

Summary Note of the Meeting on 18 June 2009 (meeting 2)

1. National Performance Overview

Key findings:

- Crime measured by the BCS (British Crime Survey) is stable and Public Confidence shows signs of improvement.
- There was a reduction in BCS Comparator Crime
- There had been no change in Domestic Burglary. Trends in domestic burglary show a high degree of seasonality with a peak at this time of year. It was to be expected that burglary levels would fall in the next quarter.
- Only four forces have seen a rise in crime as measured by the BCS.
- Although personal robbery has stabilised, the levels are being monitored.

Action: HMIC to monitor the trend in domestic burglary at national level

2. Force Performance Monitoring

A force scoring three poor domain grades would automatically be discussed at PPSG. Two domains scored as poor will draw the force to the attention of HMIC but local HMI assessment could result in a decision not to bring the force to the attention of PPSG, for example:

- Nottinghamshire scored poor in two domains and will be discussed
- A force now scores poor in the confidence domain and there are indications of some demographic reasons for poor confidence in policing in this area; this is supported by similar evidence of confidence in local councils.
- A force's performance in detecting crime was being monitored due to the variation in performance between basic command units (BCUs).
- A force had emerging issues relating to Most Serious Violence and HMIC were in contact with the force about this.

Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire's performance was no longer being considered at PPSG because of improved performance in both the Local Crime and Policing and Protection from Serious Harm domains. Increasing collaborative work is proving fruitful and there are no issues at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) level.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

GMP's performance was previously raised at PPSG, the force is aware of the problems and has a plan in place. They are seeking NPIA support and have no illusions as to the scale of the problem. It was recommended that GMP remained at stage 2 of the Ladder of Support and Intervention and that delivery of the plan was monitored.

Action: HMIC to continue monitoring GMP to allow implementing their plan, quarterly update to be provided as per ladder of support and intervention

Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire should also remain at stage 2. Domestic burglary and serious acquisitive crime have brought the force to the attention of PPSG twice now. Detection rates were poor but

improving. Due to its size, the force is challenged to confront sudden increases in demand. Partnerships across the county are not as strong as in other places and under resourced.

Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire was poor in the Local Crime and Policing domain and the Protection from Serious Harm domain, with particular concerns around the BCU of Ashfield; this was set to continue due to the size of the performance gap. Nottinghamshire had previously received support and assistance, but performance remained problematic.

There were ongoing concerns over partnerships, especially in Ashfield. A partnership support programme was taken into Nottinghamshire 18-24 months ago which it identified issues regarding performance especially in Mansfield and Ashfield. The Deputy Chief Constable requested NPIA support, at both corporate level and in Ashfield BCU

The group discussed the possibility of a capability review and discussed its make up, timescales and terms of reference.

Action: NPIA to visit Nottinghamshire to look at further scope for assistance.

Action: ACPO, NPIA and APA to discuss support for enduring problems in Nottinghamshire and report back to PPSG, HMIC to facilitate.

3. Consultation update: Ladder of Support and Intervention

The proposed process for support and intervention is primarily about identifying tools for support, increasing clarity, putting in safeguards and support, with escalation available if there is not sufficient improvement. Forces should be aware of their position as they have their own performance management and access to iQuanta. The key change is the introduction of the HMIC Public Interest Letter, which could be issued after the quarterly PPSG monitoring of an improvement plan or at the end of the improvement plan period if there is insufficient evidence of improvement.

PPSG should also consider their role and involvement in police authority inspections and performance monitoring.

Action: APA to consider the role of Police Authorities in governance of the improvement of performance.