



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 blue crown above the text 'HMICFRS' in blue, with a red and white striped banner below it.	
Inspection Title:	How effectively do the police record crime? PEEL spotlight report
Date Published:	August 2025
Type of Inspection:	Thematic
Key Findings	
<p>HMICFRS carried out a thematic inspection to evaluate how effectively police forces record crime and manage investigations. The report highlights areas where improvement is needed to ensure compliance with national standards and strengthen public confidence. It draws on findings from the 2016–2020 Crime Data Integrity inspection and the 2021–2022 and 2023–2025 PEEL inspection programmes.</p> <p>The report sets out three recommendations for all police forces in England and Wales, focusing on improving the accuracy, timeliness, and oversight of crime recording. These measures are intended to help forces monitor their performance and drive continuous improvement.</p>	
Recommendations: in summary,	
1. Improve Accuracy of Crime Recording <p>Forces should ensure all reported crimes are recorded correctly and in line with national standards. This includes addressing under-recording of violent offences such as harassment, stalking, and coercive behaviour, which often involve vulnerable victims.</p>	
2. Enhance Timeliness in Recording and Victim Contact <p>Crime reports must be recorded promptly, and victims contacted quickly in accordance with the Victims' Code of Practice. Timely recording helps allocate investigative resources effectively and prevents loss of critical lines of enquiry.</p>	

3. Strengthen Oversight and Scrutiny

Forces should implement robust governance and supervisory processes to monitor crime recording practices. Regular reviews and audits will help identify gaps, ensure consistency across forces, and maintain public confidence.

PFCC & Constabulary Response to Report and Recommendation:

"I welcome the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) thematic inspection into crime recording and investigations. Accurate and timely crime recording is fundamental to maintaining public confidence, supporting effective policing, and ensuring that victims receive the care and protection they deserve. While the report acknowledges progress across policing, it is clear that further work is required to achieve consistency and to uphold the highest standards nationwide.

"We fully recognise the importance of improving both the accuracy and timeliness of crime recording, supported by strong governance and oversight. HMICFRS has rightly highlighted concerns about the under-recording of violent offences, such as harassment, stalking, and coercive behaviour, which can often involve vulnerable victims. Failure to record these crimes correctly risks missed investigative opportunities and inadequate victim support. Such crimes can have a devastating and lasting impact on victims, and this harm must not be compounded by shortcomings in recording practices that obscure the nature and extent of the ongoing abuse they are experiencing.

"I will work closely with Cumbria Constabulary to monitor progress and ensure delivery against these priorities. Through my internal governance boards and public accountability conferences, I will continue to scrutinise and challenge performance, maintaining transparency with the public on how we are responding to HMICFRS's recommendations. These forums provide rigorous oversight, encourage open reporting, and ensure that improvements to crime recording are implemented effectively and meet the expectations of the public"