


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:	PEEL 2023–2025: An inspection of Cumbria Constabulary
Date Published:	23/07/2024
Type of Inspection:	Annual Assessment Report
Key Findings	
<p>PEEL is HMICFRS's assessment of police forces in England and Wales. PEEL stands for police effectiveness, efficiency, and legitimacy.</p> <p>This report sets out the findings for Cumbria Constabulary.</p>	
Recommendations/ Areas for improvement:	
<p>AFI 1: The constabulary needs to improve how it records equality data - The constabulary needs to improve how it records equality data.</p> <p>AFI 2: ASB Behaviour Reporting - The constabulary needs to improve how it records crime when anti-social behaviour is reported.</p> <p>AFI 3: External scrutiny of Stop and Search - The constabulary needs to strengthen the external scrutiny of its use of force and stop and search powers.</p> <p>AFI 4: Outcomes for victims - The constabulary doesn't consistently achieve appropriate outcomes for victims.</p>	

PFCC & Constabulary Response to Report and Recommendation:

As Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Cumbria, I welcome the following PEEL 2023 – 2025 Inspection of Cumbria Constabulary from His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Cumbria Constabulary has received an ‘Outstanding’ grade in ‘Building, Supporting and Protecting the Workforce’ from this inspection report.

Being ‘Outstanding’ in supporting staff is no mean feat. Without the right support, officers and staff cannot protect the public to the best of their ability. Some officers also see the worst scenes that any of us could imagine on a daily, weekly, monthly basis. So, it’s imperative that those who experience trauma are supported to ensure their mental health is maintained.

This is a brilliant report, and I am incredibly pleased that HMICFRS agree that Cumbria Constabulary deserve the recognition for all their efforts.

However, we cannot be complacent – we want to continue to develop the Police to ensure that we are the best service possible for residents and aim to be the best Force in the country.

In my first two months as Commissioner, and from what the public have raised with me, I know there is work to be done.

I am aware that our ‘adequate’ grades need to be addressed – HMICFRS have provided recommendations and I intend to take these suggestions forward to ensure that we can provide a better service to our public. These recommendations include improving our crime recording processes, improve our equality data recording and be more transparent and strengthen scrutiny around stop search disproportionality.

I will ensure that these recommendations are taken forward so that we can be ‘Outstanding’ in all areas.

The Chief has assured me that these recommendations are being worked on currently - I’ll be monitoring to ensure that they have been and that the journey of improvement continues to make sure the people of Cumbria have the best possible police service.

I look forward to helping to continuing the positive work to protect Cumbria’s safety.

Cumbria Constabulary’s Chief Constable, Rob Carden, said:

“The Constabulary would like to take this opportunity to thank the HMICFRS Inspection teams for their professionalism and support in what was an extensive and detailed inspection. Whilst the Constabulary performed well throughout this inspection, please be assured that we will never be complacent, and we are dedicated to continually improving all areas of business to ensure that we provide the highest level of service to the public of Cumbria. All areas for improvement that were highlighted within the inspectorate report have been incorporated into continuous improvement plans.

The grades represent a significant improvement on our previous positive inspection and are also a huge endorsement of what we are doing in Cumbria. I am delighted that the exceptional efforts of police officers, police staff, volunteers and partners have received such well-deserved recognition.

I am particularly pleased that Cumbria has become the first force in the current round of PEEL inspections to be graded as 'outstanding' for Building, Supporting and Protecting the Workforce and 'good' for both Investigating Crime and Responding to the Public.

I'd like to acknowledge our previous Chief Constable, Michelle Skeer, for the important part she has played in this success. I'd also like to thank the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for their support, and I must also recognise the HMICFRS for the very fair, transparent, and professional manner in which they conducted the inspection.

Most importantly, I'd like to thank the amazing people who make up Cumbria Constabulary and congratulate them on their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to keeping Cumbria safe."