Cumbria Office of Police Fire and Crime Commissioner

**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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| **Inspection Title:** | Vetting and anti-corruption part 2: How effective is the National Crime Agency at dealing with corruption? |
| **Date Published:** | 30/04/24 |
| **Type of Inspection:** | Joint Inspection |
| **Key Findings** | |
| This report considers the National Crime Agency’s (NCA) effectiveness and efficiency in helping and working with police forces and other law enforcement agencies to identify and tackle corruption involving police officers and staff.  It is the second part of a two-part inspection.  In part 1 – (Vetting and anti-corruption part 1: How effective is the National Crime Agency at dealing with corruption?), HMICFRS examined how well the NCA:  Vets its officers (including candidates wishing to become officers);   * identifies and prevents potential corruption, and how well it investigates corruption among its officers; and * identifies and prevents improper behaviour by its officers, including gender-based prejudice.   In part 2 of this inspection, HMICFRS examined how well the NCA:   * helps police forces and other law enforcement bodies to identify corruption; and * works with them to tackle it. | |
| **Recommendations:** | |
| Recommendation - By 30 June 2024, chief constables should make sure they tell the National Crime Agency the outcome of investigations into suspicious activity reports relating to their force’s personnel. The National Crime Agency should include a summary of this information in its annual national strategic threat assessment, The Threat to UK Law Enforcement from Corruption | |
| **PFCC & Constabulary Response to Report and Recommendation:** | |
| The Constabulary and I welcome the joint inspection by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) relating to how effective the National Crime Agency is at dealing with corruption.  I recognise that in the report there is recommendation that is specific to Chief Constables which asks that Chief Constable’s ensure they tell the National Crime Agency the outcome of investigations into suspicious activity reports relating to their force’s personnel.  I am aware that the NCA’s UK Financial Intelligence Unit has a national responsibility for receiving and analysing SARs, and for sending intelligence from them to police forces. The UKFIU asks forces to update them on the outcome of every SAR sent to them, but HMICFRS state that forces rarely respond. As a result, this means that the UKFIU cannot establish how many SARs relating to police personnel have provided evidence of actual or potential corruption. As such, I share the views of the report that this is important information that would help the NCA to better understand the scale of corruption in police forces.  I have raised this with the Constabulary, and I have received reassurance that going forward, once investigations which have stemmed from SAR reports have been finalised, Cumbria Constabulary will be updating the NCA as to the result of them as per the recommendation.  I will ask to seek further assurance and updates regarding this recommendation through Cumbria’s Police Executive Board, which forms part of my accountability framework for the Constabulary. My office and I, along with Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable attend these meetings monthly. | |