process. Work is ongoing to ensure the automated notification process is reflective of up-to-date Champion lists and direct contact with the BC Manager prior to allocated testing 'slots' will ensure compliance.
- 3.4 A further monitoring system has been introduced (only accessible by BC Manager and Senior Leaders) to further monitor compliance of Departmental testing.

4. Exercises

- 4.1 No Exercises have been carried out during this reporting period. A recent National BC update suggests there may be a National Military Exercise later in the year. It is unclear at this stage whether Police BC will have any involvement.

5. Implications

Finance

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Diversity and Equal Opportunities

- 5.2 Whilst there are no diversity or equal opportunity implications arising from the content of this report, it should be noted that some topics considered are intrinsic to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion agenda.

Human Rights Act

- 5.3 There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from the content of this report.

Legal

- 5.4 The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 places a statutory duty on all Category 1 responders (which includes the police) to maintain plans to ensure they continue to perform their functions in the event of an emergency, so far as is reasonably practicable. An emergency is defined as an event that threatens serious damage to human welfare, the environment, or the security of a place in the United Kingdom. The qualification “so far as is reasonably practicable” means that in practice the Force is required to maintain plans for the continuity of its most critical functions to an acceptable level.

Sustainability

- 5.5 There are no sustainability implications arising from the content of this report.

Risk

- 5.6 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 This report has updated the Committee on progress against the 2026/2027 Business Continuity testing programme, alongside ongoing work to refresh BC Plans and Business Impact Assessments. The introduction of a new Business Continuity Manager and enhanced monitoring processes strengthens organisational oversight and compliance. Although no exercises have been undertaken this period, National discussions suggest a potential multi-agency exercise later in the year. Overall, the Force continues to meet its statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and remains focused on maintaining the resilience of its critical functions.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY TESTING SCHEDULE

JANUARY • Force Control Room • Dedicated Drugs Unit & Project Adder • Prevention • Safeguarding •	FEBRUARY • Matrix • Corporate Comms • TSU (NEROCU)	MARCH • CID • Coroner's Office • Professional Standards • HMET
APRIL • Economic and Cybercrime Unit • Intelligence & Analysis • NEROCU • POLIT •	MAY • ICT • SSU • PHT	JUNE • Digital Services • Information Management • Legal Services • Operational Support Services
JULY • Response • Business Support Unit • Covert Standards • CJU	AUGUST • Corporate Services • CTPNE • Estates Management • Executive	SEPTEMBER • Fleet Management • Corporate Finance • HIU • HR and Wellbeing
OCTOBER • Custody Office • OCU • Neighbourhood Policing	NOVEMBER • Commissioning & Procurement • Learning & Development • OPCC	DECEMBER • Specialist Ops/RMU • Organisational Development • Specialist Skills

The above list is a guide, should an incident occur which dictates a test before your department's allocated month, then please test as appropriate (please evidence this using feedback form).

The following document highlights the priority list of criticality, in relation to all Departments' - RAG Rated. This should not be confused with departments' specific Business Impact Assessments (BIAs).

TEAM	RAG Rating
Business Support Unit	
CID	
Commissioning & Procurement	
Coroner's Office	
Corporate Comms	
Corporate Finance & Payroll	
Corporate Services	
Covert Standards	
Criminal Justice Unit	
CTPNE Cleveland	
Custody	
Dedicated Drugs Unit Project Adder	
Digital Services & Data	
ECU & Cyber Crime	
Estates Management	
Executive	
Fleet	
Force Control Room	
HIU	
HMET	
HR & Wellbeing	
ICT	
Information Management	
Intelligence	
Learning & Development	
Legal Services	
Matrix	
Neighbourhoods	
NEROCU	
OPCC	
Operational Support Services	
Organisational Development	
Organised Crime Unit	
POLIT	
Prisoner Handling Team	
Professional Standards	
Response	
Safeguarding	
Specialist Operations & Planning	
Specialist Skills	
SSU	
TSU	