



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.

The HMICFRS logo, featuring a crown above the text 'HMICFRS' in blue, with a red and blue striped bar below it.	
Inspection Title:	An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 2
Date Published:	07/05/2025
Type of Inspection:	National Thematic
Key Findings	
<p>On Monday 29 July 2024, three young girls, Bebe King, Elsie Dot Stancombe and Alice Da Silva Aguiar, were murdered in a knife attack in Southport. Following these tragic events, widespread unrest and serious disorder broke out in many towns and cities across the UK.</p> <p>On 6 September 2024, the Home Secretary commissioned us 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).</p> <p>On 18 December 2024, we published our report on the first part of this work, 'An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 1'. It set out our findings on these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the police service's public order public safety (POPS) capacity and capabilities;- the police service's ability to mobilise police officers across police force areas to respond to the disorder; and	

- how the well-being and resilience of officers might be affected by repeated exposure to incidents of disorder.

This is our Tranche 2 report. It sets out our findings on the police service's:

- use of an intelligence-led approach;
- arrangements for tackling online content and social media; and
- crime investigations.

Link to report:

<https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/police-response-to-public-disorder-in-july-and-august-2024-tranche-2/>

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 2.'

This is the second instalment of the Inspectorates review to the police's response to public disorder and has considered the use of an intelligence-led approach, arrangements for tackling online content, social media and crime investigations. There are three recommendations however, all are allocated to the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) to work alongside Chief Constables and the Home Office.

The report found that the police service didn't sufficiently prioritise intelligence on disorder, nor did it always monitor, collect, classify or use disorder related intelligence effectively. This could inhibit their ability to identify disorder related risk at a local, regional and national level. The importance and value of neighbourhood policing has been highlighted as an effective way to build community confidence and gather vital community information and intelligence.

The Inspectorate reviewed the police service's arrangements for tackling online content and social media. It was found that forces generally lack the capacity and capability to deal with online content effectively, especially during a national emergency on the scale of the disorder in the summer of 2024.

Despite the investigative challenges that forces affected by disorder faced during this period, all forces were found to have appointed senior investigating officers, set up investigation teams and carried out their investigations quickly. This resulted in suspects and offenders being brought to justice swiftly and effectively. This did however, result in a delay in the investigations of other offences.

Looking locally, I am satisfied with 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.

That said, 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.

I will continue to work with the Force in this regard and I'm satisfied that they will action any guidance provided by the NPCC as a result of the recommendations outlined within this report. I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account through my accountability framework to ensure that any guidance is adhered to and implemented.