

Zoë Billingham BA Hons (Oxon)
HM Inspector of Constabulary, Eastern Region

3 September 2014

Mr Mick Creedon QPM
Chief Constable – Derbyshire Constabulary

Dear Mick

Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time

Between January and April 2014, HMIC carried out inspection fieldwork across all 43 forces in England and Wales. This inspection, called 'Making best use of police time' (now known as 'Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time') assessed three areas of police work. These were:

- how well forces are preventing crime and anti-social behaviour;
- how forces respond to reports of crime, including investigating crime and bringing offenders to justice; and
- how well forces are freeing up the time of their staff so they can focus on core policing functions.

Attached is an embargoed copy of the national thematic report for this inspection which will now be published by HMIC on Thursday 4 September 2014 at 00:01. This must not be published until this date and time.

The findings that specifically relate to your force are included in this letter. The initial findings were previously sent to you for factual accuracy checks and, where appropriate, have been amended following your response.

The majority of the inspection findings contained in the national thematic report do not identify individual forces. However electronic versions of the national report will link to the HMIC website where data on each force can be viewed.

We will revisit some of the evidence gathered during the 'Core business' inspection as part of the crime inspection for HMIC's Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) interim assessment.

All forces will be given the opportunity to provide an update. This updated evidence will be considered as part of the PEEL interim crime inspection, which is due to be published at the end of November.

Findings that specifically relate to your force are:

Preventing Crime

- Although the force does not have an overarching crime prevention strategy, this does not inhibit the effectiveness of the force's approach to preventing crime.
- HMIC found good examples of where the force has undertaken long-term crime prevention initiatives. Daily management meetings in the force are being used to focus staff towards crime prevention activity.
- The force has an electronic database which has information that helps officers and staff prevent crime in neighbourhoods. It is currently being updated and enhanced to include partners. While we found good evidence of problem-solving, areas such as thorough evaluation and sharing of good practice are more limited.
- The force has provided training to new officers and staff. On-going formal crime prevention training has not been delivered to all staff who frequently deal with victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Attendance at crimes and incidents

- The force's current policy requires officers to attend all reports of crimes and incidents, although the force is unable to identify the actual number of crimes staff attend. The threat, risk and harm to the victim, caller or community is considered when sending the closest, most appropriate police resource, in a timely manner. At the time of inspection the force had clear plans to introduce a telephone investigation process and the criteria applied includes mandatory and discretionary attendance to certain crimes and where factors, such as vulnerability, are also considered.
- The force has clear policies and procedures to enable it to consistently identify vulnerable and repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The force has systems in place to identify how many crimes it allocates to an officer for investigation.
- During the inspection, HMIC reviewed a number of crime investigations, including reports of crimes that were not attended. There was evidence found on all files showing relevant completed enquiries with the majority also having adequately recorded investigation plans and supervision
- HMIC examined the arrangements for the Integrated Offender Management scheme, which are in place to manage those offenders likely to cause most harm to communities. These were found to be effective and well co-ordinated with partner agencies.
- The force was able to provide HMIC with the number of named suspects that are yet to be arrested or interviewed. It was also able to provide HMIC with the number of suspects who had failed to answer their police bail. This information helps the force to manage outstanding named suspects and offenders.
- A review of a small sample of named suspect files, including those circulated as wanted on the police national computer, showed that activity had been documented and properly supervised in a number of cases.

Freeing up time

- HMIC identified that the force has a good understanding of demand, and is taking steps to build up a more detailed insight of demand and how its

resources are distributed. This includes analysis of different types of incidents and policing activity.

- The force has carried out work with other agencies to identify and address those tasks that are not the sole responsibility of the police.
- The inspection found that there is a clear structure to assist supervisors in assessing the workload and performance of front-line officers and staff.
- The force has an understanding of the amount of savings in staff time that has been made as a result of changes introduced or as a result of new technology it has implemented.
- The use of mobile devices, (such as tablets and mobile phones) to enable officers to access force systems while on patrol is currently limited.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zoë Billingham". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Zoë Billingham

HM Inspector of Constabulary, Eastern Region

Copied to Jon Clarke
HMIC Liaison Officer