




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.

	
Inspection Title:	Improving the response to organised immigration crime
Date Published:	16/05/2025
Type of Inspection:	National Thematic
Key Findings	
<p>In January 2024, the then Home Secretary commissioned HMICFRS to inspect how effectively the police and National Crime Agency tackle organised immigration crime (OIC) in England and Wales.</p> <p>During the inspection, HMICFRS examined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how the response of law enforcement agencies to OIC was led; - the initial response to suspected immigration crime incidents; - the management of information and intelligence; - how OIC groups were targeted by law enforcement; and - organisational learning and training for officers and staff. 	
Recommendations:	
<p>Rec 02: By 30 April 2026, chief constables should make sure that every time a member of their force reports a case to Immigration Enforcement's National Command and Control Unit, the reporting officer completes and submits the required intelligence document.</p>	

Rec 04: By 31 December 2025, chief constables should make sure they have clear plans to collect, analyse and share information related to organised immigration crime.

Rec 08: By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the Hydra training package on organised immigration crime.

Rec 09: By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit and the College of Policing, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the four modules of the organised immigration crime e-learning package.

PFCC & Constabulary Response to Report and Recommendation:

As Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Cumbria, I welcome the report from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Service's (HMICFRS) of an inspection into 'Improving the response to organised immigration crime.'

Migrants often use the services of people who specialise in organised immigration crime (OIC) to help them travel to the UK border and enter or remain in the UK illegally. In doing so, migrants entrust their lives to criminals. This HMICFRS report examines how well UK law enforcement agencies tackle this type of crime and bring to justice those criminals who pay scant regard to human life.

It must be noted that Cumbria Police were not inspected as part of this report. Nevertheless, we take the recommendations seriously and are cognisant of the wider issues.

With regards to recommendation 2, I understand that discussions are ongoing to determine the most practical and consistent way to complete and share this information. I support this collaborative approach and will continue to monitor progress to ensure that officers are equipped with clear guidance and that reporting is both accurate and timely.

With regards to recommendation 4, I'm assured that Cumbria Police will work closely with HMICFRS to demonstrate clear plans in collecting, analysing and sharing information related to organised crime. I'll be looking for assurance that the finalised plans is not only fit for purpose but also embedded into operational practice.

With regards to recommendation 8, I appreciate the challenges posed by not having a local Hydra suite. I will continue to follow this closely to ensure that the right people receive this training and that it's delivered in a way that's both practical and effective.

Lastly, in relation to recommendation 9, I'll be keeping an eye on progress to ensure that the training reaches all relevant staff and is embedded into day-to-day practice.

Organised immigration crime presents real challenges to policing, and I welcome the focus HMICFRS has brought to this issue. Cumbria Police has made a positive start in responding to the recommendations, and I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering on these commitments. I look forward to seeing further progress over the coming months.