


# Cumbria's Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

## HMICFRS Responses

**Cumbria Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) response to inspections of Cumbria Constabulary published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)**

*Section 33 of the Police Act 1996 (as amended by section 37 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017) requires local policing bodies to respond to recommendations in inspectors reports within 56 days.*

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| <b>Inspection Title:</b>  | <b>An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 1</b> |
| <b>Date Published:</b>  | <b>18/12/2024</b>   |
| <b>Type of Inspection:</b>  | Joint Inspection  |
| <b>Key Findings</b>   |   |
| <p>On Monday 29 July 2024, three young girls, Bebe King, Elsie Dot Stancombe and Alice Da Silva Aguiar, were killed in a knife attack in Southport. Following these tragic events, widespread unrest and violent disorder broke out in many towns and cities across the UK.</p> <p>On 6 September 2024, the Home Secretary commissioned HMICFRS to carry out a rapid review into the policing response to the disorder, to identify lessons for the future. The commission divided the work into two tranches (parts). The terms of reference for Tranche 1 required HMICFRS to examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the police service's public order public safety (POPS) capacity and capabilities.</li> <li>- the police service's ability to mobilise officers across police force areas to respond to the disorder; and</li> <li>- how the well-being and resilience of officers might be affected by repeated exposure to incidents of disorder.</li> </ul> |   |

In HMICFRS' second report, which we will publish in 2025, we will set out our findings on:

- intelligence relating to violent disorder.
- social media misinformation and disinformation that inflamed, incited or brought about more widespread disorder; and
- investigations into offences.

In this report, HMICFRS set out their findings on the first part of their review.

**Link to report:**

<https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/police-response-to-public-disorder-in-july-and-august-2024-tranche-1/>

**PFCC & Constabulary Response to Report and Recommendation:**

As Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria, I welcome the report on 'An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 1.'

The events in Southport, during the summer of 2024, which lead to national disorder, certainly tested Police resolve and impacted upon public trust & confidence across the UK.

In response to the disorder, Cumbria deployed officers to Merseyside and Cleveland, and increased community policing and public order contingency in the force area for two weeks. There was force wide mobilisation, rest days cancelled, and over 125 public order officers deployed on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August as a visible deterrent and to facilitate peaceful unity gatherings in Barrow and Carlisle. Community policing and public engagement continued to reassure the public. The Force also gained support from local communities, such as Carlisle United Football.

Cumbria Constabulary's strategy of intelligence led proactive arrests coupled with effective community engagement, and preventative powers of stop and search and disorder was a proportionate response, necessary to keep our communities safe. Over 100 stop and searches were conducted, with 25 arrests being made. Cumbria had no significant disorder as result.

However, I am cognisant and appreciate that nationally, more needed to be done. It's important to understand where collectively we have underperformed for the benefit of response to future conflicts.

For now, I await the findings of the next tranche of the HMICFRS inspection into the police response to the disorder to understand fully the preparedness of policing nationally. However, I agree that policing needs to be quicker at converting lessons learnt into tangible and operational change.

It is important that lessons are learned about how policing can respond to national pressures more effectively; to do this, I will continue to drive any learnings and improvements through my accountability and governance structures.